

Report on the Barnsley Senior Open Grand Prix Table Tennis Tournament

APPLEBY Elite squad players Max Tupper, Hugo Tupper and Josh Band posted their best ever results at this, the last event of the Grand Prix season which attracted top ranking UK players in a field of 140+

Max Tupper was voted the Player of the Tournament {never before achieved by a Jersey player} by unanimous decision of the 9 strong voting panel. Tupper with pre-tournament rating points of 1617 achieved this with breathtaking wins against: Connor Edwards [2182 points and the Welsh No.1 Junior], Billy Pegg from Shropshire [2456 points], Adam Laws from Surrey [ranked 75th Senior in England with 2829 points] and Chris Main [2858 points and the Scotland No. 9!!]. Tupper also made it through to the last 16 of the Men's Singles finally being halted by the Scottish No.1 Gavin Rungay 9/11, 6/11, 6/11. Tupper also reached the last 16 of Men's Band 3. A remarkable tournament for the 17 year old Max.

Hugo Tupper topped his group in the Men's Band 5 Singles dropping just one game. He then only dropped another single game as he saw off Michael Boyce from Cleveland, Joe Killoran from Cheshire and Alan Taylor from Kent to reach the final. Here he met the experienced Ian Denton from Yorkshire who was very canny in his shot selection. Tupper did everything that he possibly could but the English Veteran was just that bit too seasoned a performer and Tupper eventually took a richly deserved runner up slot. Hugo battled his way to the runner up slot in his Men's Singles group to make the knockout stage but was outgunned by Scotland's No.7 Calum Main in the preliminary round.

Josh Band celebrated his return to tournament after a long period of injury with a string of highly impressive wins as well. Band entered the competition with 1688 rating points and after a tentative start in the Banded Groups he beat Paul Beck from Kent, [2014 points] 3--0, Steve Kerns from Essex, [2159 points], 3--0 and then Dean Cundy the Welsh No. 13 Senior [2582 points] 3--2, coming back from 5--1 down in the fifth and deciding game to win 12/10 and to claim his huge win!! Band reached the last 32 of the Men's Singles and took a game off the Scottish No.4 Niall Cameron before bowing out. He also went the furthest of the Jersey players in the Under 21 Men's Singles missing out on a berth in the quarter finals at the hand of Connor Edwards from Wales. Band also reached the last 16 of Men's Band 3 narrowly losing 3--2 to Lawrence Sweeney from Warwickshire.

Veteran Martin Tupper also registered his first wins at Grand Prix level underlining a superb competition for the local players

" This was by far the best tournament for Jersey results that we have ever had," said JTTA President Chris Band afterwards. The three lads were simply brilliant and fully deserve all the plaudits that I am sure they will receive".



Picture shows Max Tupper receiving the player of the tournament trophy from Mr. Alan Ransome OBE the Chairman of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Federation.