

LEICESTERSHIRE TABLE TENNIS <https://www.topspin-ldttl.co.uk/>

The Elbow Tankard, Leicester and District League's team handicap competition over the summer months, produced a close encounter between Abbots All Stars and The 3 Musketeers who were the best losers from the same group as their opponents which means they played each other three times altogether.

As the previous encounters were one each another close tussle for the tie breaker was expected and they did not disappoint with the result in doubt right to the very last two-game set with the score on 9-9.

All Stars' Gitesh Parbhoo and Andy Searle shared the first two games before George McClurkin beat Bhulesh Rathod to give the Musketeers a 3-1 lead. Geoff Hancock then levelled it up by defeating John Underwood.

Included in the next four sets (eight games) were the doubles and to emphasize how close the two teams were these were all shared for the score to reach seven apiece.

Parbhoo beat Underwood 2-0 to put All Stars 9-7 to the good before Searle defeated Rathod by the same margin to tie things up yet again. 9-9 with two games remaining, unless there was a tie.

McClurkin gave away seven points a game to the experienced Hancock who was playing in this competition over 50 years ago with the latter starting relatively slowly in each game. Each time Hancock was able to hold on to take his team, Abbots All Stars, to a nail biting 11-9 victory.

Over recent years Winstanley, with the added Wizards in their title for the league, has been a progressive club which in the early stages was very much thanks to diligent hard work by John Greening. It was fitting, then, that their highly successful foray into a summer handicap competition was called the John Greening Handicap Challenge.

The event was run over eleven weeks with a nice, simple, way of determining the winner by giving 10 points for a win and dividing matches played into points gained, a proviso being a minimum ten played.

In the end it was a battle between brothers and Kai Bhakta with 11 wins from 12 (9.17) beating his brother, Kalan, who had 11 wins from 12 (8.46). Chandrasekar Nittala was third having gained 13 from 16 (8.13).

Mick Box picked up the most points with 15 and was the busiest of the 22 players having played 19, finishing fourth on 7.90.

John Bowness.