

ENGLISH PRO TICKET**DAVID CRAGGS & ROB JAMES
WIN OPENING EVENT
NORTH – SOUTH**

The opening event of this season's Pro Ticket Tour attracted a total of 112 players split North & South at Northern SC, Leeds and Woking SC, Surrey.

North

David Craggs, Tow Law Town shrugged of the disappointment of losing in the English Amateur and PTT Play Off finals to comfortably win in Leeds beating the home clubs Jonathan Bagley 5-2 in the Final.

Bagley took the first two frames of the final on the black after Craggs made a 52 break in the 1st frame from there Craggs easily took control making breaks of 52, and 76, Bagley conceded the 7th frame with the score at 35-5.

To reach his 3rd successive EASB final Craggs cruised through the field defeating his first three opponents all 4-1, Jack Nicholson 79 break, Andrew Milliard 86 break and World Team Cup team mate David Lilley, 60 break, Lilley 70 made a 125 earlier.

He then whitewashed Robbie Williams 4-0 in the semi finals recording a 113 in the 2nd frame.

Bagley knocked out Jamie Barrett 4-2, 53 break, former pro Steve Judd 4-1 and Shaun Wilkes 4-2 with a 121 break.

In the quarters and semi finals Bagley came from behind to win firstly 3-2 down to Ian Burns settling matters with a 69 and 3-1 down to Antony Parsons winning the 5th frame on the black.

Teenager Mitchell Travis crushed former English Amateur winner David Grace 4-1 with breaks of 64 and 60 losing in the last eight 4-2 to Robbie Williams.

Michael Wild made the venue's highest break 129 in the first round going onto beat both of the Craigie brothers Sam 4-3 and Stephen 4-2.

South

Rob James, Burntwood, West Midlands crushed Adam Wicheard, Trowbridge 5-1 in the final game which took over three hours to complete as the 2nd, 3rd and 6th frames looked from the frame scores to have ended with the last ball, James made a break of 56 in the 4th frame to lead 4-0.

The winner started well on the first day beating Ben Harrison 4-0 and Nick Jennings 4-1 finishing with a 84 break in the last eight he fought back from 3-1 down to Daniel Ward then trailed Mitchell Mann 2-0 and 3-2 taking the final two frames comfortably.

Wicheard also won his first two matches easily beating Philip Wildman 4-2 who led 2-0 with a 71 break and Danny Douane 4-1, 74 break he then played well to beat Hugh Abernathy 4-3 from 3-1 down with breaks of 103, 80 and a 68 in the decider.

In the quarter-finals Wicheard overcame Matt Wilson 4-2, Wicheard 58, Wilson 59 and finally free scoring Alfie Burden 4-1 with breaks of 73 and 65 to open up a 2-0 lead.

Burden who made a 147 last season at the club had make breaks earlier of 50, 110, 88 and efforts of 111 the venues highest break plus 72, 69 and 52 to beat junior Tom Maxfield 4-2 in the quarters who had beaten Reanne Evans 4-1 in the last 16 after accounting for Leo Fernandez 4-2 in the previous round.

Mitchell Mann also scored well early with runs of 109, 72, 55 and then 85, 72 and 59 to beat another junior Sam Harvey in the last eight 4-2.

Malcolm Thorne
English Snooker.