

REPORT ON THE CHESHUNT LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS, **HELD SATURDAY 11TH MARCH 2017**

This year's championships were again held at Ellenborough TTC and organised by Digger Lamprell. The tournament consisted of six events:

The **Open Singles** had a strong entry and was very competitive. After the group stage and the first knockout round, the quarter-finals saw Dave Langham of Grundy Park beating Fred Nash of Kidston, Martin Nash of Kidston beating Abdul Olagboyega of Herts Regional College, Chris Wade of HRC Beating Phil Shepherd of Kidston and Atanas Shalev of Ellenborough beating Gill Toumbas of Ellenborough B. In the semi-finals, Dave beat Martin and Atanas beat Chris. The final was hard fought but was eventually won by Atanas Shalev, who retained the title that he won last year.

The **Ladies Singles** had a small entry but nevertheless produced some very good play and close results. The deciding contest was between June Nelson of Ellenborough and Gill Toumbas of Ellenborough B. Gill got off to a good start, winning the first two games 18-16 and 11-7 but June fought back hard to take the next two games, both by 11 points to 8. Gill had been well behind at times but managed to fight back in the fifth and finally won it 11-8 to retain the title that she had won last year.

In the **Over 55 Singles** we were guaranteed a new champion, as last year's winner and runner up had not entered this time. In the semi-finals, Phil Shepherd beat Peter Bayman of Ellenborough B and Chris Wade beat Fred Nash. This set up a repeat of the Open Singles quarter-final between Phil and Chris, which Chris had won. This time, however, it was Phil who came out on top and he took the title, with Chris as runner-up.

The **Division 2 Singles** did not include last year's champion Abdul Olagboyega, as he now plays in division 1, but it did include at least two previous champions as well as some other strong contenders. The semi-finals saw Peter Bayman beating Tony Cutbush of Cheshunt and Gill Toumbas beating Dudu Souleiman of Cheshunt C. This set up the final between the two Ellenborough B team-mates, both of whom had won the title in the past. It was a very close match but Peter finally came out on top, regaining the title that he had held three years ago.

The final event, the **Drawn Doubles**, always produces some interesting combinations and is a very enjoyable event, matching up players who have often never played together before and may never have seen each other play. In the first semi-final, Dave Langham of Grundy Park and Joan Bayman of Ellenborough B beat open champion Atanas Shalev of Ellenborough and Alan Hill of Ellenborough B. In the second semi-final, Fred Nash of Kidston and Sam Flaum of Grundy Park beat Over 55s champion Phil Shepherd and Joe Torres of Cheshunt C. The hard-fought final was won by Dave Langham and Joan Bayman, who proved just a bit too consistent and aggressive for their opponents.

Thanks to everyone who took part and to Digger for doing a great job as usual!