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| Bath Street Table Tennis Club |   C:\Liv TT\Bath Street TT Club\Website\Recovery\bvttc\BSM\News\cp_00003a24.gif | Dateline:7 December 2014 |
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| **Let's celebrate!** So, what do you do on Wednesdays? For many, the answer will be "I go to work"! But for the members of Bath Street Table Tennis Club, Wednesday is one of the most important social days of the week. And Wednesday 3 December was no exception, as it was the day set for the club Christmas party! And what a great day it proved to be.Now, Bath Street is of course a table tennis club, so you would expect table tennis to somehow feature in any proceedings. And so it was for the Christmas party. The day began with a novelty 'hard bat' tournament. The first of its kind staged by the club, each 'match' featuring just 1 single game played up to 21 points and on a handicap basis. The competition was brilliantly organised by Albert Parker and Keith Dudley, improvising handicaps for each player as the event went along. It was a great success.   In the tournament, an early shock sent club No.1 Ken Jackson out of the competition, losing by an edge to Billy O'Hara. As ever Ken was magnanimous in defeat and watched his fellow 1st team-mate, birthday boy Club Chairman Fred Bainbridge (71 years young) play out a great final with Barry Davis from the Division 2 B Team. The match looked to be Barry's as he moved into a 20:16 lead. But that final point proved elusive. Fred managed to square the game at 20 all before landing the killer blow to win 21:20. It couldn't have been closer - a great testimony to the organisers. Fred was able to celebrate his victory and his birthday with a bottle of mulled wine - most appropriate for Christmas, whilst Barry received a consolation box of chocolates as runner up. It seems certain we will see this event again.  *Eventual 'hard bat' winner Fred Bainbridge in action in one of the early rounds against Dave Noden.**Hard Bat runner-up Barry Davis in action in an early round of the competition.* *There is no doubting who was best dressed for the occasion. The ladies! 'Where did you get that hat', they cried. Certainly can't recall seeing it in the latest table tennis kit catalogue?* *Master of Ceremonies Colin Mitchell with D Team captain Brian Crolley - is that the third Wise Man behind them?* A final comment. Club Welfare Officer Mary Delamere says of the day as a whole, "It was lovely meeting some more table tennis players from the teams and didn't everyone play well. I would also like to thank Barbara for her contribution to the clear up and that lovely trifle! In all I had a superb day and also don't remember how I got home. What a good party made great by the special people in our club."  |

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| Hard bat event is party highlight At least 40 members and friends were able to attend the club Christmas party, and it seems from at least one report received that it continued long after the end of the formal proceedings at the club room! The day started with the hard bat tournament, the ladies provided some excellent deserts to go with the sandwiches and wraps and Mary Delamere and Liz Adams were excellent organisers. Lunch was accompanied by tea, coffee.... and a little wine and beer! There was additional fun with the grand Christmas Draw with numerous prizes provided by members. One thing is certain, everyone enjoyed the day which was compared by our very own master of ceremonies, Colin Mitchell. Hard Bat runner-up Barry Davis commented, "Colin has forgotten to mention that a few of us (13 to be precise) retired to the 'Bug' after the lunch and had a great afternoon. I can't remember how I got home but I did, about 10:30pm I am told! Congratulations, well done and thanks to all involved in the arrangements". If we played table tennis as well as we can party we would be the top club in the Liverpool League - but would it be as much fun?------Here's a few pictures to complete the story.*Club President Billy Clayton prepares for the grand prize draw, watched by Master of Ceremonies Colin Mitchell - but who's hiding behind the board?**Seems like there was a great selection of prizes for the grand prize draw!**It was great to see Tom Downing at the party. health issues have kept Tom out of action for a little while now, but hopefully things are on the mend and he might be back playing again in the New Year.**It's that hat again, this time at the delicious deserts!**This is what it is really all about, socialising! Some of our lady members enjoying a friendly chat.* |

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