

PARSONS AND YARDLEY WIN FUN DOUBLES

Half term, in a break from the regular divisional matches, saw the return of the annual fun doubles with players paired up on the night. The 34 attendees were split into two groups with partnerships based upon the player's division and their individual winning average. So, for example top seed Adam Teare of Division One played with Lauren Allwright of Division Four. Each match was the best of three sets with the top two placed pairings from each group going through to the semi-finals.

Group Stages

Group A was topped by third seed Khayee Vinas, who is playing her first season for Arbory in Division One, alongside Dylan Yardley of Surestrike Ramsey. The pair won seven of their eight matches, losing only to Peel's Matty Evans and St Ninian's Archie Walter in three close sets. Evans and Walter won six of their eight matches and, despite winning the same number as Margaret Forsyth and Neil Dudley, they were placed third. The result was decided by the match between them which Forsyth and Dudley secured in straight sets.

Peel players Malc Lewis and Callan Reed finished 4th with five wins. Malcolm Lambert/Pat Halliwell came 5th with three wins, the same as Teare/Allwright who were involved in the longest match of the night when they lost 13/15, 16/14, 14/16 to Paul Nelson/Josh Dudley. The wooden spoon was split between three pairings, Jane Kneale/Leo Doyle, Dave Callow/Heather Kennett and the above mentioned Nelson/Dudley who all earned two wins apiece.

Group B was edged by two of the top seeds from Division Three Travellers' Alan Harding and Peel's Ken Hegarty with six wins out of seven. They were closely followed by Dave Parsons and Alex Yardley who also won the same number of matches. Again, the split decision came down to the result when they met which Harding and Hegarty claimed in three very close sets 9/11, 12/10, 11/8. Third place went to Maggie Mulhern and Cameron Dudley who won four of their matches. Second seed Juan Moore also bombed out alongside Luke Hegarty with the pair winning three of their matches. Rhys Yardley/Leon Crowe, Colin Brown/Sam Preece and Barry Jenkins/Kitty Thomas each enjoyed two wins.

Semi finals

The first semi-final was between group A winners Khayee Vinas and Dylan Yardley and group B runners up Dave Parsons and Alex Yardley which turned out to be a very close match. Young Dylan and Vinas took the first set 12/10. However, Parsons and Dylan's older brother, Alex, brought it back winning the remaining two sets 11/8, 11/8, to progress through to the final.

The second semi-final between Group B winners Alan Harding and Ken Hegarty against group A runners up Margaret Forsyth and Neil Dudley proved to be another close match. Harding and Hegarty lost the first game but fought back to win the following sets more comfortably seeing them through to the final 7/11, 11/7, 11/5.

The Final

This was an all group B final with Alan Harding and Ken Hegarty looking to repeat their victory over Dave Parsons and Alex Yardley. Parsons and Yardley had other ideas however, and despite losing the previous encounter they dominated the fun double final against their older opponents winning in two comfortable games 11/7, 11/6.

All agreed it had indeed been a fun evening and most of the top seeds contributed to this by restraining their efforts in order to ensure that the less experienced players were not intimidated or bamboozled by spin and power. Our thanks go to IoMTTA chairman Maggie Mulhern for organising the evening and ensuring that things ran to time.

JUAN MOORE