

## **Closed Championships 2015- report**

### **Dull admin stuff**

The first part of the 2015 Closed Championships was held over the weekend of 14-15 March at Knighton Park.

40 players took part on the Saturday (38 last year) with over 90 matches scheduled. On the Sunday (the graded events plus the handicap doubles) there were 23 players (34 last year) with over 40 matches scheduled.

The remaining junior events were played at LGS on Saturday 28 March, with 29 players taking part across the three age groups (17 U-15, 10 U-13 and 2 U-11). Thanks to Development League regulars Vaughan Allington, Charlie Bateman, Tim Cawston and Mike Smith for helping out on the day.

### **The actual play**

Player of the tournament this year was Aman Rashid of Knighton Park, who might now have to change his name to Tobit Dehnen (multiple winner/finalist when these events were staged at LGS). No one won more than one title on the Saturday, apart from Aman who won three (he won another on the Sunday and reached a further two finals).

Pushing him close was Andy Lebutt of Leicester Electricity. He won the open doubles event on the Saturday (with partner David Grundy) before taking two titles on the Sunday (beating Aman Rashid in the U-300 and Geoff Parsons in the U-400).

The top-end events on the Saturday were boosted by the presence of several Unicorn players, two of whom reached the final of the Men's event (I am reliably informed that this particular match was merely a semi-final in their recent inter-club tournament).

### **There follows a list of all the winners and runners-up of the various events:**

#### **1. SATURDAY 14 MARCH**

Boys	Aman Rashid bt. Rayan Kotecha; 11-4, 11-6, 7-11, 11-2
Girls	Kelsey Andrews (r/up: Keer Channaraja)
Inter	Aman Rashid bt. Jessica Birbeck; 12-10, 8-11, 12-10, 11-2
Ladies	Jessica Birbeck bt. Shirley Pickering; 14-12, 11-3, 11-0
Men	Jared Patel bt. Mark Scutts; 11-2, 11-5, 6-11, 8-11, 11-7
Vets	Dave Gannon bt. Richard Hayes; 14-12, 11-9, 11-5
O-50	Richard Hayes bt. Les Baker; 11-5, 11-7, 11-4
O-60	Steve White bt. Shirley Pickering; 12-10, 11-4, 11-9
Handicap	Aman Rashid bt. John Genovese (+6); 21-14, 21-16
Doubles	David Grundy bt. Geoff Parsons; 11-7, 11-2, 11-7 & Andy Lebutt & Jared Patel

## **2. SUNDAY 15 MARCH**

U-100	Mike Pratt	bt. Simon Taylor; 7-11, 11-7, 11-7, 11-9
U-150	John Bowness	bt. Martin Pember; 7-11, 11-7, 6-11, 11-5, 11-7
U-200	John Genovese	bt. Peter Wilson; 12-10, 11-5, 12-14, 11-7
U-250	Les Baker	bt. Aman Rashid; 11-7, 11-9, 11-7
U-300	Andy Lebutt	bt. Aman Rashid; 9-11, 11-6, 11-8, 11-3
U-400	Andy Lebutt	bt. Geoff Parsons; 11-4, 11-8, 11-9
Handicap Doubles	Aman Rashid & Ray Lambert	bt. Fahed Sacoor; 22-20, 15-21, 21-14 & John Bowness (+4)

## **3. SATURDAY 28 MARCH**

U-11	Danny Verrall	bt. Toddy Evans; 11-9, 11-2, 12-10
U-13	Shiven Arora	bt. Sufyaana Dhanji; 11-9, 14-16, 13-11, 11-9
U-15	Richard Martin	bt. Alex Jefferis; 11-5, 11-6, 11-8

The U-11 final was an all-Harborough affair, with Danny coming out on top. In the U-13s, Shiven cut a swathe through all of his opponents before prevailing in a close final, pushed all the way by Sufyaana. In the U-15s, Alex won a close semi-final against Rayan Kotecha before going down to Richard in the final (Richard had beaten Oscar White in his semi-final).

**Peter Wilson**  
**Closed Championships Secretary**