

### **Squash & Racketball Finals Night 2014**

Another evening of thinly veiled chaos that is the 13 finals of a squash and racketball finals' night took place on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April.

Mike Elliott and Adam Lawrence started proceedings on court 3 in the veterans' squash. Mike keen to get his eye in before his racketball final and Adam with a keen eye on the bar. A strangely even tempered affair, with barely a bellow between them, saw Adam succeed at the stage he faltered last year and claim the title, winning 3-1.

A back and forth affair opened up on Court 2 in the squash 'b' plate where Paul Harrold took on Jonathan Baker. The match was ultimately decided in 4 but with neither player gaining any significant advantage in any game, two of those going to 10, it was Paul who snuck over the line.

Court 1 saw another dual finalist in Adrian Powell also start with the longer bat in the veterans' squash plate against first time finalist (yes really), Colin England. Colin was quick out of blocks to comfortably take the first and despite a brief flurry from Adrian in the second, Colin triumphed in 3.

Jerry Trevorah kept up his recent record of making it to finals night, but limited himself to just the one this time around, taking on Andy Bowden in the racketball 'b' plate. A 5 game match ensued where each of the first four were won by the minimum 2 point advantage. The fifth was somewhat of an anti-climax by comparison where Jerry's big match experience came to bear winning 11-3.

As if to keep spectators and organisers alike on tenterhooks, John Christmas and Trevor Senior, following Jerry and Andy onto court 1, conspired to play out another full encounter in the racketball veterans plate. The match saw an energetic encounter with some great shot making and plenty of (ahem) abject drop shots. John eventually edging it in the last.

Court 1 eventually concluded as it started with an unfortunate Adrian Powell again on the end of a 3-0 score line, this time against Jake Elwood in the racketball 'a' plate.

It was a case of standing room only on the balcony of court 2 as possibly the match of the evening unfolded in the ladies squash final between Annabel Whalley and Megan Barnes. Both previous winners of the trophy and, with neither willing to pass up the chance to claim it once more, saw a match of high endeavour. It looked like it might be over fairly swiftly when Annabel took a 2-0 lead, winning the second 9-0, but Megan fought back bravely to level with the next two. Having been on court for over an hour it was a crucial run of points from 4-4 which saw Annabel claim the win.

Not to be outdone by the ladies, Scott Symes and Jake Wilkinson-Tough played out another 5 games in the racketball 'b' final. Scott taking this even contest 11-7 in the fifth. Court 2 ended in fairly rapid fashion as Ed Elliot-Square overcame Rasmus Lauridsen in the squash 'a' plate 3-0 before his Danish opponent could get into his stride.

Court 3 saw Neil Foster give the highly-fancied Craig Robinson a real scare in the opening game of the racketball 'a' final but crucially passed up several opportunities, losing 14-12. Craig gradually exerted his authority and took the next two with increasing ease. Mike Elliott's second final of the evening was the veterans' racketball and saw him take on Ian Friend who only qualified for veteran status this year. Blessed with the benefit of youth, coupled with Mike's earlier exertions, Ian ran out a fairly comfortable 3-0 winner.

Events elsewhere saw the squash 'b' final between Ian Nowell-Smith and Callum Watts switch to court 3. Callum, showing composure beyond his years, incrementally increased the pressure on his opponent and ultimately cruised to a 3-0 win.

The Squash 'a' final completed the evening's entertainment with Stewart Dipple flying out of the traps to take the first against Craig Robinson. Craig dug deep to make the next two a more even affair but could not stop Stewart claiming the title again and proving that a policeman's lot is, sometimes, a happy one.