|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | | |
|  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | |  |  |  | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Finalists Through**  The two Bath Street teams that reached the finals of the Frank Murphy Handicap Cup competition in the Liverpool & District Table Tennis League last season, are through to the Quarter Finals of the 2015 competition after good wins in the 2nd Round last week.  Cup Holders BSM 1 faced club and team mates BSM 3. BSM 1 captain Barry Davis says of this, "It's not easy playing against club mates and team mates and it is a shame that we were drawn together. I think we should have a UEFA type rule stipulating that teams from the same club should not be drawn against each other in, say, the first two rounds." Nevertheless, face each other they did in what proved to be a close and exciting match. BSM 1 comprising Barry, Tony Kendall and Ted Cramsie faced BSM 3 comprising captain Ian McElwee, Fred Bainbridge and Dave Noden. With Tony and Fred playing in the same team in Div 1 of the L&DTTL and Barry and Ian in the same team in Div 2 and Ted and Dave from Div's 3 and 4 respectively this looked set for an even encounter with two closely matched sides. | | |  | | --- | | Last year's finalists stay on track  BSM 3 having a small advantage of just 23 points on handicap, which looked about fair. By the end of the 5th set however the points were even. The highlight of these first five sets surely being the fine win by Barry over team mate Ian 42 pts to 33. Three sets to one for BSM 1 after 5 with 1 halved. Tony contributed 2 more set wins for the BSM 1 team in the final 4 sets bringing his unbeaten points tally to a surplus of 43, just the set between Ted and Fred slipping away from the holder's. In the end the deficit of 23 pts was turned into a surplus of 29 pts leaving BSM 1 the winners by 364 pts to 335. Perhaps the main difference between the two sides was the fact that Barry outscored both of his senior colleagues (Fred and Ian) on the night, contributing 119 pts to his team compared to 114 and 103 for Fred and Ian respectively. The Holder's are therefore successfully through to the Quarter Final. Let's hope they don't meet club mates again in the next round.  Turning a deficit of 100 points into a winning surplus of 55 points you would have to say represents a comprehensive win in this handicap event. And that was the result 'Klinical Ken', as he has been renamed, achieved with his BSM 2 team (Ken Jackson (captain), Ricky Brown and Darren Taylor) in the other Frank Murphy 2nd Round match featuring a Bath Street team. BSM 2, beaten finalists last year, really do seem to have a point they want to prove but faced a good Maghull team, topped by Paul Banks whose Maghull 1st Team top Division 2 of the L&DTTL. Perhaps the decisive match in this encounter was the opening set between Ricky and the opposing No.1, Paul. What a battle this proved to be with Ricky matching Paul point by point right through both ends which Paul won by the narrowest possible margin of 42 pts to 40. It could not have been any closer. After that 'Klinical Ken' was just that, totally clinical, finishing off his 3 sets unbeaten with a decisive 126 pts to 39, 87 points off the deficit. But contributions were still needed from both Ricky and Darren and they duly obliged. Ricky contributing a surplus of 42 points and Darren an excellent surplus of 26. The final score of 370 pts to 315 in favour of BSM 2 representing a comprehensive win after starting 100 points behind.  Both of last year's finalists are therefore through to the Quarter Final. And both teams are looking very strong. | | | | | |  | | | |  |
|  | | |