

COLCHESTER & EAST ESSEX BADMINTON FEDERATION

TOURNAMENT SECRETARY'S REPORT 2016

The fifty-ninth annual tournament was held on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th March at the University of Essex. The entries for the singles and level doubles events on the Saturday were healthy. Twenty seven players competed in the men's singles event. Last year's winner Dan Moss (5 Lakes) retained his trophy, winning for the third time. No-one went close to taking a set off him. Second seed Simon Gilhooly (Stanway), suffering a little from a back problem, lost in the first round to Peter Wiley (Epping). The latter had a good tournament reaching the final by defeating Luke Hill (5 Lakes) in the semi-final. Luke had done well to defeat Sam Barber (Chelmsford Casuals) in the quarter-finals, as the latter had eliminated the seeded James Smith (Epping) in the second round. The plate event was bound to be tough event for the first time losers, as another seeded player Ian Smith (Epping) had also lost his first match – to Kwong Kin Meng (University of Essex). Of these three only James Smith reached the final, as did his Club mate from Epping, Louis Bowman. With James Smith involved heavily in the men's doubles event, the final of the men's singles plate was not played until the following Friday at Epping, with James Smith winning in three games. Only two ladies entered the ladies singles event, but two other players consented to play in the event to provide a round robin group of four. Megan Courtier (St Mary Magdalen) won all three of her games to take the title, with Holly Smith (Epping) the runner-up with two wins. It had been a close call, as Megan just beat Holly 21-19 in the final game in their contest. Kate Taylor took the plate event, with Vicky Wrycraft the runner-up. The Mayor of Colchester Theresa Higgins presented the trophies to the winners and runners-up.

Eighteen pairs competed in the men's doubles event. The holders Dan Moss and the left-handed Luke Hill reached the final, but only after a tough encounter with Ian Smith and Peter Wiley in the semi-final. The bottom half of the draw proved less predictable. The Stanway pairing of Simon Gilhooly and Trevor Rogers fell at the first hurdle. The young pairing of James Smith and Oliver Phillips (Epping) however had more success, beating Kwong Kin Meng and Li Kuen Lui (University of Essex) and then second seeds Alex Chu (Stanway) and Nicholas Fan (O.P.), both in three games. The Epping pair played well to beat Dan Moss and Luke Hill in the final. It was consolation for Simon Gilhooly and Trevor Rogers as they won the plate event. They beat local players Martin Southgate and Simon Ford (St Mary Magdalen) in the semi-final and Bryan Lim and Sky Lim (University of Essex) in the final. The ladies doubles event was played as a round robin, with two groups of four. In Group 1, Caroline Woodcock and Karen Wilson won their three games, although Emma Clark (Bulphan) and Kate Taylor (Stanway) and the St Mary Magdalen pairing of Vicky Wrycraft and Megan Courtier took them to the final game. Group 2 was won by Mun Mun Loi and San Loi (Stanway). The sisters, however, were beaten in the final by Carline and Karen. The plate final was closely contested, with Emma Clark and Kate Taylor beating Holly Smith and mother Clare.

Sunday saw the mixed doubles contested via a round robin group of five pairs. It was supposed to be six, but one pair did not appear. There was joy for Martin Southgate and Vicky Wrycraft as they defeated all their opponents. The final match of the event turned out to be final as they faced the previously unbeaten pairing of Tommy Pallett and his mother Lesley from Chelmsford Casuals. And what a final it was as the St Mary Magdalen pair squeezed home in the final game. Third placed were Martin Everitt and Kate Taylor (Stanway), who thus won the plate event, and fourth placed Joseph Mason and Caroline Woodcock (Stanway) were runners-up.

The only veterans' event was the men's doubles, as there was only one entry for both the ladies' doubles and the mixed doubles events. Mark King and Michael Weingarten (Westcliff) won their four matches in straight games, thus taking the title. Colin Jones and Matthew Lampard (Epping) were the runners-up with three wins.

I am grateful to my helpers. On the Saturday Simon Gilhooly (when not on court) oversaw the play in the sports hall, which included looking after the shuttlecocks. On the Sunday Robin Metson performed the same activity and Secretary Louise Walsh helped with the organisation on the balcony. My thanks, too, to the University staff, who, as usual, were extremely helpful.

Results:

Men's Singles Open: D. Moss (5 Lakes) beat P. Wiley (Epping) 21-11, 21-15

Men's Singles Plate: J. Smith (Epping) beat Louis Bowman (Epping) 22-20, 17-21, 21-12
 Ladies' Singles Open (round robin): M. Courtier (St Mary Magdalen)
 Ladies' Singles Plate (round robin): H. Smith (Epping)
 Men's Doubles Open: O. Phillips, J. Smith (Epping) beat D. Moss, L. Hill (5 Lakes) 21-14, 24-22
 Men's Doubles Plate: S. Gilhooly, T. Rogers (Stanway) beat B. Lim, S. Lim (University of Essex) 21-18, 22-20
 Ladies' Doubles Open : C. Woodcock, K. Wilson beat Mun Mun Loi, San Loi 21-19, 21-15
 Ladies' doubles Plate: E. Clark, K. Taylor beat H. Smith, C. Smith 24-26, 22-20, 21-18
 Mixed Doubles Open (round robin): M. Southgate, V. Wrycraft (St Mary Magdalen)
 Mixed Doubles Plate(round robin): M. Everitt, K. Taylor (Stanway)
 Men's Doubles Over 40 (round robin): M. King, M. Weingarten (Westcliff)

Thanks to the efforts of your Chairman, there were several other tournaments this year.

The Knock-out Cup was not contested. At the Annual General Meeting member clubs voted to hold the event over two days at a suitable venue. Two venues were booked, but only two clubs (St Mary Magdalen and Monkwick St Peters) committed to the first selected date and thus the event was cancelled. Some clubs failed to respond to the invitation. The venue (Highwoods) was used by the Chairman to carry out some coaching and thus saved some of the expense. The second venue for the further rounds was cancelled. It seems, therefore, that the K.O. Cup has run its course.

Other tournaments were organised and run by the Federation. The Chairman reports thus:

- In October 2015 the restricted event was run for a second season, this time using Highwoods Sports Centre. The entry was somewhat disappointing, primarily because the players came from just three clubs: St Mary Magdalen, Stanway and Invicta B. The graded format worked well again, with the majority of matches being very competitive.
- In November 2015 a Junior 2 Star tournament was held at the Charter Hall. There was a reasonable entry, although local entries were poor. A small profit was made. Martin Southgate acted as the Secretary and the Chairman ran the event on the day.
- In January 2016 the Junior Level 1 event was held, with support from Yonex who donated the shuttlecocks. The chairman acted as the Secretary. But having been selected for his first McCoig trophy, the organisation on the day was left to Martin Southgate and Vicky Wrycraft. With assistance from Nikki Richardson. The entry from local players was excellent, but there were few entries from outside the area.

Although your Chairman will not be seeking re-election at the Annual General Meeting, he will be available to assist with the organisation and running of tournaments and other development activities.

John Stuck
Tournament Secretary