

FINALS DAY – SEPT 2013

For a change the Club Tournament finals would be played on the same day, in this case the Sunday of finals weekend. So, as we assembled for the first match due to start at 10.00am, we were grateful for the bright sunshine that greeted us.



Possibly Mandy and Joe would find the weather a little warm in the Ladies Singles Final, but at least the spectators would be comfortable.

Mandy (the current title holder) was attempting to win her third title and started as the favourite (slightly).

The match began cagily with both girls losing serve and then holding for 2 -2. However, Joe had found her forehand and attacking Mandy's serve, she soon raced into a 4 -2 lead. Mandy fought back, eventually losing the set after two hard fought deuce games.

Into the second set and both girls lost their serves before Joe held to go 2 -1 up, by winning a tight game on her serve. Mandy then lost her serve after four deuces and then Joe fought off further deuces on her serve to race ahead. Some further fierce forehands saw Joe win the match and title 6 - 2, 6 - 1.

Well done Joe, I expect this rivalry to continue for a few years yet...

The next match was the Ladies Doubles Final, this year contested with Mandy (again) and Christine against Steph and Debbie. Two veteran finalists and two debutants to finals day...

Mandy and Chris began very steadily and raced to a 4 - 0 lead. Then Debbie began to find her length, defending well while Steph's ground strokes began to penetrate so that the rallies got longer and longer. However, Mandy and Chris took advantage of their early lead to take the first set easily.

Into the second set and both pairs played some good rallies, but Mandy and Chris took an early 2 - 0 lead only for Debbie and Steph to dig in and fight back. The second set was nicely poised at 4 -3 and then 5 - 4 before Mandy and Chris hung on to win the match. Final Score 6 -2, 6 -4.





The next match was the Men's Singles Final, this year contested between Fraser Ballantine and Matt Webber.

Matt had won this title previously and started favourite against the newcomer who had only moved to the area earlier in the year with his work.

Both Men started uncomfortably, losing their serves rather easily and then Fraser held and broke Matt to lead 3 - 1. This seemed to rouse him and the rallies became longer, but even so Fraser won the next game and though Matt pulled a game back, Fraser held on to take the first set.

Matt started the second set and had soon lost his serve to some fine cross-court winners from Fraser, who then held his serve under pressure after several deuces.

The play became more even now with some fine rallies and classy shot making. Both men held service and raced around the court

making breathless returns, heavy ground strokes and gut-wrenching retrievals.

Fraser, however kept his nerve and held his advantage to take a close second set. Great game lads - final score 6 -3, 6 -4 to Fraser. Unfortunately he will not be here to defend his title next year as he is moving on with work. Good luck Fraser and thanks...

Now to the Mixed Doubles Final, with Fraser teaming up with Rose against Julian and Jan.

Both sides started well and some long rallies ensued with the two men trying to intercept, while the girls, lobbed, chipped and drove to avoid the two obstructions. But at 5 -5 Fraser aided by Rose's solid ground strokes, managed to intercept a couple of points and then held his serve to take the first set,

The second set continued in much the same vein, but this time Julian managed to break the sequence ably assisted by some remarkable retrieving from Jan.

So, into the third set and the play carried on with some excellent rallies with neither side gaining the advantage. Again, Fraser produced a little piece of magic to break serve, and again, he and Rose held on under severe pressure to finally take the match. Final score, 7 - 5, 4 - 6, 6 - 4, and a brilliant game to watch.



Now the spectators drew breath and went off to take refreshments, comfort breaks, etc, while the Men's Doubles players warmed up. This year, the steady pairing of Alex and Steve were up against the very strong pairing of Patrick and Matt.

Accordingly Matt and Patrick quickly raced into a good lead, attacking the ball and moving to the net in tandem, giving a text book example of mens' doubles play.

Despite some resistance on Patrick's serve, he and Matt easily took the first set 6 - 1.

Into the second set, Steve and Alex were soon up against it, but they did dig in again putting severe pressure onto Patrick's serve.

However, as in the first set, he hung on and he and Matt eventually won comfortably. Final score 6 - 1. 6 - 2 .



Well done Patrick and Matt, a very strong pairing. First team next year ?

So, the first finals to be played on the new courts came to a conclusion with a full day of finals on the same day for the first time.

Anyway, thanks to all who took part, all who helped, all who provided catering, umpired, called lines, etc. Finals would not be the occasion they are without you.

