

## **HAYWARDS HEATH & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE** **ANNUAL CLOSED TOURNAMENT – SUNDAY 30TH MARCH 2014**

The tournament started promptly at 10am, despite the fact that we had moved the clocks on 1 hour, the previous evening. The morning event was the eagerly anticipated Handicap event, with a large entry of 32 participants, split into 8 groups of 4, with the top two in each group qualifying for the knock-out competition.

Some great games took place in the groups, with high handicappers pitched against Premier league players. Of the 16 that qualified for the knock-out stage, 7 were from the Premier league and 9 from the first division with no fewer than 7 juniors. Great handicapping from Lyle, and it shows the continued improvement from the current batch of juniors.

The first semi final saw 2 premier players pitched against each other, namely Andrew Sharland and Matthew Caddy, where Andrew overcame a 2 point handicap in favour of Matthew by winning 11-6, 11-13, 11-4, 11-3. The other semi final saw Eric Smith against the junior Tom Smith, with the junior having a 7 point handicap in his favour. Tom played really well to seal a victory 11-8, 10-12, 11-3 and 11-5. The final gave Tom an 8 point start against Andrew and a battle of patience ensued in a closely fought final going all the way to 5 sets. Andrew eventually won needing all his guile and experience 7-11, 12-10, 7-11, 11-8, 12-10 with Tom surprising everyone with his stroke play and getting a well deserved runner up trophy. It was good to see several of our new players this season entering the handicap competition, and they all thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

The next events were the Veterans competition and the Junior competition. Brian Taite is reporting separately on the junior event. As regards the Veterans, 14 competitors entered and because of time constraints, the event was run on a straight knock out basis rather than groups. The first semi final saw Paul Brinkhurst pitched against Barry Cheer, with Paul having pulled off a great victory in the quarter final to knock out the No.1 seed David Champneys in four sets. However, Paul could not repeat that success and went down in three straight sets to Barry 13-11, 11-8, 11-9. The second Semi final saw Andrew Sharland again ( after his success in the handicap event) against Fred Bodeau, with Andrew winning in straight sets 14-12, 11-7, 11-6. Andrew Sharland won the final against Barry 11-6, 11-9, 12-10, to take the his second title of the day.

The main event of the Championship singles then commenced with 24 competitors, split into 6 groups of 4, with the top two progressing to the main event and the bottom two going into the consolation event. The two surprises in the group rounds saw Dennis Hayden fail to qualify for the main event by losing to Angus Ogg and a creditable victory by Luke Gallagher over Bertrand Siu.

In the consolation event Dennis Hayden progressed to the final beating Bertrand Siu and Oliver Caddy on the way. The other berth in the final was taken by Lyle Cyster

who had beaten Toby Champneys and Mel Sims in the quarter and Semi final. With Lyle's dastardly spin serves he won the first two sets, but then Dennis buckled down to the task and won the last three sets to take the title 9-11, 10-12, 11-6, 11-3, 11-5. The Championship event saw No.1 seed Marc Burman progress to the final having beaten Tom Pomej in four sets in the Quarter and David Champneys in the Semi in straight sets. In the lower half of the draw junior Kate Cheer came through to the final having beaten Michael Bridger in the Quarter ( a repeat of the junior final) and then beating Andrew Sharland in the Semi. Marc Burman sealed the Championship title in fine style after a creditable effort by Kate Cheer 11-3, 11-4, 11-9.

The final event of the day was the doubles which involved 12 pairs. After closely fought groups and early knock out stages with several 4 and 5 set matches, the final resulted in no.1 seeds Tom Pomej and Fred Bodeau against the father and son combination of David and Toby Champneys. Tom and Fred lost the first set but then battled back to win the next three sets to take the doubles title, 8-11, 11-3, 11-2, 11-8.

The event was a great success with numbers of entries up from last year and thanks go to Lyle Cyster for all his organisation and to members of the committee and players who all helped to make this event such a success. A long and tiring day but enjoyed by all. The trophies for all the above tournament events together with the league titles and other cup competitions will be presented at the forthcoming presentation evening at the United Services club on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> April, 6-30 for 7, make sure you are there to give your support. Tickets available from Sam Monk.