

## Cippenham Grand Prix Senior Women's Champion



Winner Jurate Brazaityte

RU Catherine Cheng

Jurate Brazaityte of Byng Hall Table Tennis Club, Tunbridge Wells, dominates the senior women's Cippenham Grand Prix series held at the Cippenham Table Tennis centre on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> October in Slough. Having secured her second consecutive event victory in the series, Jurate, seeded one, had a much tougher entry to contend with this time round with an unseeded Hong Kong player having only been in the country for a month upsetting all the seedings. Chen beat Jurate in her group matches, leaving Brazaityte to only qualify second. This put her in the bottom half of the knockout draw potentially facing the number two seed, Sarah Hudson, in the next round. However even this half was to be upset, when the number two seed was also beaten in the group by a Welsh unseeded Claire Ford to change it all again. Jurate had now to face Samantha Meredith but despite some nervous moments Jurate came through 3-2. She then had to face Claire Ford in the semi-final stage, an unknown and very consistent player who thrived on the conditions that lend themselves to a no spin close to the table game. Brazaityte kept a cool head despite some rather anxious moments and edge ball decisions going against her, to come through 3-1. She now faced the unseeded Catherine Chen of Hong Kong again, this time in the final. This was to be a very different affair from the cold start match in the groups where the conditions got the better of Jurate's high risk spin game. This was a thrilling 5 set tussle worthy of the final, Jurate coming out the winner this time, putting her on top of the women's points' standings for the whole series.