

2019 FINALS DAY REPORT

Finals Day, Saturday 21 September, saw a beautiful warm sunny day, a sharp contrast to last year's almost washed out cold event.

The proceedings commenced with the Over 55's Mixed Doubles final held over from last year due to illness and injuries to the players. Caroline Marshall and Steve Scott were taking on Jane Mewse and Rob Marshall, a bit of family rivalry across the net. The first few games were very close but eventually Caroline and Steve managed to get a break of serve and duly went on to win the first set 6-3. In the second set Jane and Rob couldn't get their game going and were quickly behind. Caroline and Steve maintained the pressure and ran out convincing winners 6-3 6-1.



The Men's Doubles Final was to be played next but unfortunately one of the players had an accident 2 days before finals day and was actually at Southmead Hospital for an operation on his damaged arm at the time he should have been on court. This final will be played once Paul's arm has recovered – thankfully Paul is making a good recovery.

Fortunately all the ladies for the Ladies Doubles were available to start their final earlier than scheduled. This found Caroline Marshall in her second final of the day partnering Andrea Corless against Abi Matthews and Jen Hayden. In the first set Abi and Jen couldn't get their service games together and quickly fell behind and eventually lost the set 6-2. The second set started in a similar fashion although Abi and Jen played better they lost the match 6-2 6-4.



With the finals now well ahead of schedule we had a break for lunch with a fine spread provided by club members which was very well appreciated by all those that consumed the food, contributions when counted up later were in excess of £150 which will be added to the total for contributing to our charity of the year British Heart Foundation.

For the third year running, Gary Chorley and Ash Todd contested the men's singles final. A tense first set opened up with 4 breaks of serve and eventually the score reached 4-4 with some high-class tennis being played. Inevitably this set ended up in a tie break which Ash finally took. In the second set Gary upped his game and won the second set relatively easily 6-2. Onto a deciding third set, by now it was very hot and quite wearing on both players, Ash hung in and managed to turn the match around, winning 7-6 2-6 6-1.



Next final was the Mixed Doubles with Caroline Marshall, in her third final, partnering the youngest player in the tournament Frazer Matthews (13yrs) against Jan Belcher and Gary Wilshire. Much to the supporting crowds' expectations Caroline and Frazer dominated the match and ran out winners 6-3 6-3.



The Ladies Final was the last match of the day and started just after 5pm just about the scheduled time. This final was also a repeat of last year with Ann Mora taking on young Abi Matthews. In contrast to her previous final earlier Abi found her service game and quickly established a lead and won the first set convincingly 6-1. The second set started pretty much as the first with Abi getting an early lead but Ann using all her experience and guile managed to pull it around and won the set 7-5. Into the third set decider Abi stepped up her game again with many ferocious hard-hitting rallies from the baseline pulled into a lead eventually taking the set and match 6-1 5-7 6-2.



At the conclusion of the trophy presentations, Caroline Marshall was awarded player of the tournament and was presented with the Tanner Trophy. A great day of tennis, thank you to all who participated and helped out. Entries for the 2020 event will be invited from May.



Match won, time to relax!



Pictures courtesy of Paul Hutchinson.