

Grassroots Sport table tennis special

Cup goes to Barella for a third year

GRAEME Barella claimed the Alan Morpeth Memorial Cup for a third successive year after beating Andrew Wilkinson in the final of the men's open singles at the Northumberland Closed Championships.

Winner of the women's singles - and recipient of the Philomena Clark Trophy for a 14th time - was Lynne Herrington, who beat Kit Robinson in the final.

In the veterans' competition, Wilkinson - who is ranked at four in the current England veterans' rankings - defeated long-time teammate Steve Penman in the final.

This year's championship - staged at Cramlington Sporting Club - featured an inaugural over-60s singles competition.

It was won by Matfen's Alex Holliday, who beat Dave Cutler from the Dunston-based Mount Club.

For this first time this year the tournament also staged a consolation singles competition for those players knocked out in the group phase of the open singles.

The inaugural winner was Ken Lee from the North East Chinese Association, who overcame Newcastle University's Matthew Hopkins in a five-end decider.

After his success in the previous day's Junior Closed Tournament, Oliver Ho captured

the handicap singles and the band four singles titles.

In the final he was pushed by his more experienced Cramlington clubmate Nigel Rodgers but ended up taking a close game.

In the band four singles, Ho faced another Cramlington colleague Anthony Doyle and this game went to five ends - Doyle pulling back from 2-0 down to level at 2-2 before Ho took the fifth and deciding end.

Penman clinched the band one singles honours for the 14th time, defeating Jeremy Hamshaw from Newcastle University.

In the band two singles David Cutler overcame clubmate Rod Roberts and in the band three singles decider Tyneside's Dean Eadington defeated Mount's Ethan Brown.

There was an all-Cramlington affair in the band five singles between Joe Hastings and Alan Roskilly, the former winning a five-end match.

The final competition was a doubles in which players were paired up randomly. The winners were Chris Blake from St Chads in Sunderland and Cramlington's Anthony Doyle who beat the pairing of Dave Cutler from Mount and John Henderson from Newton.



Doubles winners Anthony Doyle and Chris Blake



Graeme Barella receives the Alan Morpeth Memorial Cup from Northumberland TTA chairman Gareth Pearson



Philomena Clark Trophy winner Lynne Herrington is congratulated by Gareth Pearson

Mat is pulled from under the Senators

LEAGUE ACTION

MOUNT A beat Matfen Senators 8-2 in the Northumberland Winter League's Premier Division.

Anthony Ainley and Phil Prady both won three games for the Mount team and combined to win the doubles.

The points for Matfen came from good victories by Alex Holliday and Neil Forsyth over Bailey Pye.

Cramlington Casuals enjoyed a 6-4 result at Old England Jacks.

Cramlington's James Bradbury, Gareth Pearson and Steve Pearce all won two matches.

The Old England points came from Steve Penman, who took three games and paired up with Jake Helm to clinch the doubles.

In Division One, NECA B recorded a straightforward 10-0 success against Brandon Anacondas.

The NECA team of David Byers, Ken Lee and Jamie Collins proved too strong for their opponents.

In the game between Mitford and Cramlington Tigers, Mitford raced into a 5-1 lead thanks to victories for Barry Hill, Karen Henry and Michael Bull.

However, the Tigers roared back to secure a 5-5 draw with wins from Oliver Ho, Bernie McArdle and Pete Wilkinson.

Prudhoe B registered a 6-4 triumph at Ouston A.

The points for Prudhoe came from Ryan Campbell, who won two games, Duncan Fraser two and Maurice Cheek one.

In Division Two, with Mount E not playing, Old England Crocks took the opportunity to go back to the top with a 5-5 draw against Cramlington Swifts.

Barry Matthews was player of the match, clinching three games for Old England.

Tyneside B secured a 7-3 victory over Matfen Tribunes, Tyneside's John Carr victorious in three matches with Jim Robertson winning twice and Don Catley once.

In the all-Cramlington affair between the Reivers and the Trojans, the Trojans could not field a full team and ended up losing 7-3.

Jack Cairns offered some resistance for the Trojans, enjoying victories against Michael Dunn and Joe Swinburn.

Cramlington Spartans sealed a 6-4 verdict against higher-placed Ouston B.

Rob Lee was player of the match, winning three games for the Spartans.

Webster beats Ho to top the junior table for a fifth year in a row

ADAM WEBSTER claimed a fifth successive Northumberland Junior Closed Championship singles title at Cramlington Sporting Club with victory over home player Oliver Ho.

As a result the teenager, ranked No 18 in the current England junior rankings and sure to go higher after recent wins against higher-ranked players in county representative matches, collected the Norman Moore Memorial Cup.

There was consolation for Ho in the cadet singles final, the youngster securing the Harry Dignan Cup with a victory against Tyneside's Leo Conn.

The pair both play for the Northumbria League in the National Cadet League and the first end of their clash was very close, with great attacking table tennis coming from both players.



Pictured with Northumberland Table Tennis Association president Aubrey Drapkin are (left to right) junior singles winner Adam Webster, cadet singles champion Oliver Ho and under-13s' winner and runner-up Jessica Yang and Brian Granada

The under-13 singles decider was the closest game of the night, Cramlington's Jessica Yang coming out on top in three ends 9-11, 13-11,

11-9 against Brian Granada from St Mary's Catholic School.

The under-12 singles was played in a group format with Jake Hill from



John Spence School emerging the winner.

Josiah McQueen from St Oswald's School clinched second place.