**Table tennis by Chris Blake - www.tabletennis365.com/Sunderland**

With the Sunderland & District TTA leagues fixtures drawing to a close for the first half of the season there were only a small number of rearranged matches played last week.

However, both results were significant and had a profound impact on the table positions for Division’s One and Two.

In **Division One** Durham CA represented by John Williamson, Christian Neumann and Gavin Bestford had a hard fought maximum points win over Sacriston St Bedes A who chose to field their regular team consisting of Duncan Fraser, John Mawson and Ian McAllister. A win which sees them move to within 1 point of second placed St Chads.

Sacriston can count themselves extremely unlucky not to pick up any points for their efforts.

Eight of the ten sets played were decided in either the fourth or fifth ends – had some of the sets been reversed the match score could have easily been 7 – 3 in favour of Sacriston which would have severely damaged Durham’s title hopes.

Sacriston’s Fraser played excellently throughout with all of his 3 sets going to the fifth and deciding end. He lost out to Bestford (11 – 13) and Neumann (8 – 11) but edged out Williamson (11 – 9) to record a fine win over the Durham County player. Fraser’s teammates Mawson and McAllister picked up a set a piece.

Christian Neumann was statistically ‘man of the match’ winning all of his singles sets and pairing with Williamson to edge the doubles set 12 – 10 in the fifth against Fraser and McAllister.

With Williamson picking up 2 sets and Bestford 1 set Durham edged the match 7 – 3.

In the only other league match North East Bed Centre had a comfortable 9 – 1 win over Redby CA A to leapfrog rivals Sacriston St Bedes B to go top of **Division 2**.

Alex Smith (3), Dave Pringle (3) and Gary Anderson (2) did the damage for NEBC with the former pairing up to win the only doubles set over Malcolm Deneven and Amanda Paxton.

Frank Booth recorded the only set for Redby with a straight sets win over Anderson.

In the only match played in the Team Handicap Cup 2nd Division St Johns A edged out 3rd Division team West CA B to progress to the 2nd round where they will play the winner of the cup tie between division 2 leaders NEBC and St Gabriels B of the same division.

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