

COLCHESTER & EAST ESSEX BADMINTON FEDERATION

TOURNAMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT 2015

The fifty-eighth annual tournament was held on two different week-ends this year, with the singles and level doubles events on 28th March and the mixed doubles and veterans' events on Sunday 31st May. The reason was two-fold. Firstly we try to avoid clashes with other tournaments and events that might affect our tournament; secondly the University of Essex – the only realistic venue in the Colchester district – is only available to us in the University holiday periods. Other venues were looked into, but in the end a deferment of the second day proved the best option. Hopefully we can revert to a single week-end next year.

So what has happened to the lady badminton players? Only one lady entered the singles event and only two pairs entered the doubles event. On the day the two sisters Mun Mun Loi and San Loi (Stanway) – present for the ladies' doubles - played for the singles trophy, with the younger sister – San winning in three games. The sisters met Kate Taylor (Stanway) and Emma Clark in the doubles event, the latter coming out on top in another close match. The men's entries were excellent, with twenty nine entrants competing for the singles' titles. Dan Moss (5 Lakes), who won the title in 2013, was the top seed. His hardest match in reaching the final was against Kin Meng Kwong (Stanway) in the second round. He met James Smith (Epping) in the semi-final. In contrast James had a tougher route to the semi-final, beating Martin Southgate (St Mary Magdalen) in three games and a young Ben Crossland (Epping) in the quarter-final. In the bottom half of the draw James' father Ian was the second seed and he, too, came through a tough second round match – against Kuen Yui Li (University of Essex), before meeting our Chairman Simon Gilhooly (Stanway) in the semi-final. Simon had reached the semi-final by defeating Luke Hill (5 Lakes) 21-18 in the final game. He took Ian Smith to a final game, but fell away at the death. The final was less close, with Dan Moss taking the title for the second time.

The plate event, as usual, provided plenty of tough matches. In the top half of the draw, Yougal Khatri (Monkwick St Peters) just overcame the challenge of Wasim Arif (Riverside) in the second round. Another close encounter saw Sky Lim (University of Essex) defeat Chris Ranson (St Mary Magdalen) in three games. The former went on to beat Yougal, again in three games to reach the final. In the bottom half of the draw Ravi Patel (Redbridge) beat Simon Ford (St Mary Magdalen) in the semi-final. Inevitably the final went to the final game, with Ravi taking the plate event.

The Mayor and Mayoress of Colchester, John and Janet Elliott, presented the trophies to the winners and runners-up. Twenty-two pairs contested the men's doubles event. The Stanway pairing of Simon Gilhooly and Trevor Rogers reached the semi-finals, but not before overcoming a tough match against Kuen You Li (University of Essex) and Ng Chin Jeat (Stanway) in the second round. They exited the competition, though, in the semi-finals, losing in three games to Victor Chiew (Aoks Park) and Kin Meng Kwong (Stanway). Luke Hill and Dan Moss (5 Lakes) beat a good pair in Rhys Myers (Redbridge) and Lee Price (Leighway), before defeating the father and son combination of Ian and James Smith (Epping) in the semi-final in three games. Hill and Moss went on to take the title with a comfortable victory in the final. The plate event was won by Mike Frost and Keith Harding (Danbury), a huge consolation for meeting the number two seeds (and eventual winners) in their first match of the open event. They defeated Rabi Pun and Yougal Khatri (Monkwick St Peters) in the final.

Two groups of five pairs competed in the Mixed Doubles event. Unfortunately the competition was weakened by the withdrawal of second seeds Ian Smith and June Hammond. Their replacements, however, Meng Kwong and Tracy Wang (Stanway) won group 2 with Daniel Potter (Eversley) and Emma Clark (Bulphan) coming second. In group 1 top seeds Daniel Moss (Garrison) and Claudette Reis (Corinthians) won their way through to the final, with Alex Chu and Yvonne Chan (Stanway) coming second. The top seeds justified their seeding with a comfortable win in the final, with Alex Chu and Yvonne Chan taking the plate event. Thus, Dan Moss became the first player to take all three open titles since Tim Hudson in 1980.

The veteran's events were open to all players over the age of forty, with a handicap to suit the combined age of the pairings. Five pairs competed for the men's doubles veteran's event, with Paul Belcher and Alistair Bowen (Chelmsford Casuals) winning their four matches. Only two pairs contested the ladies' doubles event, with Jane Noremberg and Chris Pennock the winners. Paul

Belcher completed a good day for him when he and partner Leslie Pallett (Chelmsford Casuals) won the mixed doubles event, with Richard and Jane Noremberg (Garrison) being runners-up.

I am grateful to my helpers Simon Gilhooly (when not on court) and Secretary Louise Walsh. I thank Robin Metson for overseeing the play in the sports hall (whilst the organisation was in progress on the balcony) and for looking after the shuttlecocks. My thanks, too, to the University staff, who, as usual, were extremely helpful.

Results:

Men's Singles Open: D. Moss (5 Lakes) beat I. Smith (Epping) 21-10, 21-11
Men's Singles Plate: R. Patel (Redbridge) beat Sky Lim (University of Essex) 21-18, 12-21, 21-15
Ladies' Singles Open: San Loi (Stanway) beat Mun Mun Loi (Stanway) 27-25, 16-21, 21-16
Men's Doubles Open: L. Hill, D. Moss (5 Lakes) beat V. Chiew (Oaks Park), Kin Meng Kwong (Stanway) 21-14, 21-12
Men's Doubles Plate: M. Frost, K. Harding (Danbury) beat Rabi Pun, Yougal Khatri (Monkwick St Peters) 21-18, 12-21, 21-15
Ladies' Doubles Open: K. Taylor (Stanway), E. Clark (Crouch Vale) beat Mun Mun Loi, San Loi (Stanway) 21-18, 21-15
Mixed Doubles Open: D. Moss (Garrison), C. Reis (Corinthians) beat Meng Kwong, T. Wang (Stanway)
Mixed Doubles Plate: A. Chu, Y. Chan (Stanway) beat D. Potter (Eversley), E. Clark (Bulphan)
Men's Doubles Over 40 (round robin): P. Belcher, A. Bowen (Chelmsford Casuals)
Ladies' Doubles Over 40 (round robin): J. Noremberg, C. Pennock (Garrison)
Mixed Doubles Over 40 (round robin): P. Belcher, L. Pallett (Chelmsford Casuals).

Thanks to the efforts of your Chairman, there were several other tournaments this year. On the 7th September the season began with a new event called the "Colchester Restricted". The idea was to offer a tournament for Colchester players and residents organised on a grade basis (A = Ranked Players, B = League Players and C = Social Players). The tournament was originally intended for both juniors and seniors, but due to poor timing the junior events did not attract sufficient entries. The senior event was successful and we hope to continue it. The results can be found at <http://be.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/tournament.aspx?id=3DECC6E0-F0D0-41C9-B078-997B35479D80>.

On 1st November the Colchester Forza 2* Junior Tournament with U11, U13, U15, U17 and U19 categories was held. The event was hosted by Colchester Leisure World. Local players Jack Hanson (Monkwick St Peters) and Tapan Parikh (St Mary Magdalen) won a pair of gold medals each. The full results can be found at <http://be.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=312581C6-82C8-4BCE-9BB0-5D8A8EB22FB4>.

On Sunday 4th January a national U11 tournament was held at Redbridge, with local player Christian Martin taking part in his first tournament at this level. The best players from across the South were involved and the standard was very impressive. A small profit of around £100 was made. A national U13 Bronze tournament was held at Redbridge on Sunday 22nd February. A profit of over £400 was made.

The following week the Colchester Level 1 Junior tournament was held at Colchester Charter Hall. There were a host of winners from Colchester junior clubs, with some of the year 4 and Year 5 boys and girls looking very promising. A volunteer to run this event next year would be welcome. The results can be found at <http://be.tournamentsoftware.com/sport/winners.aspx?id=DBE50525-045C-41B6-B87A-5514BF4B78AE>.

The K.O. Cup was won by Monkwick St Peters, who defeated St Mary Magdalen in the final at the University of Essex on 15th April with the help of the sealed handicap. Monkwick had progressed to the semi-final by virtue of two walkovers, with Coggeshall Ladies having no men and the St Osyth men apparently taking their holidays in January. However, they had to beat a strong Garrison team to reach the final. Earlier Garrison had only just beaten Fingringhoe in the closest match of the competition – just two points separated the teams. St Mary Magdalen had beaten the holders Stanway and Invicta St Pauls on their way to the final.

John Stuck
Tournament Secretary