

Dorchester Tennis & Squash Club Annual Tennis Championships 2018

The DTSC Annual Tennis Championships for 2018 were actually finished off in early 2019 due to a break in access to the courts whilst our ageing tarmac courts were replaced with brand new artificial clay courts and it was worth the wait as we saw a great day of action on Saturday 5th January in perfect (but chilly) conditions for tennis, with no sun and light winds. The new surface is bedding in well and everyone is enjoying playing on the new courts. The 2018 Championships were kindly sponsored by Pengillys who generously gave every entrant a DTSC Tennis Shirt.

The total number of entrants was up this year, which is great for the tennis section and the finalists ages ranged from 13 to 69.

In the Men's Singles, 17-year-old Joe Chambers successfully defended his title, and is now the first man to have won the trophy 3 times in a row, by convincingly beating Hal Cazalet, the 2015 Champion.





Keith Mason, Tennis Chairman presenting Joe Chambers with his 3rd Men's Singles Title in a row.



Sarah Skidmore, the DTSC Head Tennis Coach was also very convincing by winning the Ladies' Singles in straight sets, and defeating Felicity Quick. Sarah Skidmore first won the Ladies' Singles in 1992 and has now won it 18 times, an amazing achievement that will almost certainly never be equalled. Sarah and Joe Chambers also won the Mixed Doubles winning a competitive tussle, again in straight sets, against the pairing of Mike Williams and Joy Hennessy.

Joe Chambers completed the triple for the first time, by also winning the Men's Doubles, teaming up with 17-year-old Ellery Ford to beat Mike Williams & Tim Button. Joe Chambers was therefore awarded the coveted Rod Skidmore Cup. This Cup is awarded to the winner of the most events in the main draw and is presented in memory of a much missed club member and club chairman, Rod Skidmore, a Royal Naval pilot who lost his life in a helicopter crash in 2002.



The Ladies' Doubles was a real battle. Eventually the 2014 Champions, Sally Dinham-Scott & Yvonne Henderson came through a very closely fought match to beat Sarah Skidmore and her 15-year-old partner Immi Reid. Sarah has done a great job of bringing along juniors as her partners in the Ladies' Doubles over the past few years, but the consistency of Sally and Yvonne won through in the end.



Consolation events were held in all events apart from the Ladies' Singles (due to low entry numbers) and full results are listed below. The stand out match in the consolation events was the Men's Doubles - a real battle of youth versus experience with the junior pairing of Ethan Robinson (13) and Eddie Keegan (14) taking on the experienced team of Chris Porter and Martin Kimberley. The youngsters, with their fearless shot making, won the first set on a tie-break, before the experience of Chris and Martin showed in the 2nd set where their volleying became more consistent and they won, on another tie-break. This was turning into a marathon and with all the other matches finished, a packed clubhouse watched from the edge of their seats. The final set was a championship tie-break, first to 10 points and it was won by Chris and Martin after an amazing tussle with undoubtedly future Club champions.

Full Results:

Men's Singles - Joe Chambers beat Hal Cazalet 6-1 6-0

Ladies' Singles - Sarah Skidmore beat Felicity Quick 6-0 6-0

Men's Doubles - Joe Chambers & Ellery Ford beat Tim Button & Mike Williams 6-4 6-0

Ladies' Doubles - Yvonne Henderson & Sally Dinham-Scott beat Sarah Skidmore & Immi Reid 6-4 6-4

Mixed Doubles - Joe Chambers & Sarah Skidmore beat Mike Williams & Joy Hennessy 6-3 6-1

Men's Singles Consolation - John Hobbs beat Guy Simmons 6-1 6-0

Men's Doubles Consolation - Martin Kimberley & Chris Porter beat Ethan Robinson & Eddie Keegan 6-7 7-6 10-6

Mixed Doubles Consolation - Emily Noel & Greg Charles beat Keith Mason & Ann Williams 6-4 6-3

Men's Consolation Runners-Up Eddie Keegan & Ethan Robinson after their Marathon Match

