

COLCHESTER & EAST ESSEX BADMINTON FEDERATION

TOURNAMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT 2010

The fifty-third annual tournament was held on 27th and 28th March at the University of Essex, who hosted the tournament for the fifth time. Despite not matching the record entry of last year, the entries were healthy enough and a most enjoyable tournament was experienced.

In the absence of defending champion Daniel Eghan, who, in error, booked his holiday to coincide with the tournament, Joe Skornia, from Stanway, was the number one seed in the mens' singles event. Joe had a comfortable ride through to the semi-finals, where he met Victor Chiew (Redbridge). In the bottom half of the draw Mark Law (Trinity) met the Chinaman Li Qi and the result was similar to that of last year, with Li Qi winning in straight games. Joe had beaten Li Qi in last year's semi-final and was successful again, this time in the final, following a tough match. The plate final was contested between Paul Hyde (Crouch Vale) and Sud Chantralingam (Ebbisham), the former winning in straight games.

The ladies' singles was dominated by two young newcomers to the tournament. Fourteen year old Rebecca Terry from Fitzwimarc in Rayleigh looked a bright prospect beating St Mary Magdalen's Rebecca Andras in the second round and Catherine Bailey in the semi-finals. Alice King (Harold Hill) cruised through to the final. Rebecca won the first game, but Alice hit back, before the former became the youngest ever winner of an event in the tournament's history by taking the final game. Balpreet Chager (Ramgarhia), who had lost to Alice King in the first round of the main event, took the plate event by defeating former ladies singles winner Kate Taylor (Crouch Vale).

The Mayor of Colchester, Councillor Henry Spyvee, accompanied by the Mayoress, arrived to present the singles trophies. The Mayor praised the work of the Federation in putting on such a tournament and our secretary Louise Walsh presented the Mayoress with a bunch of flowers. They stayed long enough to witness some of the doubles play.

In the men's doubles event holders Mark Law and Keith Goodey survived a tough opening match against Trevor Rogers (Stanway) and Clive Palmer (Thurrock) and a tough semi-final match against Bir Singh and Tuan Thach (Ramgarhia). Second seeds Simon Gilhooly and Joe Skornia (Stanway) were taken to three games by Tim Woods and Brett Brocklehurst (Bishops Stortford) in the second round and went through to the final with a straight games win over veterans Ross Ranson (Danbury) and Wilf Janssen (Earls Colne). The final proved good value to the several spectators. The holders took the first game, but the Stanway pair sneaked the second game. However, the holders retained their trophy by taking a close third game. Local pair James Cesareo and Simon Ford (St Mary Magdalen) won the plate event by defeating Belstead pair Jamie Rudland and Ben Williams in the final.

The ladies' doubles was restricted to seven pairs and a round robin event was held. Alice King entered with no partner, but Balpreet Chager came to the rescue at the last minute. Just as well because the scratch pair finished undefeated to take the title, winning all their matches in straight games. The contest for second place was extremely close. Catherine Bailey and Rebecca Terry won four matches, as did Vicky Wrycraft (St Mary Magdalen) and Rebecca Andras, the former pair having a better points ratio. The latter, therefore won the plate event, with the fourth placed pairing of Claire Mainwaring and Alison Cosadinos (Bishops Stortford) being runners-up.

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 Tim Woods and Joyce Barton (Bishops Stortford) coming second. Likewise in group two another Stanway pairing, Trevor Rogers and Elizabeth Rowland, won all their matches, with James Cesareo and Vicky Wrycraft just losing the one match. Group three proved the toughest group. Winners in 2008, Ben and Caroline Westley (Colchester) were undefeated, whilst Bir Singh and Balpreet Chager beat Joe Skornia and Rebecca Andras 21-19, 21-19 to take second place. This was good enough to make the semi-finals as the best runner-up, but they lost to Trevor Rogers and Liz Rowland. The other semi-final was close, with the Westleys defeating Simon Gilhooly and Michelle Bellman 23-21, 21-18. The brother and sister act then went on to win the title. Tim Woods and Joyce Barton won the plate event, defeating Simon Ford and Catherine Bailey.

Once again the veterans events were cancelled due to lack of entries. However, I am confident that next year's tournament will include some veterans' events. The players from Crouch Vale and those from Bishops Stortford have volunteered to help the campaign to bring the over forties to the tournament next year.

I am extremely grateful to my helpers, without whom the tournament would not have run so smoothly: Louise Walsh, Terry, Julie Skornia and our new Chairman Simon Gilhooly. The programme included a small tribute to our late Chairman Brian Denniss. Again it was nice to see Nikki Richardson, the Badminton Liaison Officer for Colchester and Tendring, and Eric make an appearance and several times men's singles winner Bob Taylor made an appearance on both days – again 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.

Results:

Men's Singles Open: J. Skornia (Stanway) beat Li Qi (University of Essex) 21-15, 22-20
Men's Singles Plate: P. Hyde (Crouch Vale) beat S. Chantralingam (Ebbisham) 21-16, 21-16
Ladies' Singles Open: R. Terry (Fitzwimarc) beat A. King (Harold Hill) 21-17, 10-21, 21-12
Ladies' Singles Plate: B. Chager (Ramgarhia) beat K. Taylor (Crouch Vale) 21-12, 21-16
Men's Doubles Open: M. Law, K. Goodey (Trinity) beat S. Gilhooly, J. Skornia (Stanway) 21-15, 19-21, 21-17
Men's Doubles Plate: J. Cesareo, S. Ford 21-16, 21-16
Ladies' Doubles Open (round robin): A. King (Harold Hill), B. Chager (Ramgarhia); runners-up, C. Bailey (St Mary Magdalen), R. Terry (Fitzwimarc)
Ladies' Doubles Plate: V. Wrycraft, R. Andras (St Mary Magdalen); runners-up, C. Mainwaring, A. Cosadinos (Bishops Stortford)
Mixed Doubles Open: B. Westley, C. Westley (Colchester) beat T. Rogers, E. Rowland (Stanway) 21-14, 21-17
Mixed Doubles Plate: T. Woods, J. Barton (Bishops Stortford) beat S. Ford, C. Bailey (St Mary Magdalen) 21-6, 21-18.

John Stuck
Tournament Secretary