

Closed Championships 2024- report

Dull admin stuff

The U11/13/15 events were held at Leicester Grammar School on Saturday 10 February 2024 and have already been reported upon.

Over the weekend of 23-24 March graded (and handicap doubles [HD]) and age/sex (and handicap singles [HS]) events were held at Knighton Park; this is the first time we have been able to run the full programme of events (albeit with some gaps where there was either just one entry or none) as we continue our way back towards normality after COVID.

There were 18 players in the graded events on the Saturday (19 last year when it was just the two handicap events) and 30 on the Sunday (16 last year).

Thanks to KP for the use of the premises and in particular to:

- Shirley Pickering (for opening up and helping set up the room on Saturday morning);
- Mick Box (for doing a lot of umpiring);
- players who filled in some of the last-minute gaps where others dropped out; and
- Steve Pratt and Karen Smith (for helping to tidy up after the event on Sunday).

The actual play

Saturday's finals were as follows:

- U150: Martin Pember (KP) bt. Gitesh Parbhoo (AR) 9-11, 11-3, 5-11, 12-10, 11-7
- U200: Kalan Bhakta (U) bt. Matt Briggs (DV) 11-7, 11-7, 11-3
- U250: Tony Smith (KP) bt. Geoff Parsons (LU) 11-8, 11-6, 11-6
- U300: Tony Smith (KP) bt. Geoff Parsons (LU) 8-11, 11-13, 11-4, 14-12, 12-10
- HD: Steve Pratt (AR) & Martin Pember (KP) [receiving start of 3] bt.
Dave Mountain (KP) & Gitesh Parbhoo (AR) 21-16, 21-16

Sunday's finals were as follows:

- J/Boys: Faisal Mulla (KP) bt. Filip Nawrot (WW) 11-8, 11-6, 11-6
- Inter: Charles Rowell (MB) bt. Satveer Chohan (MB) 11-8, 13-11, 11-9
- Men: Xingling Luo (U) bt. Andy Lebutt (LE) 6-11, 11-9, 11-8, 11-8
- Vets: Karen Smith (KP) bt. Chris Parmar-Saville (KP) 11-5, 11-5, 11-5
- O50: Karen Smith (KP) bt. Dave Mountain (KP) 11-5, 12-10, 11-6
- O60: Andy Lebutt (LE) bt. Karen Smith (KP) 11-7, 11-6, 11-13, 8-11, 11-4
- HS: Chris Parmar-Saville (KP) bt Nick Wyche F [with 8 start] 21-19, 23-21
- Doubles: James Berry (KP) & Xingling Luo (U) bt.
Abhishek Sudhakar (LU) & Geoff Parsons (LU) 11-8, 11-7, 6-11, 8-11, 11-2

So two titles each for Martin Pember, Tony Smith, and Xingling Luo.
But Karen Smith won two titles and was also runner-up in a third final.

KP= Knighton Park; AR= Abbots Road; U= Unicorn; DV= Desford Village;
LU= Loughborough Unicorn; WW= Winstanley Wizards;
MB= Market Bosworth; LE= Leicester Electricity; F= Fleckney

Trophies will be handed out at:

- the Presentation Evening (at Goons on Wed 29 May) for seniors; and/or
 - an LJJ event (before Xmas) for juniors
- And finally, thanks to all who participated (playing as well as umpiring)...

Peter Wilson

Closed Championships Secretary