

## World Championship of Ping Pong 2014-15 – Aberdeen Qualifier

There were 14 participants in the Aberdeen Qualifying event, held on Friday 10th October at the Westburn Lounge, and it seems that players and spectators all had an enjoyable evening of exciting table tennis. As well as being aimed at determining the local "Hard Bat" Champion for 2014-15 the event was an eliminator for the Scottish Heat of the WC of PP scheduled for Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> December at Drumchapel High School. The winner of the Scottish Heat is eligible to progress to the World Championship of Ping Pong event at Crystal Palace in early January 2105, an event that includes some live televised matches.

The local event was staged in 3 groups of 5 with the leading 3 from each group progressing to a KO Quarter-final stage via a single preliminary tie (3rd Group 2 v 3rd Group 3). Matches were played as best of 3 sets to 15 up

**Group 1** was a tight affair and was settled on a countback in favour of young Gavin Elliot, with Craig Cummine and Rob Tanner taking the other two progressive places. This group included Frank Still, at a sprightly 82 years young, who only narrowly lost out to Rob Tanner in 3 very close sets. Bill Skene was the other group member.

**Group 2** only had four players and the top player was George Allan who won all his games, although he needed three sets to dispose of Catherine Inverarity, -12, 12, 12. Brian Sillence secured 2<sup>nd</sup> spot and although Catherine finished 3<sup>rd</sup> she withdrew at this stage allowing, the ageless, Harry Vine to progress to the Preliminary Tie.

**Group 3** was dominated by Neil Innes, who won all his matches but he did need 3 sets to overcome both Umesh Naikho and Paul Barlow. Umesh and Paul ended in 2nd and 3rd places respectively with Brian Robertson in 4th place. John Baigrie finished in 5th spot but both Brian and Paul needed 3 sets to get the better of him. This was a fairly tight group with 6 of the 10 matches going the distance.

In the Preliminary Tie Paul Barlow defeated Harry Vine but then came up against Gavin Elliot, the eventual winner, at the Quarter-final stage. Brian Sillence lost out to Umesh Naikho, Craig Cummine proved too strong for Neil Innes, and George Allan secured a great scalp in defeating Rob Tanner, 5, 13. The Semi-finals saw a tight match between Gavin and Umesh, with Gavin winning in the 3rd set: Craig strode confidently past George Allan at 5 and 8.

In an excellent final match Gavin Elliot proved himself a worthy winner by beating Craig in straight sets, 8 and 12



Brian Robertson, ADTTA Treasurer presented Gavin with the "Baber Blade", a hand-made trophy created by local ASV Evergreen, Ken Baber, that will be used as a perpetual trophy for this event for the foreseeable future

Sincere thanks to all those who made the effort to support this event.

Charlie Flint

# World Championship of Ping Pong – Aberdeen Eliminator – 10<sup>th</sup> October 2014

