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|  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Cup run ends**  Last week saw three of the Club's teams in action in the semi-finals of the respective Divisional Cup competitions of the Liverpool & District Table Tennis League. But on this occasion all three fell at this final hurdle. Not without a real fight though, and a slight tinge of disappointment in at least one case where match winning chances seemed to slip through the teams fingers.  The first match was on Monday featuring two teams standing second and third in Division 4 of the L&DTTL. Bath Street F (captain Dave Noden, Darren Taylor, Josh Taylor and Micky White) were away to East Wavertree A for a place in the final of the Forrest Cup.  Just at the moment East Wavertree seem to be the nemesis of the F Team, so when Bath Street slipped into a 1:2 lead, courtesy of 2 splendid wins by Micky White, it looked like fortunes may be on the change. Out of form team captain Dave however spurned a golden opportunity to make it 1:3 by allowing a 9:4 lead in the fifth end of a nerve tingling set with the opposing No.3 to slip to a 12:10 defeat allowing the East Wavertree side to even the match. A position they never looked back on. Darren also seems to be a little out of sorts at the moment and really didn't get going in the next set so that Bath St slipped behind in the match for the first time. Up next was the doubles. Another scintillating match in which Darren and Micky took on the opposing No.1 & 2. But this was another 5 setter that seemed to slip away, after the Bath Street boys had levelled at 2:2, going down 11:7 in the fifth. Surprisingly the ever courteous Bath St captain then called on team mate Josh, instead of himself. Josh another player who has been struggling a little of late couldn't get himself going leaving East Wavertree A as the 5:2 winners. Both teams thought this was a match fitting to be a final, but on the night East Wavertree were the deserved winners. Both teams looking forward to renewing the rivalry in the League early in the New Year. | | |  | | --- | | but not without a real fight  The other two semi-finals were on Thursday. Bath Street G (captain Des Logan, Keith Dudley, Billy Clayton and Albert Parker) faced a visit to the runaway leaders of Division 5 of the L&DTTL, Waterloo, for a place in the final of Stamp Cup. Having already lost to Waterloo in the League the team faced  big uphill struggle. But what a fight they made of it, singles wins for Keith and Albert gave a sniff of a chance, and when Keith and Albert pulled off an amazing 5 game doubles win, having lost 3 straight to the same pair in the League, the early 4:1 deficit was pegged back. But Waterloo have an outstanding young No.1 at the moment, and his pace in the serve proved just too quick for 83 year old Club President, Billy. Waterloo winning through 5:3.  The last and only home match of the semi-finals proved to be the highlight of the week. Floundering in Division 2 of the League Bath Street C (captain Dave Stoddern, Rob Peat and Colin Mitchell) faced Sefton Park, currently 6 places above them in the League, for a place in the final of Rumjahn Cup. And what match this proved to be. Rob Peat fair sparkled, winning all 3 of his singles with seeming ease to set up a potentially match winning 4:3 lead. But in reality by this time the key sets had possibly already slipped away in dramatic fashion. In the opening set of the night Dave Stoddern was called on to face the explosive opposing No.1. If the visitor thought he was looking at a comfortable win from the lowly Bath St side he needed to think again. Dave fought his way into a 2:1 lead to see his lead clawed back, before a nail biting fifth end went the way of the visitor 8:11. And even worse followed in the sixth set of the night, Colin facing the visiting No.3. First Colin slipped 1:2 behind before fighting back to level the set. In a tense final end it looked as though Colin was going to steal it getting to match point, only to tense up and see the set somehow slip away 10:12. The Bath St boys couldn't match this earlier success in the final two sets of the night, losing both to give Sefton Park the 4:5 victory. Before the match captain Dave Stoddern said he would have been pleased with a narrow defeat, but in the end couldn't help feeling a tinge of disappointment at the team not being able to get across the line for a win. But it was still a very good team performance though.  So, in the end the Club hasn't managed to get any teams through to a Divisional Cup final - but it's not been for want of trying. Some great team efforts.  Happy Christmas one and all, enjoy your festive break. The season resumes on the 5 January with the start of the Frank Murphy Handicap Cup - for 'veterans'. | | | | | |  | | | |  |
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