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| Bath Street Table Tennis Club |   C:\Liv TT\Bath Street TT Club\Website\Recovery\bvttc\BSM\News\cp_0000d302.gif | Dateline:21 February 2015 |
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| **Holders through!** There is no doubt that team captain, Barry Davis, was the 'man of the match' when BSM 1 faced Wavertree Labour 2 in the Quarter Final of the Liverpool & District Table Tennis League Frank Murphy Memorial Handicap Cup.  Bath Street Marine 1, the current holders of the L&DTTL Frank Murphy Handicap Cup, faced a difficult away draw to Wavertree Labour in the Quarter Finals. For a start, the team of Barry Davis (Captain), Tony Kendall and Ted Cramsie faced a handicap deficit of a massive 177 points before the ball was even struck! This meant that even if they won every game 21:0 it would still take 5 out of the available 9 sets just to catch up! And what a close and tense struggle this match proved to be. It finished with the teams enjoying cake together to celebrate the 86th birthday of Wavertree Labour stalwart Allan Biggs. On the night however, Allan was only spectating on this occasion.Tony Kendall, the No.1 for BSM got the match underway and knocked 22 points off the deficit. He went on to win all his three singles as you would expect yielding a 60 point reduction to the deficit. No.3 Ted Cramsie also took his three singles, but was made to work particularly hard by Eric Spencer but nevertheless was able to add a further 43 point reduction to the deficit from the three sets. In his first set of the evening Captain Barry clawed back a further 21 points. But when it came to his set against the home No.1 there was a distinct meanness about his play, giving away just 14 pts, and for his final set, at game 9, he went 2 better giving away just 12pts. So by the end of the 8th set the surprise was that BSM were still behind, but now trailing by just 13pts. So the maximum Tony could afford to give away in the last match of the night was 28pts, and the only Wavertree player to score that amount on the night up to that point was Eric Spencer who had taken 30 pts from Ted. In the final set Tony faced his opposing No.1 Gordon Langshaw, and when Gordon secured 14pts in the first end it looked like it was going to be real close, as BSM were still 6pts behind! Tony however upped his game in the final end easing through to a 21:10 victory. The final result a win to BSM1 by 401pts to 396. Just the way a handicap match should be - real close! So the Holder's are through to the semi-final, perhaps they can hold onto this cup......! |

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| Tense struggle for semi's place *Captain Barry Davis looks as if he is desperately trying to cling onto the Cup his team won last season.*------Veteran team captain, Ken Jackson, led from the front in the other Frank Murphy Handicap Cup Quarter Final match featuring a Bath Street team. BSM 2, Ken Jackson, Ricky Brown and Darren Taylor (pictured below) faced a home draw against Sefton Park 3, the conquerors of BSM 4 in a previous round of the event. With an absolutely massive handicap advantage of 224pts it seemed that all the Sefton Park team had to do was hang in there, and surely victory would be theirs? They needed on average just 17 points from each set (2 games each up to 21) and the dream could become a reality. But when it comes to competitions of this nature there is no doubting that captain Ken is one 'mean machine', relentlessly chasing down the points and making the most of his superior skills to really heap the pressure on the underdogs. *Veteran team captain, Ken Jackson (on left) inspires his team to a place in semi finals*Every member of the BSM team played their part in this relentless pursuit, and none more so than Darren Taylor who featured in perhaps the star match of the night, putting on a superb display of open table tennis in his encounter with the opposing No.1 Eric Wood, Darren winning out 42:21. To this he added a 42:17 win in his opening set and finished off with an emphatic 42:16 ensuring that he contributed exactly what was needed for the team. Ricky equally contributed exactly what was needed, keeping every game tight, giving his opponents few chances and contributing a reduction of 82 points to the deficit. By the time the eighth set had ended BSM were just 6 points behind with the captain left to play. No way was Ken going to let his opposing No.1 off the hook in this final set brushing him aside 42:11 to complete a match winning performance in which Ken gave away just 31 points over the three sets played. In the end it was a clear win for BSM 2 384 pts to 359. Last year's beaten finalists also through to the semi-final. This was a good match played in exactly the right spirit and at least all of the players enjoyed a drink in the bar afterwards!  |

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