

BRISTOL CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS 2019

It had been exactly one hundred years since our first Closed Championships in the 1919/1920 season when our latest event was staged at the Filton WISE Academy on Sunday 3 March 2019, and although our thoughts on this windy and rain-swept day were on the competition itself, there were conversations amongst players and spectators inside recalling stories of many of our former champions over that last century. Over one hundred competitors met to do battle in over 370 individual matches spread across 14 events today, and by the end of play there would be some new, as well as old, names on the trophies. A brief description of each event is shown below.

OPEN SINGLES – Sixty eight entrants were seeded according to their league average position when the draw was made and split into qualifying groups, from which the top two progressed to the knock-out phase. In all sixteen groups the seedings went accordingly, apart from two, when **Alex Kearney** finished runner-up to **Chris Price**, but number 11 seed, **Nick Branch**, finished third behind **Moises do Rosario** and **Amir Radwan** and was eliminated early. There were also two upsets in the Last 16 stage, where 13th seed **Dominic Weston** went down in a tough five-setter to **Jack Vaughan**, and then **Sasi Anadraj** compounded **Alex Kearney**'s woes in another gruelling five-set display. The 2nd round qualifying match between **Marcin Szram** and **Ian**



Maggs also saw one of the highest scoring games of the day in all events (17-15). Anyway, the quarter final line-up saw number one seed, **Daniel Moses** see off **Gary Baldwin** in three sets; number two seed, **Louis Price** doing likewise to **David Hadley**; number three seed, **Joe Ratajczak** doing the same to number five seed, **Marcin Szram**, and number five seed, **Kai Moosmann**, completing the dismissals against number four seed, **Dave Reeves**. The first semi-final pitched the defending champion, **Joe Ratajczak**, against **Louis Price**. However, it was not to be a retaining of the treble title for Joe, and Louis ran out the winner (11-8, 11-8, 11-5). When the other semi-final between **Kai Moosmann** (*see left*) and the number one seed, **Daniel Moses**, was

announced, Louis wasted no time in stepping forward to umpire the match; no doubt to get a close-up insight of either of his opponent's play. Good idea, Louis! Also in his favour, was the fact it went to a sapping five sets. In a thrilling

display of outstanding table tennis, it was to be a great win for Kai, with even two match points against him saved at 10-8. Kai won the match 7-11, 12-10, 7-11, 11-8, 14-12. The final itself was played on the main show court and the full match has been preserved on video, with edited highlights already available on YouTube thanks to **Dan Ives**. In a captivating final, it would eventually be **Louis Price** (*see right*) who would run out the winner (12-10, 13-11, 7-11, 12-10), to become the second youngest winner of the title in our one hundred year history falling short by just 100 days behind **Shaun Hall**, our winner back in 2005. Congratulations, Louis.





OPEN DOUBLES - Nine pairs contested this ever-popular event where, after the initial knock-out phases, **Scott Cooper** and **Patrick MacFarlane** faced the new pairing of **Rob Chandler** and **Jon Thorn** (*see left*) in the first semi-final just losing out in a terrific five-setter, 10-12 in the fifth. The other semi-final was won in three sets by

Daniel Moses and **Louis Price** over **Kai Moosmann** and **Dominic Weston**, but the final itself took just three sets with Daniel and Louis triumphant (11-8, 11-5, 11-9) (*see right*). Congratulations to both of you.



LADIES' SINGLES – Unfortunately, we only had two entrants for this event: Premier player and winner of this event for the last two seasons, **Michele Reeves**, and division two player, **Jess Orlik** (*see left*), who was playing in her first ever Ladies' Singles final. Mind you, Jess is no stranger to appearing in Bristol Closed finals, having won eight titles, including four Junior Girls' Singles titles in these championships over the years, and currently still

holding that last record jointly with **Rebecca Seal**. Anyway, it was Michele who prevailed in this event today (11-6, 11-7, 11-5) to win her 10th Ladies Singles title and as a result she now has her sights set on **Terry Spokes'** 13 Ladies' Singles titles. Well done, Michele (*see right*).



VETERANS' SINGLES – This is always a popular event at these championships, and this was emphasised by forty three players entering, including two former champions; **Gary Baldwin** and the current one, **Dave Reeves**. At the end of the initial twelve group stages and then the Last 16



matches, there were no real surprises this year. In the quarter finals, **Gary Baldwin** beat **Michele Reeves** in three, as did **David Hadley** against **Dean Sully** and then **Dave Reeves** against **Rob Chandler**, but it was the last match that went to five sets, with **Emma Rose** defeating **Nick Branch** (12-10, 6-11, 3-11, 11-2, 11-7). However, Emma would succumb in the semis to **Dave Reeves** in three, whilst Gary would suffer similarly against **David Hadley** (*see above left*).

When the first two games were evenly won in the final, it was the exhausting third that probably was the decider, as it went the way of **Dave Reeves** (*see right*) as did the fourth game too, and so it was that Dave would retain his title (11-7, 8-11, 16-14, 11-6). Congratulations, Dave.





VETERANS' DOUBLES – Unfortunately one half of the current holders of this event, **Gary Dunning** was unable to take part today at the last minute, and so **Rob Chandler** paired up with **David Goacher**. However, they lost their match against **Moises do Rosario** and **Gareth Edmunds** who themselves missed out in the semi-final to **Brian Reeves** (*see left*) (who also stood in at the last minute to replace the unwell **Barry Fudge**) who partnered **Mike Bishop**. Please note that Brian is seen here holding two trophies as Mike had to dash off for his train. On the other side of the draw, yet another casualty was HCC's **Martyn Millard** who was last-minute

substituted by club-mate, **Mervyn George**, who joined **Nick Branch**. They beat **Martin Brittain** and **Derek Connop**, but then lost to **Gary Baldwin** and **Jon Thorn**, who themselves capitulated to **Emma Rose** and **Michele Reeves** in the other semi. Emma had previously won this event three times with **Martin Gunn**, whereas Brian had won it twice before with **Gary Baldwin**, the first being in 1993/1994. Anyway, this year the final was won 11-5, 11-7, 11-7 by Emma and Michele (*see right*). Well done to you both, and we hope you get well soon Gary, Barry and Martyn.



MIXED DOUBLES – Yet another event where **Emma Rose** had won the title three times, but this year she was partnering **Ronan Elder**. The current holders though, **Anthony Kent** and **Emily Standing**, did not take part this year. Anyway, the first match up in this three-way round robin final saw Emma and Ronan (*see left*) win a gruelling five-setter (8-11, 9-11, 11-6, 11-9, 11-6) against **Daniel Moses** and **Rebecca Burton**. This was followed by the husband and wife dream

team of **Dave and Michele Reeves** (*see right*) who also defeated Daniel and Rebecca (10-12, 11-87, 11-3, 11-9). The next match therefore effectively turned out to be the decider, which was eventually claimed by Dave and Michele in four (11-7, 8-11, 11-1, 11-7) to collect their third Mixed Doubles title together. Well played Michele and Dave.



OVER 60 SINGLES – The Over 55 Singles event was last held in the 2015/2016 season and replaced by this event and an Over 70 Singles one. As such, there were only two previous winners: **Dave Adamson** and **Gary Baldwin**. The initial group stages had no upsets really, nor indeed did the knock-out phase, apart from a great five-set triumph for **Mervyn George** over **Mark Kinlocke** in the next qualifying match. Another five-set encounter was fought out in the next quarter final stage, with **Nick Branch** just pipping **Alan Papier** in the fifth (14-12). However, he then lost out to **Chris Whale** (*see left*) in

the semi-final, whilst the two former champions squared up on the next table, which resulted in a close win for **Gary Baldwin** over **Dave Adamson** (11-9, 8-11, 11-8, 11-9). The final was a terrific see-saw match which resulted in a second title for Gary winning 8-11, 11-5, 9-11, 11-2, 11-4. You can see Gary on the right beaming here from ear to ear, because he knew he had just won his 29th title in our championships, and is now just one win away from equalling **Joan Collier**'s record of 30. Big year next year then, eh Gary?



OVER 70 SINGLES – There were five adversaries in this round-robin event, but with the 2016/2017 initial winner, **Dennis Coombe**, having to withdraw on the day, it would be left to the current holder, **Terry Toghill**, to make it two in a row if he could. **Brian Reeves**, **Alan Papier**, **Martin Moore** and **Tony Cooper** would make up the quintet. The seedings went according to plan, until a fantastic match between Alan and Terry which was won by the current holder (6-11, 11-6, 9-11, 11-7, 11-5), but then Terry himself

lost out in three games to Brian (*see left*) . The last match in the group, however, proved crucial, as Alan beat Brian (8-11, 11-8, 11-8, 11-8). As a consequence, three players ended with three wins each – it would go to a countback and was eventually decided on the total games difference. Winning by just the extra one, it was Brian who would be the runner-up and **Alan Papier** (*see right*) would be seeing his name engraved on the trophy. Congratulations, Alan.



DIVISION 1-2 SINGLES – At the end of the initial groupings, there was just one big upset, as **Grzegorz Krol** missed out to both **Steve Doidge** and **Darron Jones**. Steve then caused another upset by toppling one of the favourites, **Raymond Hall**, in the Last 16 round. The quarter final line-up saw **Ian Maggs** v **Andy Boucher**, **Steve Doidge** v **Andy Elliott**, **Jack Vaughan** v **Steve Hicks** and **Julian Elsbury** v **Adam Thorne**. In all these instances, the first-named pairings successfully made it into the semi-finals, though Julian had the toughest journey going

to five sets with Adam. However, Julian would then miss out to young **Jack Vaughan** (*see left*), as too did Steve playing some great table tennis on the day, but just lost in the fifth to a resolute **Ian Maggs**. The final was a show-stopper, with some wily and canny play from Ian, and some brilliant retrieval strokes from Jack - on one occasion even from outside the barriers! However, Ian (*see right*) was to win the title, having been runner-up in 1992 and 2015. Well done, Ian.





DIVISION 1-2 DOUBLES – Four pairs contested this event, with **Ian Maggs** and **Julian Elsbury** defeating **Grzegorz Krol** and **Rebecca Burton** in one quarter final four-setter, **Jess Orlik** and **Darron Jones** also beating **Andy Boucher** and **Paul Jeffery** in four sets, **Raymond Hall** and **Simon Monks** doing likewise over **David Boozari** and **Derek Connop**, whilst **Jack Vaughan** and **Adam Thorne** took just three sets to beat **Grzegorz Krol** and **Rebecca Burton**. The two semi-finals were also completed in

Portishead's **Steve Doidge** and **Mark Ratajczak** four sets! For Simon and Raymond it must have been the intoxicating aroma of the bacon rolls cooking wafting in from the café next door that distracted them as they yielded to Jack and Adam, whilst Jess and Darron lost a close one against **Ian Maggs** and **Julian Elsbury** (*see above*). And so to the final, which really could have gone either way, but it was a five-set victory (11-9, 14-16, 11-5, 5-11, 11-7) for **Jack Vaughan** and **Adam Thorne** (*see right*) over Ian and Julian. Congratulations this time to all four players, but especially to Jack, who has now won his 11th championship title since his first in the Under 11 Boys' Singles back in 2005. Watch out **Gary Baldwin**!



DIVISION 3-5 SINGLES – Another well-contested event, with 23 players looking to win the title which was last year won by **Jianlong Guo** who did not enter this year. All the top seeds made it safely through to the KO stages and on to the following quarter finals, which saw number



one seed, **Jake Tucker** (*see left*), face fellow club-mate, **Ray Jenkins**, **Terry Toghill** meeting **Jack Jenkins**, **Ronan Elder** against **Amir Radwan** and the only quarter final match without a Portishead representative, **Georges Chabbert** confront **Neil Darnley**. In fact, congratulations must be made to Portishead TTC here, as they fielded by far the most players at this whole tournament today. Anyway, as it turned out, only two players from that club reached the semis, but they were the top two seeds! Both would

prevail, as Ronan dispatched Georges (11-8, 11-7, 11-6) and Jake saw off the spirited challenge of **Terry Toghill** (11-7, 9-11, 13-11, 12-10). However, there was an element of revenge here, as so far this season in the league, Terry is only one of two players to have beaten Jake. The final was a hum-dinger, between two young players probably destined for at least division one next season, and resulted in a great win for **Ronan Elder** (*see right*) over **Jake Tucker**. Congratulations, Ronan.





DIVISION 3-5 DOUBLES – The first two qualifying rounds saw successes for both **Michael Smith** and **Steve Tainton** and **Martin Brittain** and **Emmanuel do Rosario**, but both pairs would exit at the quarter final stage to the top two seeds respectively, **Neil Darnley** and **Daniel Lunt** and **Ronan Elder** and **Amir Radwan**. Meanwhile, **Ray Jenkins** and **Stephen Knight** would beat **Mervyn George** and **Dennis Coombe**, and **Jake Tucker** and **Jack Jenkins** would need five sets to beat **Georges Chabbert** and **David**

Goacher. The first semi resulted in a win for Neil and Daniel against Ray and Stephen, but in a really competitive second semi-final match, it would be Jake and Jack overcoming Ronan and Amir in five sets. The final itself was won in four sets though (11-5, 5-11, 11-8, 11-9) by Jake and Jack over Neil and Daniel (*see above left*). This was a second win for Jake having partnered **David Boozari** to victory last year. Well done to another Portishead pair walking away with the trophies, **Jack Tucker** and **Jack Jenkins** (*see right*).



DIVISION 6-7 SINGLES – This event probably hosted more surprises than any other. The number one seed and current title holder of this event, **Louie Scotto di Perta**, could only win one match in the group stage finishing third, and was thus eliminated. The number two seed, **Luke di Notaro**, however, had no problems, and beat **Zoltan Gal** in the quarters and then **Peter Rex** in the semi-final. On the other side of the draw, **Milan Gal** beat **Kyle Ledbury** in the quarter

final in four sets, but group winner, **Andrew Page**, needed five tight sets to despatch **Ade Dayo** first, and then **Milan Gal** in the semi-final, which included the highest scoring game on the day (12-10, 17-19, 11-7, 11-7). Never having played each other before, it was the Bridgwater junior who would defeat **Luke di Notaro** (*see left*) to claim his first title in the Bristol Closed. Congratulations, **Andrew Page** (*see right*).





(see above). Having earlier lost his Division 6-7 Singles title, there was no messing this time for Louie and his partner, and they grabbed the match (11-6, 11-8, 15-13). The other semi-final resulted in a three set win for **Ricardo Perpetua** and **Phil Taylor** over **Ade Dayo** and **Ken Ihekwoaba**. In the final match, Louie and Luke lost the first two sets but claimed the third. However, the fourth went the way of **Phil Taylor** and **Ricardo Perpetua** (see right) who soon found themselves holding the winning trophies. Well done Phil, and especially Ricardo looking really pleased with himself here! Back of the net!

DIVISION 6-7 DOUBLES – One half of last year’s runners-up, **Kyle Ledbury** who partnered **Amir Radwan**, this time partnered **Khaled Radwan** in the first round eliminator in this event against **Zoltan Gal/Milan Gal**, but it was not to be for him twelve months on, as yet another see-saw five-setter resulted in a win for Zoltan and Milan (11-8, 4-11, 11-5, 7-11, 11-6). However, in the next match, the first semi-final, Messrs Gal faced last year’s winners, **Luke di Notaro** and **Louie Scotto di Perta**



Overall then, it appeared that competitors and spectators alike enjoyed a really good day of table tennis in our prestigious championships which were held one hundred years since our first. With the option of allowing players to elect to play in up to four events this year, but still having to finish before 7pm, it was a fully expected organisational nightmare, but it was most definitely a challenge.....and we all did it. However, we could not have achieved what we did without the help of a number of people devoting their time in setting up the hall the evening before, so thank

you to you all.....you know who you are. Also, to **Nick Davidson** and his team from the WISE Academy who ensured that we kept on track throughout the day and who stepped in whenever needed, but more so for allowing us to use their premises. Thank you also to all of the umpires, without whose help several matches would have not even started when they did, but especially to **Martin Moore**, who seemed to umpire the most as well as working out a few mathematically-tied matches. Thank you too to our President, **June Watts**, who came along to watch and present the trophies today to all of our winners. The videoing of some finals and general filming, as well as some interviews, were carried out by **Dan Ives** and **Mark Kinlocke**, and we all look forward to seeing the results in due course – thank you. Thanks also to **Andy Elliott** for always seeming to be there when needed him at the reception table, but most importantly, thanks must go wholeheartedly to the three most crucial people at my side, Charlotte, Hayley and Duncan, who were around me from start to finish and without whose help we could never have done it.....so thank you. Let’s hope then that next year’s Bristol Closed Championships will be even better, and that more records are set or broken.....you know who you are! The definitive list of winners and runners-up in all the above events is shown on the next page.

Thank you.

	Winner	Runner-up
Open Singles	Louis Price	Kai Moosmann
Open Doubles	Louis Price/Daniel Moses	Rob Chandler/Jon Thorn
Ladies' Singles	Michele Reeves	Jess Orlik
Veterans' Singles	David Reeves	David Hadley
Veterans' Doubles	Michele Reeves/Emma Rose	Brian Reeves/Mike Bishop
Mixed Doubles	David Reeves/Michele Reeves	Ronan Elder/Emma Rose
Over 60 Singles	Gary Baldwin	Chris Whale
Over 70 Singles	Alan Papier	Brian Reeves
Division 1-2 Singles	Ian Maggs	Jack Vaughan
Division 1-2 Doubles	Jack Vaughan/Adam Thorne	Ian Maggs/Julian Elsbury
Division 3-5 Singles	Ronan Elder	Jake Tucker
Division 3-5 Doubles	Jake Tucker/Jack Jenkins	Neil Darnley/Daniel Lunt
Division 6-7 Singles	Andrew Page	Luke di Notaro
Division 6-7 Doubles	Phil Taylor/Ricardo Perpetua	Luke di Notaro/Louis Scotto di Perta
