

HAMPDEN PARK CLUB FINALS DAY 2016.

With over 60 matches being played throughout the summer in the qualifying rounds those lucky and skilful enough to win made it through to earn their place on finals day. The glorious mid September weather provided the perfect conditions for both the Junior and Adult matches.

The fun and family atmosphere was promoted as the junior event ran alongside the adult competition with spectators spoilt for choice with entertaining tennis from all quarters. The players umpired their own games and the true values of sportsmanship and fair play were in evidence throughout all day.

The Men's Singles opening final brought together the vastly experienced (old!) Richard Ellis against new member and young tennis coach Damien Adams. The early exchanges highlighted the difference in power with Adams usually able to hit with time to spare and Ellis rushed into playing off balance shots. The games contained entertaining rallies but the result was never in doubt with Adams winning 6-1, 6-2. The Adams attempt to gain a psychological edge by cooking and delivering Chocolate Brownies to court the crowd was tactically astute but ultimately unnecessary. A free tennis lesson for Ellis!

In the Men's Doubles match the 2015 champions of Simon Gent and Mike Usher were up against new the partnership of Adams and Ellis. This was a tense affair and many points were decided after long rallies. Holding serve in doubles is often the key to success and ultimately Gent and Usher found the returns too consistent and their serve was broken too often. After a spirited battle Gent and Usher went down 7-5, 6-3.

The Women's Doubles was played between the team of Kathleen Jones and Chloe Allistone and the mother daughter team of Amanda and Vanessa Bailey. This match involved many long baseline rallies and points were hard fought for. The Allistone power and Jones consistency proved too much for the family team and the 6-2, 6-4 score reflects this dominance.

Probably the closest final involved the Spanish Clay Court specialist Julien Sanchez against hard hitting Brit Gary Francis in the Singles B event. Think of Nadal v Murray in the Davies Cup and you have the image. Francis looked nervous and unsettled as Sanchez took the first set 6-1. Games were closer in the second set and Francis began to dominate with his easy power, it went to a tie

break and Francis took it 15-13, match levelled at one set all. Francis had 3 match points but eventually went down to Sanchez 12-10 in the third set, unlucky Gary.

The Men's Doubles B event was between the two left handed players of Grant Tarrant-Fisher and Luke Tilleard and Martin Ball and Andrew Lloyd. This was a classic tennis encounter between the consistent steady hitters of Ball and Lloyd and the more powerful but slightly erratic Tilleard and Tarrant-Fisher. The crowd were split over the possible outcome but the play of the lefties proved to be too strong for Ball and Lloyd who lost out 6-1,7-5 and Tarrant-Fisher and Tilleard lifted the trophy.

Mike Usher playing with Vanessa Bailey in the Mixed Doubles were up against the hard hitting partnership of Chloe Allistone and Avdo Alihodzic. Allistone and Alihodzic smashed the ball around and many shots were unplayable by their opponents but this style needs to be balanced with more conservative shots to keep the ball in the court. The balance was just off and Usher and Bailey came out on top 6-7, 6-2, 6-3. Usher is a regular winner of this event and has the ability to get the best play out of his partners, maybe he should try teaching as a profession?

There were 3 very good junior matches with Brown brothers both winning & older sister Marcia beating younger sister in the girls final! Aaron Brown defended his title with some high quality play & his younger brother Aidan was pushed to a very close match by Ben Usher

Results

8 & U Boys singles Aaron Brown bt Harrison Alvey 6-1 6-1

14 & U Boys Singles Aidan Brown bt Ben Usher 6-2 3-6 10-7

12 & U Girsl Singles Marcia Stubbings bt Etta Stubbings 6-2 6-3

Hampden Park is certainly the place for both competitive play with the club running 8 teams or social play with at least 5 drop in sessions.

Any child or adult interested in learning or returning to tennis should contact the Club Coach, Jenny Hughes 07831097864

With trial membership at £12 a month for adults and only £5 for children why not make a racket and join the fun at Hampden Park?

