

Island Championships Finals Weekend

The finals of the Isle of Man Tennis Championships took place this weekend which have been hosted this year by Albany Tennis Club.

Play started with the Men's and Ladies singles on Sunday morning with the top two seeds competing for the top spot.

In the Mens Singles final defending champion and No.2 seed Marc Chinn from Douglas LTC took on No.1 seed Sean Drewry from Ramsey LTC. Sean started the better of the two taking the first set 7/5 but was pegged back by Marc in the second set when he got an early break in the second set, and holding onto his serve to take it the second set 6/4.

The 3rd set was a Champions tie-break, first to ten points with a lead of 2 and Sean got the early lead with a break 4/2 at the change of ends. Marc fought back and eventually leveled the score to 7-7 and it was all to play for with Marc running out the winner 10-7 to take the match 5/7, 6/4, [10-7] to retain his title in similar fashion to last year.

Marc Chinn in red winner over Sean Drewry.



In the Ladies singles, it was definitely a changing of the guard with two junior players in the final and a new name to go onto the Ladies Rose Bowl trophy. Charlotte Clarke seeded No.1 took on Sarah Long seeded No.2. both players from Albany LTC coached by Ian Watson and Charlotte at 16 a year older than Sarah. Charlotte got off to a good start leading 3-0 but the games were all hard fought and Sarah soon got on the scoreboard but Charlottes power and accuracy taking her through to win the first set 6/1. It was a similar story in the second set and although there were some long and quality exchanges from the base line, it was Charlotte who again proved the stringer of the two to win the match 6/1, 6/1 and take her first Island Championship Singles title.

Charlotte Clarke in black winner over Sarah Long.



In the Mens Doubles final, No.1 pairing Sean Drewry and Rob Comber, Ramsey LTC pairing took on No.2 seeds Marc Chinn and Craig Blackwell. This was a fiercely contested battle with Marc and Craig getting a break and Serving for the first set 5/4 up but Sean and Rob broke back to level the score but then dropped serve themselves to give Marc and Craig another chance to close out the set. However, Sean and Rob broke them again to take the set into a tiebreak which they won [7-4] thereby taking the first set 7/6. the second set was equally competitive but Sean and Rob secured this to take the match 7/6, 6/4.

Winners Rob and Sean on the left beat Marc and Craig.



In the Ladies Doubles the top two teams from the round robin played in the final, neither team having dropped a set on the way through. 18 times doubles champion Karen Faragher had been

joined by junior Sarah Long and they took on Charlotte Clarke and Aailish Kelly also from Albany and taught by Club Coach Ian Watson.

In the first set, it was apparent that Karen was feeling the pressure and wasn't playing her best tennis against the strong hitting of Aailish and Charlotte with the two 16 year olds getting an early break and raking the set eventually 6/4. The second set was equally competitive with long exchanges between all four players exciting those watching the match. But Championships are not easy to win and the experience of Karen alongside Sarah was enough to take the 2nd set 7/5 setting up a Champions tie-break 3rd set. Karen and Sarah got off to a good start 4-1 up to put pressure on the junior pairing which proved pivotal as they were able to run out 10-4 to win the match 4/6, 7/5, [10-4] and take the title.

Sarah Long and Karen Fargher on the left beat Aailish Kelly and Charlotte Clarke.



In the final of the Mixed Doubles after a shock win for No3 seeds Charlotte Clarke and Jayden Go from Albany LTC over the No.2 seeds Sean Drewry and Sarah Long the Junior players just 16 years old took on the Island Singles and Doubles champions for last year Karen Fargher and Marc Chinn and the No.1 seeds from Douglas LTC. After a close and competitive 1st set the Junior pairing grabbed the first set in a tie break [7-3] to win the first set 7/6. The second set was equally competitive but a break by the Junior pairing saw them run out winners 6/3 in the second set thereby winning the match 7/6[7-3], 6-3 to perhaps see a changing of the guard in tennis.

Jayden Go and Charlotte Clarke on the left defeated Karen Faragher and Marc Chinn.



The presentations were done by Brian Walton - Chairman of the IOMLTA who thanked Albany for hosting the Championship this year and also the Referee Paul Jarvis for organizing and running the tournament throughout the last 9 days. In total 76 matches were played with 48 players taking part during the course of the tournament.



Kind regards,
Paul Jarvis
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