

ALDERSHOT AND FARNHAM TENNIS TOURNAMENT 2005

The Aldershot and Farnham tennis tournament run by Aldershot and District LTA, held its annual Finals Day at Aldershot Tennis Centre on Sunday 11 September 2005.

The day was cold and overcast but when it came to the Men's singles the tennis was hot.

Gary Stanford (Aldershot TC) was up against Steven Bozas (Aldershot TC) for the second year running. Bozas won last year but Stanford (recent winner at the Eastbourne over 35 senior event) got away to a good start taking the first set 6-3. He wasn't having it all his own way though, Bozas stuck to his guns and won the 2nd set, but by the end of the 3rd set, Bozas had broken strings in at least 3 racquets, and Stanford came out the winner 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

Later in the day Bozas and Stanford teamed on to take on Aldershot Methodist pair Matt Marlow and Kevin Tucker in the Men's Doubles. Bozas and Stanford proved to be too much for this pairing who had spent all the previous day playing in finals at their own club and like their opponents had already played one final earlier in the day. Bozas and Stanford won 6-0, 6-0.

The Ladies Singles was a keenly fought match between Laura Williams of Camberley TC and Ann Holloway of Farnborough TC. It was good to see them making use of all of the court, moving each other around and striking the ball well. Holloway won 6-3, 6-3.

The Ladies Doubles was mother and daughter Mary and Rachel State of Camberley against Julie Ketteringham and Cathy Craggs of Merrow. The score line did not really do justice to the match. There was some stylish play but Ketteringham and Craggs were the stronger pair and won 6-0, 6-2.

The mixed doubles was between men's doubles pairings of Kevin Tucker with his partner Catherine O'Connor and Matt Marlow with partner Pam Hay. The first set swung

from one pairing to the other with Tucker and O'Connor eventually winning it at 7-5. Having battled for that set Marlow and Hay seemed to capitulate in the second set and Tucker and O'Connor won the match 7-5, 6-1.

Trust the Men in the Vet's Doubles to want to keep going for 3 sets. Graham Dickson and Bill McIntosh of Farnborough whose names regularly appear on the trophy battled it out against Roger Christie and Chris Longrigg of the Bourne. Dickson and McIntosh won the first set, but Christie and Longrigg then proceeded to take the first 3 games of the second set and eventually the set. At one set all the contest became even keener but the stalwarts of Dickson & McIntosh came out the eventual winners 6-1, 3-6, 6-4.

The Ladies Vets Doubles was a disappointment when Sharon Middlehurst partnered by Liz Jukes and both of Brightwell had to pull out due to injury. The match was awarded to Geraldine Carter and Mary State of Camberley.

Finally – the mixed super vets, an hour and forty minutes of closely fought tennis between John Hayman and Carol Crawford of the Bourne and Keith Morris (joint organiser of the tournament with Carole Lee) and Judy Sauter of Brightwell. This was a real ding-dong match with the lead again swinging one-way and then the other. In the second set Morris and Sauter were 5-2 up only to squander their lead and finally having to save several set points in the tiebreak to take the match 7-5, 8-6.

Aldershot Tennis Centre again hosted the finals with great efficiency. Next year's entry forms will be available at local clubs from April 2006 or will be downloadable from this website. Also check out the separate one-day junior tournament to be held in July 2006.