

ENGLISH LEAGUES CHAMPIONSHIPS 2016

MENS WILMOTT CUP organised by Table Tennis England

REGIONAL GROUP 8

Saturday 23rd April at Byng Hall TTC Tunbridge Wells

West Kent just pipped by Hastings

The West Kent team of Diccon Gray (Weald TTC), Owe Karlsson (Byng Hall TTC), Mark Romano (Leigh RBL TTC) played well to go unbeaten into the deciding match with Hastings, who were also unbeaten. Both teams defeated good sides from Guildford and Crawley/Horsham after some really excellent quality controlled, attacking table tennis where no player went through the competition without losing. The individual highlight was Mark Collins of Crawley/Horsham defeating the highest rated player, Ritchie Venner of Hastings.

West Kent took a 2-1 lead against Hastings with Diccon and Mark overcoming Ritchie Venner and David Butler in the doubles, Diccon having defeated David and Mark losing to Ritchie. Needing one of the two remaining games (with matches played simultaneously on two tables), Diccon took Ritchie to five, going 2-1 up before losing out. Mark Romano took on David pulling it back to 2-2. The Diccon/Ritchie match having concluded it was all eyes on the this last leg of Mark versus David. David played exceptionally well and took the leg 11-8. Hastings go on to represent the South East in the finals. West Kent look to try again next year and turn the tables in their favour.

West Kent v Hastings

1-0 Diccon Gray v David Butler 6 -8 -8 3 5

1-1 Mark Romano v Ritchie Venner -7 -8 9 -6

2-1 Gray/Romano v Venner/Butler 12 5 6

2-2 Diccon Gray v Ritchie Venner 10 -11 7 -7 -3

2-3. Mark Romano v David Butler 5 -8 -9 7 -8

The West Kent team squad members Dean Chipperfield (Leigh RBL TTC) and Paul Livermore (Otford TTC) valuably carried out umpiring duties, looked after the three visiting teams, dealt with match logistics as well as supporting their team. West Kent captain Diccon Gray said "It was an excellent all round squad performance".

Results:

Guildford Michael Hill and Chris Bush P3 W0 L3 F3 A12

lost to Crawley/Horsham 2-3 lost to West Kent 0-5 lost to Hastings 1-4

Crawley/Horsham Mark Collins and Dan Pound P3 W1 L2 F5 A10

lost to West Kent 1-4 lost to Hastings 1-4

West Kent Diccon Gray Owe Karlsson Mark Romano P3 W2 L1 F11 A4

lost to Hastings 2-3

Hastings Ritchie Venner and David Butler P3 W3 L0 F11 A4

West Kent players Diccon Gray played 6 won 5 Owe Karlsson played 4 won 3 Mark Romano played 2 won 0 Doubles played 3 won 3 (Diccon 3, Owe 2, Mark 1).

Report from R. Harris WKTTA.