

## Report of Eventus Table Tennis Tournament

**Eventus** successfully concluded yet another tournament of indoor series - **Eventus Table Tennis Tournament**. An event, which saw participation from 16 corporate teams and these 16 teams were divided into 4 pools with 4 teams in each pool.

After the league stage, wherein teams played games in a specified format given prior to the tournament earned points from 2 singles and 1 doubles in best of three games of 11 points. The top two teams from each pool qualified for the quarterfinal stage and then teams were ranked from 1-8 on the basis **points, game score and point difference**. The ranking chart of 8 qualifying teams for the quarterfinals is given below for your ready reference.

Ranking of Teams after League Stage										
Rank	Name of Team	Played Vs.	Won	Lost	Points (+)	Points (-)	Points Diff.	Total point difference	Total Score	Points
1	Cadence	Gecis - A	3	0	66	30	36	114	9 = 0	6
		Xchanging	3	0	66	22	44			
		DDA - B	3	0	66	32	34			
2	Birlasoft	Reliance	3	0	70	42	28	56	9 = 0	6
		Hero Honda	3	0	66	38	28			
		British Gas	3	0	Walkover					
3	EXL Service	e-funds	2	1	68	54	14	35	8 = 1	6
		DDA - A	3	0	66	45	21			
		H T	3	0	Walkover					
4	Vertex	Gecis - B	3	0	78	61	17	34	7 = 2	4
		Eventus	1	2	77	75	2			
		Maruti	3	0	68	53	15			
5	e-funds	EXL Service	1	2	54	68	-14	8	6 = 3	4
		DDA – A	2	1	69	47	22			
		H T	3	0	Walkover					
6	Gecis - B	Vertex	0	3	61	78	-17	3	4 = 5	4
		Eventus	2	1	80	72	8			
		Maruti	2	1	71	59	12			
7	DDA – B	Gecis – A	2	1	84	72	12	-11	4 = 5	4
		Xchanging	2	1	82	71	11			
		Cadence	0	3	32	66	-34			
8	Reliance Info.	Birlasoft	0	3	42	70	-28	-19	5 = 4	4
		Hero Honda	2	1	58	49	9			
		British Gas	3	0	Walkover					

**The quarterfinals** saw some very exciting matches but teams ranked 1-4 had clear edge over the teams ranked 5-8. Top ranked teams showed great commitment by not allowing game to reach till the reserve single stage and went on to win first 3 matches. We would like to add a word of appreciation for Cadence, Birlasoft, Vertex, e-funds and Reliance teams as all these 5 teams qualified for the quarterfinal stage on their first appearance itself. Reliance was the only team to qualify despite the fact that all their players were playing after a gap of 20 years. We at Eventus, do recognize their superb efforts and sportsman spirit.

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**Eventus** during the semi-final stage changed the format from best of 3 games to best of 5 games for all the 5 matches as per the suggestion received from teams.

The first semi-final between **Cadence Vs. Vertex** saw some excellent table tennis with wonderful skills and technique to throw strong challenge, gave spectators a tense movement as most of the games went with score reaching 10 all and finishing on difference of 2 points in the end. Nikhil Khurana of Vertex took an early lead in first single as he won the first game but Vikas Roy of Cadence made a good come back to level the score at 10 all in game number 2 & 3 and won both the games by difference of 2 points to lead the match by 2-1. Nikhil Khurana was not in right frame of mind for the match as he had lost his Grand Father that morning but came back strongly to make some good returns and capitalized on weak returns to win the last 2 games to provide vital lead by winning the first single for his team.

The Second single was played between Amandeep Singh (Vertex) and Pradeep Goyal (Cadence), which went in favour of Pradeep Goyal with score line of 3-0 to make it one match each. Vertex opted for change while playing the doubles match while Cadence persisted with same combination. Cadence won the doubles 3-0 to gain one match lead. The first reverse single was decided in the 4<sup>th</sup> game as Nikhil Khurana once again gave excellent performance to defeat Pradeep Goyal 3-1 to make it 2 all in best of 5 semi-final and rushed out to perform the last rights of his Grand Father. Let us all pray that the soul of his Grand Father will rest in peace.

The last reserve single was now to decide the winner and the first team to qualify for the finals. Amandeep Singh and Vikas Roy provided a nail biting finish to this match as both the player won 2 games each. Both the players were playing high quality game and were matching each other point by point. Players showed immense control, made some impossible returns and lighting fast smashes to reach at the score of 10 all. Vikas Roy kept his cool in the tense situation, ensured to keep the ball on table while making returns and played safe. Amandeep Singh could not take the pressure and tried to play shots that were not required at that moment and lost the game and match. Everybody present in the hall could stop themselves from giving a big round of applause to both the players.

The second semi-final between **EXL Service Vs. Birlasoft** saw the biggest upset of the tournament as Manish Kalra of Birlasoft defeated Lalit Juneja (**last years' Best Player of the Tournament**) and that too in straight games to win the first singles match. Manish out classed his opponent in all departments as he had good back hand return, anticipated return shorts to perfection and on top of that his service was a treat to watch with lot of variation which kept all of his opponents guessing. Lalit had no clue as to what Manish was serving and before he could understand the match was over in 3 straight games.

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In the second single match Mrinal of EXL Service registered easy win over Saurabh to level the score at 1 match all. The doubles match went in favour of EXL Service as Lalit Juneja & Mrinal Mondal defeated Birlasoft by 3:1. The first reverse single was to decide the fate of the second team to qualify for the final. Manish Kalra & Mrinal Mondal (both had won all their matches till this stage) were up against each other. The 1<sup>st</sup> game was fought very closely as both the players managed to retain points on their serve to make it 10 all but Mrinal managed to take 2 points and win the game. Mrinal made good adjustments and changed his style of playing against Manish. Mrinal was the only player to read the service of Manish but even then at times Manish came out with new things and Mrinal did not mind clapping for his opponent. Mrinal won the next 2 games and helped his team to reach the final.

The **Final was played between EXL Service and Cadence** wherein EXL Service defeated Cadence 3:0 to take the Winners Trophy. EXL Service managed to win both the single matches comfortably as Lalit Juneja defeated Pradeep Goyal and Mrinal Mondal defeated Vikas Roy. The strong challenge came in from Cadence during the doubles match as it was decided in the final and 5<sup>th</sup> game. During this match alternate win was registered till the 4<sup>th</sup> game and 5<sup>th</sup> game became very crucial for Cadence to make a come back in the final. After having score line of 9 point each in final game EXL Service managed to hold on to their serve making it 11-9 to become the title holder of the **Eventus Table Tennis Tournament** and proving their superiority in corporate sector as they were the runners up of the last year.

**The Best Player of the Tournament** was a difficult decision as Mrinal Mondal and Manish Kalra both were undefeated in the tournament till they faced each other in the semi final. Mrinal Mondal got better of Manish during the reverse single match. Both the players were equally matched as they had all the skills, stamina but **Mrinal Mondal was awarded the Best Player of the Tournament** as he won all the matches and contributed most for his team to win this tournament.

**The Best Pair of the Tournament** was awarded to **Vikas Roy and Pradeep Goyal of Cadence** as they gave good fight to EXL Service during the final match and also won all their doubles against all their opponents while EXL Service lost their doubles match during the league stage against e-funds.

A **Special Award** was created apart from the prizes announced prior to the tournament i.e. **Best Server of the Tournament** and undoubtedly it went to **Manish Kalra of Birlasoft** as he could serve more than 10 variations which was difficult for all opponents to negotiate.

We strongly believe that this year the level of the game has improved a lot when compared to last year and there might be a surprise for all you guys so keep practicing to maintain your form. We once again thank all the participants for their support and cooperation.

#### **Feedback**

Eventus seek your valuable feedback to enable us in improving the tournament further.

Regards,

Team Eventus