

# CLUB FINALS DAY

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Due to events outside our control, Finals Day had to be moved by two weeks, putting our meticulous planning into disarray, and making this event the strangest one in the history of the club because the only finals to get played on the day were the Junior finals. However, the one thing you know you can always rely on is Tim's "Fun" American Tournament and Mark's Burger Bar.

This year's American Tournament attracted 14 players, all determined to be crowned champion at the end of this round robin event and take away an incredibly expensive, highly desirable, and very colourful tennis grip. With rackets at the ready and Caroline poised to both record and tally up the



score from each round, the battle commenced and when all the dust had settled, Katie was declared the outright lady's winner. However, the announcement that Brad and Chris were joint winners, sent Mark scurrying to the account books. Fortunately, rather than having to share the racket grip, Mark declared there was sufficient Club funds for them to have one each.



## JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

This year for the first time on Finals Day, as well as club members, we were pleased to welcome proud grandparents and parents all bursting with pride to see their child in the final.



Under the tutelage of Head Coach Ian Haigs, over the last few weeks, the juniors had been competing against each other in 3 different age groups to gain the right to take to the court to be declared Champion of their age group.

In the future, the club will continue to arrange friendly doubles fixtures against other clubs for the juniors and run the internal club junior yellow ball fast 4 league which continues giving players both doubles and singles match play experience.

Our next goal will be to include both red ball U7 and orange ball U9 competition in next year's finals as the juniors develop from the existing coaching programme and eventually some players may choose to have a go at external match play and competition.

### LTA Youth U11 Final

This green ball competition was between Huxley Youngson and Medhansh 'Med' Makkar, who is only in his first term with green ball. There were some excellent rallies to depth from both players and Huxley in particular took advantage to come forward and volley when appropriate. Huxley also served very well with 3 aces in the match was too strong for newcomer Med who never gave up and chased down every ball. The final score was 2 sets to love to Huxley (4-0, 4-0) although that doesn't depict some great points won by Med. Well done to both players.



### LTA Youth U14 Final



The yellow ball group was between Chris Batsford and Will Confrey. Both players would be regarded as all court players and are always willing to attempt multiple shots including drop shots, volleys, lobs and smashes. They didn't disappoint and a tactical angles game ensued with Chris attacking the short ball and Will going for the defensive lob. This match was always going to be challenging for the



younger player, Will, to defeat Chris who is also the current internal junior fast 4 league singles champion. Chris came out on top in an excellent match 2 sets to love (4-1, 4-1). Great tennis from both players.

### LTA Youth U16 Final

This yellow ball group was between Max Geddie and Oscar Beadles. In comparison to the U14 tacticians this was always going to be a battle of the bigger hitters from the back of the court. Both players consistently pushed each other off the back, Max with lots of top spin and Oscar flat and fast on both forehand and backhand sides until an opportunity arose to attack or more often they forced an error. Max won the first set 4-3 (7-4 on a tie break) but Oscar then took the second set 4-1 finding his rhythm. They then had a deciding championship tie break set, which Oscar just found an extra bit of consistency and managed to edge ahead in what became an unsurmountable lead. Max did his best to fight back briefly saving match points but went down 10-6 in the third, making Oscar the U16 champion. Interestingly, this final not only bore an uncanny resemblance to the Men's Final with the style of tennis on display but that the outcome was the same



**Pauline Baily Challenge Cup** *This cup is awarded to the person thought to be the Junior Club Member of the year. This is not necessarily a person who won a tournament but someone who has behaved well; played their best tennis sportsmanlike and represented the Club well.*

Once more we were fortunate to have Pauline Baily, one of our Founder members to come along and present the cup she donated back in 2001 to this year's winner, Max Geddie, one of our coaching assistants.



As it's the Committee who vet all the nominations to decide who will have their name inscribed on this prestigious cup, to win it once is an honour but to win it twice as Max has done shows just how much the Club appreciates Max's contribution.

### **Annual General Meeting**

Following a superb BBQ lunch, the Club held its AGM.. A copy of the minutes are available on the Members Page.

### **Men's Doubles Final**

Knowing from the outset that there would be new names on the trophy because the father/son partnership (and winners for the last 4 years) were absent from the draw, the tournament attracted more names than usual for some inexplicable reason!! However, despite some close matches in all the rounds, the final was contested between the 1<sup>st</sup> seeds Ian **Haigs** and Seb Miller and the 2<sup>nd</sup> seeds John White and Warren Bigwood.



With the No 1 seeds winning the toss and electing to serve, Seb started the proceedings. From the very first ball, the tactics were obvious – Ian and Seb hit the ball hard with lots of top, crowded the net and waited to reap any short balls. On the other side of the net, the plan appeared to be to disrupt the opposition's play with high, deep, quite aggressive balls; a tactic that worked for the first 2 games and playing in the dark, had to be the right ploy. Unfortunately, the No 1s cottoned onto the play and pushed their opposition ever backwards thereby providing themselves with the opportunity to command the net and execute very clinical Ian volleys along with some spectacular smashes from Seb. Even more impressive was the timely retreating from the No 1s on every occasion their opposition managed to get a full-length ball to the back of the court, only for the attack to start again with a well hit top spin forehand. With the No 1 seeds showing no weaknesses in any part of the court, half court ball was duly dispatched – courtesy of Seb's fast arm and monstrous hits.

The score might have been 4-1, 4-0, but this wasn't the rout it appears to be. John and Warren showed great pluckiness and determination and so often had a tremendous "get" to keep the rallies going. In this match, there were no easy points - they had to be won rather than gifted. Well done to everyone

### Men's Singles Final

This year's long awaited Men's Single Final was finally happening and with the 11-time undefeated Champion Michael King otherwise engaged and absent from the competition, this was the opportunity of a lifetime for both Chris, who was runner-up for the last 2 years and Seb, whose tennis has improved beyond recognition to take on the mantle of Club Champion.

With the whole of the Club wondering whether the consistency of rock steady Chris could go one better against the dynamic hard-hitting Seb, the modest crowd of spectators sat down courtside to watch the 2 warriors get down to business.



Seb opened the serving, but with the wind in his back, it didn't quite go to plan and Chris eventually broke him straight away with a final well aimed cross court shot that took Seb by surprise as he approached the net.

Chris opened his service game with what would become his standard match play for the rest of the final. Make sure his own serves were deep in the box, and more than anything else - always in, absorb the pace from the return ball and send it back over at length and then start on the angles.

Seb on the other hand, was determined to use his youth, power, and oodles of topspin. Although this style suits him down to the ground and would usually reap rewards against most players, against a rock, it attracted the inevitable unforced errors, especially off his opponents serve.

Of course, Chris didn't have it all his own way and indeed had to change one of his strategies when he found out the hard way – don't give Seb an overhead – it aint coming back anytime soon and while you're at it, don't give him the opportunity to step into the court too far, he can punish you.

This was an enthralling encounter that had so many facets to it. On one hand, you had Seb trying to get to the net at every opportunity whilst on the other hand you had Chris who was more than content to camp out on the baseline. Then again, apart from one dropshot that Seb did and lost, courtesy of Chris' fleet of foot, there was no need to.

There were so many great shots from both players, but it would be remiss of me not to mention “The Shot” and the one that ripped the heart out of Seb in the tiebreak. When you play the perfect volley, hard right into the corner, you do not expect your opponent to get a racket on it and produce an unplayable winning forehand passing shot.

What does it take to win a final. Chris had 3 unforced errors and put so much pressure on Seb to produce winners, that just perhaps, the trigger kept being pulled too soon on too many occasions and produced spectacular winners, but with it, came the evil twin – unforced errors, especially when you’re serving for the set.

Great final, both deserved to be there, both deserved to win but take a bow Chris Moore – you are the CHAMPION

### Ladies Singles Final

Still to be played

### Ladies Doubles Final

Still to be played

### The Brian Northwood Mixed Doubles Trophy

Still to be played



