

Championship delight at the Squash & Racketball Finals Night

The evening started with news that the squash 'A' final would not take place between Stewart Dipple and Ed Elliot-Square due to an injury to Ed. That still left us with 14 finals to enjoy with the cast of this Ed die however.

First on court, showcasing the junior section, were two finals on courts two (Jack Weaver versus Zack White) and three (Isabella White against Yolanda Jeffery). An even first between Jack and Zack was eventually taken by Jack and further steady play helped to move him through the next two games. On Court three Isabella White fared better than her brother claiming her victory in a tighter and at times frantic affair in the first two games, before easing through in the third.

Progressing from these junior ranks, Robyn Moffat faced Annabel Whalley in the ladies final. Annabel's experience came to fore in the opening 2 games before Robyn conquered her early game nerves with some composed play in the third to make it 2-1. This jolted Annabel to reassert her authority on the match to take what she hoped would be the first of two titles on the evening.

Towards the other end of the scale to the juniors that preceded them on court three, long-standing club men Colin Turner and Adrian Powell did battle in the racketball 'A' plate. A match that ebbed and flowed through-out, Colin using his now trademark cork-screw-esq serve to great effect at regular intervals, pushed Adrian all the way but ultimately fell short losing by only the two points in each of the three games in a 3-1 defeat.

The first battle of dual finalists was Paddy Macintosh against Giles Watts in the squash veteran's final on court two. The much fancied Paddy proved too much for his willing opponent as he ruthlessly looked to conserve as much energy as possible before switching rackets to face Adrian later in the evening. Following Paddy and Giles were Phil Horne and Jerry Trevorah in the racketball 'B'. Jerry has enjoyed success in the recent past at these finals nights but found himself narrowly edged out in the first two. Phil grasped a lead in the next and despite Jerry's best efforts to wrestle back control of the game Phil was not to be denied.

Court one saw serial finalist Adam Lawrence against another entrant to the finals night double, Jonathan Baker, in the veteran's squash plate. An even first game where Jonathan game-fully chased down Adam's flicks and dinks was eventually taken by Adam. 'Lobber' refrained from his usual big game rant (i.e. sending his racket to all corners of the court), and this new-found composure allowed him to take the next two with relative ease.

A switch of codes next on court saw Roger Pinny face John Clifford in the racketball 'B' plate. It was an intriguing affair as Roger looked to manoeuvre ball and opponent around the court with John employing more bustle and harry. Art erred to luck ultimately however, as John took a, fourth game, match point with a rolling nick.

Last on court one saw Steve Russell, re-entering competitive club tournament play, face John Christmas in the racketball veteran's plate. A topsy-turvy contest saw

John claim the fourth 11-2 to take the match into a decider. Steve cooked a plan for the fifth to repay the score line complement and win the match.

On court 3, fireman Rob Tompkins returned to finals night action looking to make his mark. Pugh, Pugh Barney, McGrew, Cuthbert, Dibble and Grubb would all have been impressed with his level of effort and commitment against Jake Elwood in the racketball 'A' final. Despite this energetic approach and what could only be described as the 'yips' with the Elwood drop-shot, Jake ran out 3-1 winner.

Paddy Macintosh and Adrian Powell both returned to action for the evening on court two in the racketball veteran's final. Adrian was in noticeable discomfort with what turned out to be hamstring injury suffered at the end of his match with Colin and despite gallantly continuing could not stop Paddy from claiming the veteran's double. Jonathan Baker also re-entered the fray this time against John Webb in the squash 'B' plate. John was quickest on the blocks in the first. Jonathan used his earlier match against Adam to get his eye in though and, in what was a match of orthodox, down the walls squash, Jonathan moved through the gears to take the next three.

Court three saw the last of the dual-finalist face off in the nights only final to pit man and lady against each other as Giles Watts battled Annabel Whalley in the squash 'B'. Annabel surged into a 2-0 lead. Giles though, was not prepared to suffer a second defeat of the evening, and roared back to take the next three conceding a total of seven points in the process.

The final act of the night drew surman Nick and Callum Watts together in the squash 'A' plate. Callum, Wilson racket in hand, could not out master his elder brother in the early stages. Some points from Nick that owed more to luck than judgement further strengthened his position in the second and continued his current dominance of the brotherly rivalry to take claim the match in the third.

An evening of 14 finals was well supported with strong numbers through-out and was enjoyed by all, which can be considered the cherry on top.