

COLCHESTER & EAST ESSEX BADMINTON FEDERATION - 52ND ANNUAL TOURNAMENT

The fifty-second annual tournament was held on 28th and 29th March 2009 at the University of Essex, who hosted the tournament for the fourth time. There were thirty-two entrants in the men's singles – a record – and twenty four entries in the men's doubles. Most encouraging, though, was the largest ladies' singles entry for some years.

Five times winner Daniel Eghan (Trinity) came to defend his singles' trophy and, although seeded number one, he was not the favourite to win. Daniel Hooper (Ipswich YMCA) had never lost to Eghan and number 2 seed Mark Law (Trinity) had beaten him this season. Young Joe Skornia (Stanway), a semi-finalist last year, disposed of Mark Law in the second round. Li Qi (University of Essex) beat fourth seed Adam Southgate (Stanway), before losing to Joe Skornia in the semi-finals. Joe had earlier beaten Gary Sheppard (Ipswich YMCA) in three games. The top half of the draw was just as entertaining and unpredictable, with number three seed Simon Gilhooley (Stanway) going out to 16 year old Phil Turrell (St Aidens) in the first round. Daniel Hooper then beat Turrell to meet Daniel Eghan in the semi-finals. Eghan lost the first game, but came back to win the next two games and thus defeat Hooper for the first time. A tired Eghan rallied hard in the final against a fitter Joe Skornia to regain his trophy, 21-19, 21-17. This had been the most hotly contested mens' singles event for some time, with much top-quality badminton. It is good to see the young players entering our tournament and doing so well. Badminton in Essex is on the up! Basil Tallah (Ramgarhia), who had lost to Daniel Hooper in the first round of the open event, dominated the plate event, beating an enthusiastic Ben Haythorpe (Earls Colne) in the final.

Fourteen ladies competed in the ladies' singles event. Last year's winner Kate Taylor (Crouch Vale) lost in the first round to Rebecca Bailey (St Mary Magdalen). Young Beth McDonough (Redbridge), having beaten Elizabeth Rowland (Stanway), proved too strong for Rebecca in the semi-finals. In the bottom half of the draw a new star was found in Michiyo Yoshinari (University of Essex) from Japan. She comfortably beat Balpreet Chager (Ramgarhia), before beating Rebecca Andras (St Mary Magdalen) in the semi-final. The final was between two very good young players, with the Japanese girls winning over Beth McDonough 21-17, 21-18. The plate event was won by Claire Mainwaring (Bishops Stortford), who beat Balpreet Chager in the final.

The Mayor of Colchester, Councillor Mrs Margaret Fairly-Crowe, presented the trophies to the singles' events winners and runners-up. Louise Walsh, our Secretary, nearly forgot to present the Mayor with a nice-looking plant.

The mens' doubles proved another high quality event. Boris Hackett (Colchester) and Paul Jordan (Five Lakers) took the top seeds Daniel Eghan and Trevor Rogers (Stanway) to three games, as did Nicholas Fan (Redbridge) and Alex Dam (Forest School) in the second round. Basil Tallah and Kaleem Bhatti (Ramgarhia) defeated Daniel Hooper and Gary Sheppard to reach the semi-final, where they bowed out to the top seeds. In the lower half of the draw, Oscar Hackett (Colchester) and Chris Dakin (Thurrock) took the number two seeds Mark Law and Keith Goodey (Trinity) to three games. The latter then beat Simon Gilhooley and Joe Skornia, who had earlier beaten Bir Singh and Sankar Kaurajan (Ramgarhia) in three games, in the semi-final. So a repeat final from 2008, but this time a different result, as Law and Goodey avenged their 2008 defeat, winning 21-17, 21-16. The plate final was contested between Boris Hackett and Paul Jordan and Tim Woods and Mark Whitworth (Bishops Stortford), with the latter being victorious in three games.

With only nine pairs in the ladies doubles, a round robin event was held. Group 1 was won by Emma Clark and Kate Taylor (Crouch Vale), with Claire Mainwaring and Alison Cosadinos (Bishops Stortford) the runner-up. In group 2 Yi-Chia Fan, from Malaysia, and Michiyo Yoshinari (University of Essex) were victorious, with Kay Bailey (Crouch Vale) and Linh Ly (Forest School) coming second. It was unfortunate that Linh Ly had to depart before the semi-finals were played, allowing Diane Brown and Barbara Jacobs (Bishops Stortford) to take their place. Fan and Yoshinari beat Mainwaring and Cosadinos in three games to meet Taylor and Clark in the final. Another match went to three games as the University pair pipped the Crouch Vale pair at the death, winning 21-10, 19-21, 21-13. The plate event was won by Mainwaring and Cosadinos who beat Brown and Jacobs with comparative ease.

The last event finished at 7.55 p.m., just five minutes ahead of the scheduled finish!

Twenty pairs competed for the mixed doubles title on the Sunday. A round robin event, with three groups was held. In group 1 the youngsters of the event Phil Turrell and Beth McDonough dominated, winning all six matches. Mark Law, playing with Clare Rowland (Stanway), won five games to come second. In

group 2, Trevor Rogers and Michelle Bellman (Colchester) won all their matches, with Aaron Cracknell and Netty Wood (Riverside) only losing the one game. Group 3 was the most hotly contested of the groups, with Tim Woods and Claire Mainwaring emerging victorious by beating Alex Dam and Linh Ly 21-18, 13-21, 21-19. The latter were not too happy with not getting through to the semi-finals as the best runners-up, but the formula used put Mark Law and Clare Rowland through. In the semi-finals Turrell and McDonough beat Woods and Mainwaring and Rogers and Bellman beat Law and Rowland. The final was hard fought, with Rogers and Bellman winning the first game. The youngsters fought back taking the second game after setting, and went on to win the title, probably the youngest pair to win a title in our tournament. Mark Law and Clare Rowland won the plate final. We overran our allotted time by three minutes!

I am extremely grateful to my helpers, without whom the tournament would not have run so smoothly: Louise Walsh, Penny Hackett, Terry and Julie Skornia and Robin Metson. Unfortunately our Chairman Brian Dennis was unable to make an appearance through ill-health, but it was nice to see Nikki Richardson, the Badminton Liaison Officer for Colchester and Tendring, and Eric make an appearance. Several times men's singles winner Bob Taylor made his customary appearance on the Sunday – always good to see old faces. I thank Max Sports for their provision of the shuttles (the Stella shuttlecocks again proved to be of excellent quality) and the individual trophies. I also thank the staff at the University, who were very co-operative and helpful.

The knock-out cup proved a new experience for the tournament committee this year, with the rally points system of scoring in place for the first time. It is amazing how close some of the matches were. Connaught enjoyed a good run through to the final, by defeating St Osyth, Invicta St Pauls (in a very close encounter) and Earls Colne. Newcomers Earls Colne, who had only a men's team, had surprised by winning two matches. Holders St Mary Magdalen suffered through the loss of two key players in Pam White and Simon Gilhooly. In the bottom half of the draw Colchester, fielding many of their young stars, held off the challenge of the University of Essex, before gaining a walkover from Fingringhoe. Only two walkovers were recorded this year, a vast improvement on recent seasons. The final was played at the University of Essex on 21st April. The match proved to be a nip and tuck affair, with Colchester having the upper hand in the ladies doubles events, whilst Connaught edged the men's events. After some close mixed doubles encounters, Connaught squeezed home on handicap.

I thank my tournament committee, Louise Walsh in particular, for their help in the running of the two competitions.

Results:

Men's Singles Open:	D Eghan (Trinity)	J Skornia (Stanway)	21-19, 21-17
Men's singles Plate:	B Tallah (Ramgarhia)	B Haythorpe (Earls Colne)	21-6, 21-7
Ladies' Singles Open:	M Yoshinari (Univ of Essex)	B. McDonough (Redbridge)	21-17, 21-18
Ladies' Singles Plate:	C Mainwaring (Bps Stortford)	B Chager (Ramgarhia)	21-19, 21-12
Men's Doubles Open:	M Law, K Goodey (Trinity)	D Eghan (Trinity), T Rogers (Stanway)	21-17, 21-16
Men's Doubles Plate:	M Woods, M Whitworth (Bps Stortford)	B Hackett (Colchester), P Jordan (Five Lakers)	18-21, 21-16, 21-16
Ladies' Doubles Open:	Y Fan, M Yoshinari (Univ of Essex)	E Clark, K Taylor (Crouch Vale)	21-10, 19-21, 21-13
Ladies' Doubles Plate:	C Mainwaring, A Cosadinos (Bps Stortford)	D Brown, B Jacobs (Bps Stortford)	21-11, 21-12
Mixed Doubles Open:	P Turrell (St Aidens), B McDonough (Redbridge)	T Rogers (Stanway), M Bellman (Colchester)	17-21, 22-20, 21-14
Mixed Doubles Plate:	M Law (Trinity), C Rowland (Stanway)	T Woods, C Mainwaring (Bps Stortford)	21-17, 21-11

John Stuck
Tournament Secretary