

FINALS DAY REPORT

By Chris Snelling

There was no love lost when Ramsbury Tennis Club held its finals day on Sunday 25 June 2023.

This year's matches were played under scorching sun on the hottest day of the year so far. It proved to be one of the most competitive and entertaining finals days the club has ever had, attracting a large number of spectators.

Men's singles

Matt Fretwell played in not one, not two, but three finals matches in one day. As the reigning men's singles champion, Matt faced the formidable junior prodigy Sam Clague who had effortlessly demolished his opponents in previous rounds.

This was an eagerly anticipated match that didn't disappoint. Despite a valiant effort from Matt, Sam secured a 6-0, 6-4 victory. Matt had threatened to turn the tide when he temporarily seized the lead in the second set.

A gripping encounter that reminded everyone just how talented these two Ramsbury tennis titans are.

Ladies singles

There was a gutsy performance between Annabel Mackay and junior Anya Holdsworth in the ladies singles.

Anya set a new record for the youngest ladies single's finalist in the club's 50-year history.

Ultimately, it was Annabel who emerged triumphant with a remarkable turnaround after losing the first set 2-6. Annabel hardly put a foot wrong to clinch the second set 6-4, eventually sealing the championship tiebreak 10-4.

Ladies doubles

The ladies doubles event saw mother/daughter duo Annabel & Olivia Wade take on sisters Clare Allman & Jane McGovern. After losing the second set, Annabel and Olivia held their nerve to win 6-4, 2-6 (10-6) in a spellbinding display with plenty of groundstrokes finding the lines.

Notably, Hotshot member Olivia also entered the club's history books. At 11-years-old, she became the youngest ever player to triumph in a Ramsbury finals day tournament.

Men's doubles

Matt Fretwell and Raleigh Addington squared off against Chris Procter & Karl Stacey in the men's doubles. In a relentless back-and-forth battle, Chris & Karl claimed the victory 7-5, 2-6 (10-6) in an exciting tussle that could easily have gone either way.

Mixed doubles

Matt Fretwell - refusing to let fatigue dampen his spirit - teamed up with Stephanie Hart against Lee Cowen & Lissa Muncer in the mixed doubles.

Matt & Steph secured a commanding 6-2 victory in the first set. Lee & Lissa, refusing to yield, launched a stunning comeback in the second set to claim it 7-5. At crunch time Matt and Steph displayed their resilience with a 10-6 tiebreak win.

Plate matches

In a roundup of plate competition matches:

Jacqy McQue beat Clare Allman 6-2 Rtd in the ladies singles plate.

Joy Wilson & Majella Burkin beat Amelia Tester & Gill Devey 6-4, 7-6 in the ladies doubles plate.

Kevin Jauncey & Chris Clark beat Ian Cresswell and Tom McCrae 6-1, 6-3 in the men's doubles plate.

Lionel Barnes & Gill Devey beat Simon Benney & Amelia Tester 6-4, 6-7 (10-7) in the mixed doubles plate.

Ben Green beat Luke Hyde-Smith 6-3, 4-6 (10-5) in the men's singles, subsequently played Monday 3 July 2023.

All the plate matches delivered equally thrilling performances, serving as a testament to the depth of talent within Ramsbury Tennis Club.

Tournament organiser was full-time coach Neil Little. Trophies presented by club president Ethel Hutchings. Designated photographer Chris Snelling.