

Finals Day 2020 – Report for the Tennis Section ABM

Derek Johnston, 11th November 2020

Like everything else this year, planning ahead for the club championships has been extremely challenging. Once Tennis Scotland guidelines permitted, we got things underway and it was a great relief for everyone when we finally arrived at Finals Day, with 6 junior and 6 senior finals to be played on Saturday 31st October. We really ought to expect these things now, but of course the weather that Saturday was awful and it wasn't much better on the reserve day of Sunday 1st November, so we went to plan C and played on Saturday 7th November.

A couple of the finals couldn't be played that day, so we are still waiting for Keir Morrison and Sean McBride to contest the Boys 16U final (*note: this final was played on Saturday 5th December, update included below*) and the Gents Doubles final (*note: this final was played on Wednesday 31st March 2021, update included below*).

As it turned out, the decision to postpone was a good one and we were blessed with dry, windless conditions, albeit a bit chilly for those not actually playing. On that note, sadly we had to follow the Tennis Scotland guidelines for 'no spectators', which is why there was no publicity about Finals Day, save for the finalists themselves.



The day started off with the Minis prizegiving. This happily coincided with Mini coaching, which was taking place in fancy dress, so there was a great audience for that. The prizes went to:

- Mini Red Winner - Toby Hahn, Runner up - Harris Grant
- Mini Orange Winner - Liam Murty, Runner up - Poppy McKenzie
- Mini Green Winner - Harry Brodie, Runner up - Brooke McMeekin



There then followed the 5 junior finals being played that day, and the results were:

- Girls 12U Singles Winner - Abby Slack, Runner up - Lucy Hahn
- Girls 14U Singles Winner - Katie Needleman, Runner up - Darcey Lyden
- Boys 12U Singles Winner - Kieran Whyte, Runner up - Tom Chambers
- Boys 14U Singles Winner - John Watson, Runner up - Harry Ross
- Boys 18U Singles Winner - George Fisher, Runner up - Sean McBride

Congratulations to all of the players and finalists in the mini and junior events. It was certainly very humbling for me to observe the excellent play that took place, which is clear testament to the quality of coaching that is provided at Clarkston. Special thanks must go to Andrew Raitt and the team at CTA, as well as to Carol Milne and Keir Aitken, for all of their efforts supporting our younger members.



Abby and Lucy, with Carol



Tom and Kieran, with Keir



Harry and John, with Keir



Katie and Darcey, with Carol



George with Derek

George and Sean, with Linda

The afternoon started with the Gents and Ladies Singles and the Ladies Doubles finals.

After several years of dominance by Euan Smith, the Gents Singles title was won by Steven Bradshaw. The final was much anticipated and, not to take anything away from Steven's achievement, it was a great shame that after a very close and competitive opening few games, Euan injured his ankle and was eventually forced to retire.

Lesley Taylor won the Ladies Singles after a close match with Lynn McGhee. With Lynn and Karen McAulay both doubling up and appearing in 2 finals, we were then waiting for the Ladies Doubles to conclude. That turned into a marathon encounter that was won on a championship tie break by Karen and Eilidh Mathieson. Great credit is due to Kay Rennie and Katy Macfarlane for their battling performance. Some of those rallies were truly epic!

Youth prevailed over experience in the Captain's Cup, which was won by Keir Aitken, with Ross Johnstone the runner-up.

After a short break to allow Karen to catch her breath, the Mixed Doubles was played out under the floodlights and in near freezing conditions. Lynn and Alan McEwan were the eventual winners against Karen and Gordon Coventry.

Overall, it was a very successful day. Sadly, there will be no prize giving ceremony this year, so prizes were awarded at the end of each final. There are photographs available on request should any of the finalists be looking for an early Christmas present for their families!

A number of people volunteered to umpire the finals, for which we should be extremely grateful. Carol, Keir and Linda Alexander umpired the junior finals in the morning, with Sandra Leitch, Lyndsay Hood, Linda Alexander (again), Errol Hornstein and Chris Fawbert expertly controlling proceedings in the afternoon. One thing that struck me about the entire day was the friendly and sporting spirit that all of the finals were played in.

It was also extremely pleasing to note that our club championship finalists this year were from a very broad age range, with Eilidh and Keir representing the younger generation and Alan flying the flag for the veterans. Tennis truly is a sport for all ages!



- Euan and Steven, with Sandra
- Lesley and Lynn, with Lyndsay
- Katy, Kay, Eilidh and Karen, with Linda
- Keir and Ross, with Derek
- Karen, Gordon, Lynn and Alan, with Chris

First Addendum – Boys 16U Final – added to report on 13th December

Sean McBride and Keir Morrison contested the Boys 16U final on Saturday 5th December, with Sean winning to retain the trophy.



Second Addendum – Gents Doubles Final – added to report on 1st April 2021

After several delays to the playing of the final due to various injuries and COVID-19 restrictions, Asim Ali and Euan Smith won the Gents Doubles final on Wednesday 31st March, defeating Craig Russell and Derek Johnston 6-3 6-4.

