

## **Hayward's Heath & District Closed Table Tennis Championships Season 2012-2013**

**Venue:** Warden Park School, Cuckfield

**Date:** Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2013

As expected the day was a rounding success and special mentions must go to our Secretary Phil Harvey for his superb organisation and help from league stalwarts Kevin Deacon, Mel Sims and Lyle Cyster. From all of us participants our grateful thanks.

### **Handicap Singles**

The first event the Handicap singles attracted thirty two players.

Surprises in earlier rounds were as follows:

Junior Kate Bridger beat Premier player David Metcalfe in straight sets, and junior Bertrand Siu wins in three over Paul Brinkhurst.

The quarter finals with good handicapping saw four of the final eight being juniors. These were Kate Bridger, Elliott Brook-Wadham, Bertrand Siu and Michael Bridger. The semis saw two juniors out of four finalists.

Michael Bridger overcame a handicap of eight to defeat his sister Kate in four sets to make the final. Second finalist Marc Burman defeated Veteran Lyle Cyster who had plus six, in straight sets.

The final was a classic affair Tutor vs. Pupil as Marc Burman was playing with his conventional bat and has not been beaten when playing with it for two years in the league. His opponent sixteen year old Michael Bridger had plus two start. Scores 11-8, 19-21, 12-10, 8-11, 11-8. Marc was the winner but in this match it couldn't really be said there was a loser.

### **Juniors**

Next on was the junior event. With ten top juniors playing, the top two seeds Michael Bridger and Kate Cheer were given a bye into the semis.

Quarter finals saw Toby Champneys defeating Charlie Hough and Annabel Bridger defeating Bertrand Siu.

Semis saw Michael Bridger defeating a very determined Toby Champneys 11-8 in the fifth and Kate Cheer defeating Annabel Bridger 11-8, 11-4, 11-6.

Final was as expected a gripping match between Kate Cheer and Michael Bridger with Michael coming out junior champion 10-12, 14-12, 11-8, 13-11.

The junior consolation saw Elliott Brook-Wadham the winner, Sam Oosterbaan runner up and Kate Bridger coming third.

## **Veterans**

Next on was the veterans competition and what a strong event it was. Paul Brinkhurst, Andrew Sharland, Eric Smith, Angus Ogg, Mounis Abosedira, Barry Cheer, Les Hopkins and Terry Dean all featured. With David Champneys not playing all were in with more than a chance. No wonder the vets got behind time with so many matches going to the wire.

Vets semis saw Eric Smith defeat Mounis Abosedira and Paul Brinkhurst defeat Barry Cheer.

The final saw Paul Brinkhurst defeating Eric Smith 11-6 in the fifth to become a very worthy champion.

## **Doubles**

The doubles championships saw some very close exciting rounds with top seeds Tomas Pomej and Fred Bodeau going out in the semis to Eric Smith and Andrew Sharland and Marc Burman and Annabel Bridger going out to Terry Dean and Les Hopkins.

In the final after a hard day Les and Terry went down in straight sets to Eric and Andrew the new doubles champions.

## **Consolation Singles**

To prove the strength of these championships, the singles consolation semis saw Eric Smith, Fred Bodeau, Matthew Caddy and Paul Brinkhurst fighting for a place in the final.

The final was between Paul and Fred. Fred was the winner defeating Vets Champion Paul Brinkhurst in a tight game.

## **Main Championship Singles**

The flagship event the singles championship was as expected the highlight of the day owing to the strength of the league. Defending Champion Marc Burman had a point to prove as he has played with his hard bat all season and had been beaten by some of the leagues top players.

Kate Cheer was the unlucky one as with no ladies championships Kate had to play against the top men. Kate came through the groups and then went on to defeat Les Hopkins in the quarters before coming up against Marc Burman in the semi. What a match it was. It really was touch and go as Kate pushed Marc all the way and just lost in the fifth set. This meant Marc had made the finals with his hard bat.

The other half saw Tomas Pomej coming up against Andrew Sharland in the quarters and go down in the fourth to put Andrew in the semis.

Junior Champion Michael Bridger defeated Richard Caddy in four sets in the last of the quarter finals to meet the on fire Andrew Sharland.

In this superb semi Michael came through in the fifth to meet with his coach and mentor Marc, in the final of the singles championships.

Marc was taking no chances and in another thrilling match won 13-11, 11-7, 11-7 to become Singles Champion 2013.

Quote from Marc 'I really wanted to win this tournament with my hard bat'.

So many matches were of such a high standard with exciting close finishes that table tennis was the real winner.

Report by Brian Taite.