

## TOURNAMENT SUMMARY

We began as always with the hard bat tournament which proved to be popular again. There were some epic matches that went the full distance, but ultimately two of the favourites made the final in Sandor Koch and Will Michell. They provided a great battle with lots of entertainment for the crowd.. but ultimately Michell won 21-18.

The divisional singles were all competitive with plenty of entries. W.Michell transitioned seamlessly from the hard bat to win the Div 1 singles title. Div 2 singles looked wide open, and Jake Chan came through to win. It was Millie Ufton who was the class of the field in Div 3, seeing off strong competition. Brendon Mattley was too good in Div 4, showing us why he's top of the averages in that league.

The Div 2 doubles final provided one of the most entertaining matches of the day, with students Aalhad Kulkarni and Kalan Bhakta narrowly losing to Sawley's Jayantha Withanage and Charlie Parr. Div 3 doubles was surprisingly low on entries, but M.Ufton and Steve Campion came out on top. In Div 4 there was a small round robin, with Wai-Fung Mak and Tony Cook proving to be the strongest pair.

The ladies singles was also a round robin, and Millie Noble won all her matches to claim the trophy for the first time. Ella Barnard was women's runner-up.

The junior singles provided some great entertainment with Billy Shi and Malek Shamakh making the final. This was a great match, but ultimately Shi defended the title. The Under 40's was high on entries, and it was Ayush Buche who went on arguably the best run of the day to win this one. He beat W.Michell, Xingling Luo, Sam Pang and finally Koch in the final, coming back from 2-0 down in one of the longest matches of the day.

We had a healthy number of entries in the veteran singles (40+) and super veterans (60+). In the vets, defending champion Shan Gao played Jayantha in the final, with Jay claiming the title. Tony Smith was the standout player in the super vets, comfortably winning the 60+ category.

The showpiece event as always was the open singles, attracting more than 40 entries this year. It was the usual suspects getting through to the latter stages, with W.Michell, Koch, Buche and Max Flint in the semis. Michell and Flint made the final, and produced a very high quality contest. Michell was still playing extremely well, but couldn't quite secure his 3rd title of the day. Flint was a worthy winner, well deserved after several big wins.

The open handicap doubles was popular and good fun as always. There were lots of interesting pairs in contention - but it was two mixed teams that made it to the final in M.Ufton/T.Smith vs E.Barnard/T.Cook. It was Ufton & Smith who continued their winning habit for the day.

The open doubles was late getting started due to clashes with other events. Pang & Buche proved to be a strong pairing, seeing off the 'Michell brothers' of Will and Ollie in the semis. The other semi was Koch & Xingling vs Dan Broner & Barnard, with the latter progressing. The final match of the day didn't start until after 6pm, but the few remaining spectators were treated to a high quality fixture. You couldn't tell that the players had been battling for more than 8 hours by this point. Broner and Barnard looked the fresher of the pairs, winning the final 3-1.

Star performers and honourable mentions:

Millie Ufton - 🏆🏆🏆

Will Michell - 🏆🏆🏆

Tony Smith - 🏆🏆

Jayantha Withanage - 🏆🏆

Ella Barnard - 🏆🏆🏆

Ayush Buche - 🏆🏆

Tony Cook - 🏆🏆

Sandor Koch - 🏆🏆🏆

Honourable mentions go to Max Flint who is our new open singles champion, and Billy Shi for retaining the junior title. Lead organiser Tony Cook wanted to wish a big thank you to Jordan Tweed, Tom Young and Ron Forster who did a lot of work behind the scenes to make the event possible with more than 50 entries.

Thanks to Tony Cook who spent many hours doing all the draw sheets and Chris Ufton and Dan Broner for all your help on the day getting matches played. Thanks also to Draycott TTC for hosting the event.

Jordan Tweed