English League Cup Competition Finals 2015

Michael Bree and Sam Henderson represented the Birmingham League in the Carter Cup Finals on Sunday 14th June at Westfield Table Tennis Club, Wellingborough.

The boys started with an excellent 5-0 win against Guildford, whose team comprised of young cadet players. The Birmingham duo won all 5 matches 3-0.

The second match was against Nottingham (who had surprisingly lost to Cambridge 2-3 in their first match). Sam played Tim Denby in the first match, and despite winning the first end 11-9, Sam lost the next three 7-11, 7-11, 5-11. Michael then played the ever improving Naphat Boonyaprapa, and also lost 1-3 (7-11, 11-4, 6-11, 8-11). The boys teamed up for the doubles which was an exceptionally close match. The Birmingham duo battled in every set, and managed to claw back on several occasions to win 9-11, 11-7, 10-12, 11-9, 11-9. Sam had a slightly unusual match against Naphat winning the first end 11-1 and seeming to be in full control; only for the Nottingham player to win the next three 8-11, 4-11, 6-11. Michael had another 5 setter against and frustratingly was on the losing end on this occasion 7-11, 11-7, 11-4, 10-12, 5-11. The overall match score was 1-4 to Nottingham.

The final match in the group was against Cambridge. This tie also comprised of numerous 5 set matches. Michael beat Adam Jepson 3-2, whilst Sam lost out to James Kelly 2-3. The Birmingham duo then maintained their 100% record in the doubles winning 3-0. Sam had a 4 set battle against Jepson losing 11-7, 9-11, 9-11, 3-11. Michael then played James Kelly, but unfortunately had suffered a leg injury in his earlier singles match. He struggled through the singles match against Kelly but lost 12-10, 11-6, 8-11, 6-11, 6-11. The overall match score ended 3-2 to Cambridge.

Having finished 3rd in their group, the Birmingham team competed for 5th and 6th positions against Oxford. It was slightly unfortunate that Michael sustained the leg injury, and was unable to play in his singles matches. He agreed to play the doubles, to give the Oxford players the opportunity to play. Sam and Michael kept their doubles record intact by winning 11-7, 11-9, 10-12, 11-5. Sam played his two singles matches. He beat Kavan Warrender 3-2, but lost out to Erik Wahlgren 1-3, which meant the overall match score finished 2-3 to Oxford.

Wembley and Harrow won the Carter Cup, with Eren Cozcu and Karim Khassal representing the team. They beat Cambridge 3-0 who finished second. Birmingham finished in 6th position, however, the boys were on the losing end of numerous 5th set crucial matches, which could have made the final standings very different. Well done to Sam and Michael.