

COLCHESTER & EAST ESSEX BADMINTON FEDERATION

TOURNAMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT 2011

The fifty-fourth annual tournament was held on 2nd and 3rd April at the University of Essex, who hosted the tournament for the sixth time. The tournament was held a week later than originally planned, to avoid a clash with an Essex Orbital event.

This tournament is renowned for finding new and young local talent and the men's singles and doubles events found another two in George Isherwood (whose father Tony won the men's singles title in 1986) and Daniel Moss (Ipswich YMCA). Defending champion Joe Skornia (Stanway) met Isherwood in the semi-finals of the men's singles, in which event there were twenty-eight entrants, but proved to be no match for the talented youngster. In the bottom half of the draw six-times winner Daniel Eghan (Paddocks) had a tougher route through to the final. In round three he was taken to three games by Jay Mohan (Tower Hamlets) and in the semi-final he had a tough match with Daniel Moss, winning 25-23, 21-16. The forty-four year old Eghan fought hard against George Isherwood in the final, but youth overcame experience, as Isherwood won in two straight games. The plate event proved just as competitive. Chris Ranson (St Mary Magdelen) was taken to three games against the University of Essex players Luke Whittington and Thomas Martin in reaching the final. There he met Mansoor Tipu (Ramgarhia), beaten by Mark Law (Alnations) in the open event. Tipu defeated a tiring Ranson in two straight games.

Only nine ladies contested the ladies' singles event, but the quality of the badminton was high. Defending champion Rebecca Terry (Fitzwimarc) defeated the more experienced Emma Lee (Abbeygate), a former Suffolk County player in the semi-final. The 2009 champion Michiyo Yoshinari (University of Essex) defeated Linzi Chatfield (Coastal Wanderers) in her semi-final and a great final was anticipated. After a tough first game, won by the defending champion, Rebecca took the second more comfortably to retain her title. Catherine Bailey (St Mary Magdelen) overcame Mandy Davies (Coastal Wanderers) in the final of the plate event. Eric Richardson, Chairman of the Essex County Badminton Association, present the trophies to the winners and runners-up of the singles' events.

In the men's doubles top seeds Mark Law and Phil Dawes (Leyton Youth) were defeated by Bir Singh and Rohan Kapoor (Ramgarhia) in the semi-finals, whilst in the lower half of the draw Isherwood and Moss beat the second seeds Simon Gilhooly and Joe Skornia (Stanway) in the other semi-final in a tough match that went to three games. The final was a ding-dong affair, with the youngsters taking the first game. However, Singh and Kapoor fought back to take the second game and lead in the third game, before Moss was forced to retire with an attack of cramp. In the plate event local players featured in the top half of the draw, with Simon Ford and James Cesareo (St Mary Magdelen), last year's winners, beating Craig Pilgrim and James Dooley (Stanway) in the semi-finals. In the other half a pair from Chequers, brothers Aayush and Trehan Christie, beat Ben Williams and Jamie Rudland (Belstead) before going on to win the plate event.

The ladies' doubles was restricted to eight pairs and a round robin event, with two groups of four, was held. Group 1 was dominated by Mandy Davies and Linzi Chatfield (Coastal Wanderers), with Garbo Lau and Michiyo Yoshinari (University of Essex) coming second. Lorraine Thompson and Balpreet Chager (Ramgarhia) won all three matches in group 2, with Rebecca Terry and Catherine Bailey winning two matches. In the semi-finals the Coastal Wanderers pair beat Terry and Bailey after a titanic battle (21-18 in the third game) and the Ramgarhia pair beat the University pair, also in the final game. The final was yet another titanic battle, with Davies and Chatfield proving victorious to win a trophy at their first attempt. The plate event went to the local pairing of Vicky Wrycraft (St Mary Magdelen) and Rebecca Andas (Garrison).

The mixed doubles event was held on the Sunday. A round robin event was held, with five pairs in three groups. Group one was dominated by Simon Gilhooly and Michelle Bellman (Stanway), who were undefeated, with James Cesareo and Vicky Wrycraft coming second. Likewise in group two another Stanway pairing, Trevor Rogers and Elizabeth Rowland, won all their matches, with Martin Everitt (Crouch Vale) and Kate Taylor (Stanway) losing just one match. In Group three Bir Singh and Balpreet Chager were undefeated, with Simon Ford and Catherine Bailey winning three matches. The

best runner-up proved to be Cesareo and Wrycraft, who were beaten in the semi-finals by Singh and Chager. Gilhooly and Bellman overcame their Stanway rivals in the other semi-final, before going on to take the title by defeating Singh and Chager in the final in two straight games. Another Stanway pair Andrew Lager and Julia Cloughton took the plate event by defeating Simon Ford and Catherine Bailey.

Albeit with only a few entries, the mens' and mixed veterans (over 40) events were resurrected after many years absence. In the mens event Wifried Janssen and Ros Ranson (Earls Colne) beat James Cesareo and Keith Burmby (Garrison) and Simon Gilhooly and Craig Stokoe (Stanway) to take the trophy. In the mixed event Jane Noremberg had to pull out through injury, leaving Simon Gilhooly and Louise Walsh (Stanway) to contest the final with James Cesareo and Sally Taylor (Colchester). It was fitting that the Federation Chairman and Secretary won!

The Mayor of Colchester, Councillor Sonia Lewis, escorted by her husband Mr Keith Lewis, paid a visit on Sunday morning and presented a bottle of wine to helper Robin Metson, who for most of the time on Saturday and for all of the time on Sunday looked after the shuttlecocks. Our Secretary nearly forgot to present the Madam Mayor with a box of chocolates! I thank also Louise, Penny Hackett and Julie Skornia for their assistance over the weekend. I thank Max Sports for their provision of the shuttlecocks (the RSL Tournament No 2 shuttlecocks proved to be of excellent quality) and the individual trophies. I also thank the staff at the University, who were, as usual, very co-operative and helpful.

Results:

Men's Singles Open: G. Isherwood (YMCA) beat D. Eghan (Paddocks) 21-15, 21-10

Men's Singles Plate: M. Tipu (Ramgarhia) 21-18, 21-14

Ladies' Singles Open: R. Terry (Fitzwimarc) beat M. Yoshinari (University of Essex) 21-19, 21-7

Ladies' Singles Plate: C. Bailey (St Mary Magdalen) beat M. Davies (Coastal Wanderers)

Men's Doubles Open: B. Singh, R. Kapoor (Ramgarhia) beat G. Isherwood, D. Moss (YMCA) 16-21, 21-14, 17-8 ret.

Men's Doubles Plate: A. Christie, T. Christie (Chequers) beat S. Ford, J. Cesareo (St Mary Magdalen) 21-18, 21-15

Ladies' Doubles Open: M. Davies, L. Chatfield (Coastal Wanderers) beat L. Thompson, B. Chager (Ramgarhia) 21-16, 15-21, 21-17

Ladies' Doubles Plate: V. Wrycraft (St Mary Magdalen), R. Andras (Garrison) beat E. Clark (Crouch Vale) and K. Taylor (Stanway) 21-13, 21-15

Mixed Doubles Open: S. Gilhooly, M. Bellman (Stanway) beat B. Singh, B. Chager (Ramgarhia) 21-8, 21-17

Mixed Doubles Plate: A. Lager, J. Cloughton (Stanway) beat S. Ford, C. Bailey (St Mary Magdalen) 21-17, 21-16.

Monkwick St Peters won the Knock Out Cup, beating the University of Essex in the final at the University on 27th April. The competition provided some close matches, with Colchester beating Exiles by just three points and Garrison losing to the University by just thirteen points in second round matches and Great Bromley beating St Osyth by 23 points in the semi-finals. Unfortunately for the University of Essex one of their players let them down at the last minute and another player was found after one and a half hours play! Monkwick are to be congratulated in their sporting gesture of allowing the match to continue with the University's late recruit. The tournament committee must now investigate the rules to identify what should have taken place. I thank Lousie Walsh and Simon Gilhooly for assisting with the setting of the handicaps.

John Stuck
Tournament Secretary