

**ENGLISH PREMIER JUNIOR TOUR**  
**EVENT 1 – WILLIE THORNES LEICESTER**

**STEPHEN CRAIGIE WINS**

**JOEL WALKER RUNNER UP**

Stephen Craigie, Newcastle quickly shrugged of the disappointment of relegation from the pro circuit to win the opening event, English Premier Junior Tour, Willie Thorne's, Leicester defeating unexpected finalist Joel Walker, 15, Sheffield, 4-1.

Little to report on the final of a long weekends play the pair shared the first two close opening frames, Craigie won the next three frames the last two easily making a break of 61 in the 4<sup>th</sup>.

Craigie snr won his group with a 15/5 frame score unbeaten with brother Sam 14/5 second, Joel Walker second in his group behind Kamran Ashraf who recorded the best frame difference along with Jack Lisowski of 15/3 apiece both unbeaten, Nick Jennings also kept a clean sheet 15/7.

The winner only managed four breaks over fifty in Saturdays play but stepped up the rate Sunday, last 16 being taken to the final frame twice, firstly leading Gareth Green 3-1 with a 64 in the 4<sup>th</sup> requiring a 59 break in the decider.

Then he led Nick Jennings who made the most fifty plus breaks, 13, 3-0, 96 break, Jennings fired back with runs of 65,49 and 57 for 3-3 and led 53-11 in the last frame, Craigie clearing with 45.

Reprieved Craigie flowed in the semi finals to beat Mitchell Mann 4-2, Craigie 62, Mann 57 and 42 to lead 2-1, Craigie back to back century's 122 and event best 139.

Walker drew Ashraf again in the last 16 winning 4-1, 42 and 59 after being battered 3-0 in the group with breaks of 117,62 and 91.

He also defeated Callum Downing 4-1, 53 break, Downing 57 and finally Jack Lisowski 4-2 who opened with 66 only for Walker to clear with 73, Lisowski led 2-1, Walker taking the last three frames comfortably including a 50.

Most of the other nine century's made came in the group stages Lisowski weighed in with a 136 in the quarter finals, although Shane Castle finished 5<sup>th</sup> in his group the youngest player in the set 48 field rolled in tons of 103 and 104.

Malcolm Thorne  
English Snooker