

# CHRIS BARTRAM VETERANS NATIONAL CHAMPION

Report from Jackie Williams

Dartford's Chris Bartram is Veterans Table Tennis National Champion

The Veterans English Table Tennis Society's (VETTS) National Championships were held at the weekend in Thornbury, Bristol. This is the main event of the year and so has a very high number of entries from all over the country.

All the top players enter The Nationals because it is such a prestigious title, he therefore had to beat some good players on the way. Chris is ranked number 10 in the country so had to fight hard to beat people ranked above him. He beat the England number 2, Abdul Wuraola, in the semi final in a closely fought match to set up a final against Andy Trott from Northampton. Although they are best of friends, neither was going to give the other an easy ride. Chris took an early lead but Andy did not give up and fought back to 2 games each. It was a battle of Bartram's big shots against Trott's subtle blocking all round the table. The big shots squeezed through with Chris eventually winning a very topsy turvy (and nervy) last leg 13-11, to take the title. All the hard work & practising had paid off.

He also teamed up with Neil Harris from Yorkshire to take runners up spot in the men's doubles, losing deuce in the 5<sup>th</sup> (best of 5)

Chris represented England as a junior, but the Junior National Title always alluded him, he has now fulfilled his dream of being a National Champion.