

## LEICESTERSHIRE TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

### PHIL REID MEMORIAL TROPHY 2024/25

This year, 30 players entered the Phil Reid Memorial Trophy run by Leicestershire Table Tennis Association – a slight decrease but there was some great table tennis in a good atmosphere-maybe the best set of qualifiers and final in my time.

Two qualifying sessions were held at Knighton Park TTC on Monday 30 December and Thursday 2 January with 17 players scheduled for first and 13 for second - each respectively in groups playing best of 3 up to 21. There were some very close matches in some groups as would be expected in a handicap competition. The players ranged in gradings – with 175 difference between top and bottom and with the highest start being 11.

The winners of the 8 groups were Tony Monteiro ( Goons) Oz Akyildiz. Jack Bitenieks , Ayhan Celik, Dillon Kearney , Khaalid Patel, ( Knighton Park), Eiz Eddin Al Katrib ( QTTC) Elly Bajarias( Winstanley Wizards)

The Finals were played on Saturday January 4<sup>th</sup> at Knighton Park with 2 round robin groups of 4 players leading to semi- finals and final.. In the semi-finals, Khaalid beat Dillon 21-13,14-21, 21-14- a great battle between 2 of our top juniors- and Ayhan beat Oz 10-21, 21-14,21-18 - another fascinating match between compatriots. So to the Final which was won by Ayhan 22-20,21-14 with Ayhan having 5 start – another excellent match .

Congratulations to Ayhan on winning the Phil Reid Memorial Trophy this year and to Khaalid for being a very good runner -up . Interestingly it was a final between finals group runners -up .

There were many cracking group matches and all players had their moments but I am sure all will agree that the match between Ayhan and Elly in the group was special- Elly won 21-14,21-23, 22-20- and the other match waited to start their next game to see the end as the watchers applauded a superb match of ebb and flow . In that group , Ayhan, Elly and Tony all won one while Dillon won three and Ayhan went through as runner -up by one game on countback- such are the margins.

Many thanks to Knighton Park for the use of their facilities , to Andy Wright for his wise advice and the gradings review , to all who helped set up and tidy up - as well of course to all the players for participating and playing in a really good spirit It remains a huge pleasure to run this competition in memory of a major figure in the county's history.

Mike Smith

8/1/24