

## MIXED DOUBLES TOURNAMENT & WIMBLEDON BALLOT

With Mother's Day celebrations a distant memory, Needingworth's early summer tournament finally got underway. Registration commenced at the outrageously early time of 9:30 am, and until the much younger players arrived to bolster the numbers and bring the average age down, it was beginning to look like a reunion of the Needingworth Derby and Joan Club.

With more men than women Tim and John huddled down at the Referee's table and quietly deliberated for ages to come up with a workable plan. Finally, the pairings were made and with the sun bathing the courts in lovely goldenness and the warming rays taking the edge off the biting chill, the tournament was up and running.

### **Mixed Doubles American Tournament Rules**



**Match = 1 set only**

**1 set = 4 games**

**2 games with partner**

**2 games against partner**

**Gents serve games 1 & 2**

**Ladies serve games 3 & 4**

**Each person keeps score of the  
number of games they have won.  
Most games = WINNER**



Court 1 had John and Ann taking on tournament favourites Chris and Anne in an excellent match with much toing and froing that saw Chris eventually winning all 4 of his games with his partner Anne and John winning 2 each.

Court 2 was a family affair with Needingworth's fast improving teenager Josh and his dad, Grant taking on the might of Sue the retriever and new member Neil. Another good match with Neil coming away with all 4 games.



Another family affair with Nikki partnering her son Max against Carol and Chairman Tim. Max as the youngest player in the tournament played really well but let's face it, we all know Nikki's competitive streak. And we'll say no more.

Unfortunately, because the photo taker was on court, there's no pics of the other pairings in the tournament, who were, June Fab and Matt, Colin and Clive and Peter and Jim. Looking at the scores though, they appeared to be all good tight matches.

With the weather being kind, the whole tournament was great fun for everyone to play in and with all the matches played with enthusiasm and great spirit, it was inevitable that the end results would be as tight as a Scotsman's wallet. And so it was. With only one game in it and just about everyone else tied in 2<sup>nd</sup> spot - the winner was Neil Craig, who won a brand new tin of magic tennis balls for his efforts.

When interviewed after the prizegiving, Neil said he was elated at winning such an illustrious trophy and pleased that all his hard work and training had come to fruition and paid dividends. He also thanked all his coaching team, the ground staff and all the spectators who had stayed up so late to watch him win. Neil has vowed to come back next year and rigorously defend his hard fought title. Well done Neil.



With the prize won, what better way for everyone to pass the time waiting for Securicor to collect Neil's winnings than to have a good old fashioned BBQ and chat about all the points you could have and should have won. Ah well then, there's always next year.

## WIMBLEDON BALLOT WINERS

This is the tournament that just keeps on giving. Lots of competitive tennis against really nice fun opponents Lots of food with oodles of calories and lots of suspense with the Wimbledon Ballot. Well done to the lucky people who's names were drawn out of the magic tin. Two (un)lucky reserves were drawn out as well, just in case someone doesn't want to go, but rather than publish them here, the names are with the Chairman.



Asha Pandey  
Sam Fabisz  
Edward Byam-Cook  
Harry Godsell  
Helen Haynes  
Hannah Ballam  
Nicholas Bailey