

CLUB FINAL'S DAY - 2023

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mini Red Ball – Junior Under 7

This inaugural Red Ball final was the best of 3 sets, with each set being a 10-point match tie-break. The match was played between Charlie Scrase and Joseph Brooks-Zubairu and was the first match that Charlie and Joseph had ever played. Despite their tender age, it was so pleasing to see them both showing their forehand, backhand, and serving skills which made for some fantastic competitive rallies.



The final score was 2-0 (10-4, 10-4) so congratulations to Joseph for winning and to Charlie for being part of a great match. It's worth noting that the boys showed great sportsmanship throughout with handshakes and congratulations at the end.

Orange Ball- Junior Under 11

This inaugural Orange Ball final was played between Sonny Reed and William Deane and the first match they had both played in at the club. The match was the best of 3 sets, with each set being played up to 10 points. It was an extremely well contested match, with the match going to a deciding set. The final score was 2-1 to Sonny (10-12, 10-7, 10-5) so congratulations to Sonny and to William for a great match.



Both players showed great sportsmanship when one of them got injured during the second set. The injured player showed super resilience to carry on whilst the uninjured player was patient and rallied the injured player back into the match to make sure he was okay to continue – fantastic to see.

Green Ball- Youth Under 10



This was between Rafa Davies and Eli Barrett. Rafa hit some excellent forehands to depth always causing Eli problems. Eli managed to hit a few volley winners coming forward but was unfortunate losing out on critical sudden death deuces. The final score was 4-2, 4-3 (7-2) to Rafa Davies, who came from behind in both sets.

Well done to both players.

Green Ball- Youth Under 11

This Final was between 2022 champion Huxley Youngson and Jackson Miller. There were some excellent rallies to depth from both players, but Huxley was able to play some effective shorter balls leading to other opportunities to win the point.

The final score was 4-0, 4-1 to Huxley (but the scores doesn't depict the closeness of the match. Well done to both players.



Yellow Ball- Youth Under 14



The LTA Youth U14 yellow ball group was between Ed Beadles and Will Confrey. Will took an early lead and kept ahead with sustained hitting to depth taking the first set 4-0. Ed started well in the second set and raced off to a 3-1 lead eventually winning 4-2. In a championship tie break, Will got off to a flyer and went 5-1 ahead and with a great volley, managed to keep well ahead eventually coming out a 10-5 victory to claim the title. Will learning from his defeat in last year's final, claimed the U14 title.

Yellow Ball- Youth Under 16

The LTA Youth U16 yellow ball group was between defending champion Oscar Beadles and last year's U14 champion Chris Batsford. In a battle where both players moved each other around to depth Chris was able to nullify Oscar's bigger hitting defending side to side, in the first set Chris managed to get a break and held on to win 4-2 coming out on the right side of sudden death deuces. In the second set Oscar got ahead 2-0 but couldn't sustain it with Chris coming back winning 4 games in a row, winning the second to claim the title set 4-2.



The U16 players have started to play in the adult Fast 4 league and will hopefully start to represent the club in some future league matches as part of their next development.

Congratulations to all the junior players who took part in the Finals Day and a big thank you to all the families for their fantastic support during the day.

ADULT CHAMPIONSHIPS

This year's entry into the competition, consisting of 24 men's singles, 13 men's doubles, 6 ladies' singles, 8 ladies' doubles and 13 mixed couple entries surpassed all expectations. The long journey to the finals for the competitors started back in June, with only the cream of the bunch rising to the top to fight it out on a very warm day, with a welcoming breeze and a bit of cloud cover.

The Brian Northwood Mixed Doubles Trophy



If you're going to set the bar for the day's play, why not set it high – and boy, this was high. From the very first point played, the match just got better and better, with Sue Pandey and Chris Moore returning lots of balls and Ian dancing at the net trying to find that all important interception. With such a closely contested match. It was inevitable the 1st set would go to a breaker. With each team creating good opportunities to win the set, it was the top seeds who blinked first allowing the No 2 seeds of

Ian Haigs and Caroline Chipper to emerge triumphant and despite Ian making the odd uncharacteristic double fault on serving, went all the way to take the silverware with a score of 4-3 (7-5), 4-2.

There were no easy points in this match because Chris and Sue fought tooth and nail over everything and at one point, I'm sure they chucked in the kitchen sink as well, but, the subtle difference between the teams must surely have been Caroline's solid net play and the No 2 seeds willingness to advance to the net at every opportunity.

Ladies Doubles Final



The No 2 seeds, Caroline Chipper and Denise Heal took on the top seeds, Sue Pandey, and Debbie Yates in what would become a war of attrition in warm conditions.

The 1st set was a lengthy affair with both teams rallying hard and forcing the other pair to keep playing one more shot – something the No 1 seeds just relished. Afterall, who in the Club can retrieve a ball better than Sue.

Despite continually hydrating, the heat took its toll and the challengers retired, handing the championship to Sue and Debbie, with a score of 4-2, 2-3 (Ret'd)

Men's Doubles Final



Having taken out the 2nd seeds in the semis, the unseeded pair of Brad Waters and Paul Belton earned the right to take on the highly fancied father and son pairing and top seeds, Colin, and Michael King.

Brad and Paul clearly didn't get the memo letting them know they were supposed to be the underdogs because they came out fighting, with the sole intention of winning

and at 2-2, it was still nip and tuck with everything to play. However, experience and the ability to play the big points is everything in tennis, and bang on cue, Colin and Michael edged the 1st set. Despite continuing their good form, rallying, and returning serve to force Michael to execute much more difficult volleys than he would have wished, the No 1 seeds deservedly came out on top, winning the match 4-2, 4-1 and taking the cup back home after a year's break from the tournament.

Ladies' Singles Final



The stage was all set for the No 1 seed Sue Pandey to take up the challenge from the No 2 seed and reigning champion Katie Espitalier.

Having already played in 2 finals, Sue used this advantage to the full by giving Katie no time to settle down in a match that started off in almost perfect conditions but was almost brought to a halt with a peel of thunder and the most bizarre wind that appeared suddenly and

whipped up all sorts of debris. Fortunately, the competitors, like true troopers, finished the match with Sue emerging as the 4-0, 4-0 winner.

Men's Singles Final



As the Club's Fast4 Champion, Chris was always odds-on favourite to be playing in the final, but Ben as 4th seed, had to play well in all his rounds to get there. The score of 4-0, 4-0 in Chris' favour, belie Ben's effort, because there's no doubt that Ben played the right tactics, which made for a great game to watch. Unfortunately, his opposition's skill at returning absolutely everything just created that bit of unwanted extra pressure, making Ben

go for a bit more on each shot with the inevitable outcome - shots just wide or just long. Great game though, worthy of being last on the programme.



