Colchester Championship results

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WARNER WORTHY WINNER

Andy Warner (Tollgate A) beat Steve Joslin (H20 Rowhedge A) to win the Colchester Men's Singles Table Tennis Championship and did it the hard way, defeating each of the winners from the previous three years!

The final against Joslin lived up to expectations with Joslin's controlled returns of Warner's trademark backhand drives the highlight in a tight 12-10 win. Warner hit back winning the next two ends both 11-9, his retrieving was exceptional, somehow managing to keep the ball low while at the same time varying his spin.

The fourth game disappeared quickly as Joslin took the initiative 11-3, his class seemingly giving more time to selectively play his shots. However, the 2010 champion did not enjoy the early 'rub of the green' in the final end as Warner, despite carrying a shoulder injury that prevented him from playing the previous day opened up a gap at the changeover, eventually running out a worthy winner.

Earlier Warner defeated Greg Green, the 2009 champion, coming back from 2-1 down and followed that up with a three straight games win in a repeat of last year's final over Antony Greenwood. In the semi-final he came up against fellow Ipswich player Mike Wright, who was two games down and 10-5 up. Warner stepped up a gear, taking the set 13-11 to reach the final meeting Joslin who beat a tentative Richard Goodhand in the other semi-final.

Joslin won in straight games with Goodhand missing several forehand smashes that normally he puts away. He in turn had previously taken out the dangerous Jason Yung.

In the Ladies Final Aimee Sparkes (Gt Horkesley A) retained her title beating Gill Locke (St James A) playing her first season in Colchester. Their hard hitting styles led to a primarily back hand dual, with Sparkes extra spin against Locke's flatter hitting in contrast. Sparkes won in four close sets completing a hat trick of successive Ladies titles.

The Veterans 40+ Singles pitted the 2011 champion Nigel Hodder (Tollgate A) against the 2010 winner Mike Wright (Gt Horkesley A) and they provided the best 'Vets' final in many years.

Hodder 'burst out of the blocks' going into a 7-0 lead. However, Wright was not to be outdone and fought back to level at 7-7 and duly take the set 16-14! Hodder won the next 14-12 and the following third set 11-5 but the 'terrier-like' Wright was not to be beaten, playing two superb back-hand lobs to take a vital point, eventually winning 11-7, 11-8 in five of the most action-packed games of the night.

Hodder had earlier beaten Ian Whiteside (Pegasus A) in the Over 50's final with Alan Burgess (H20 Rowhedge D) also retaining his Over 60's title against Fred Button (H20 Rowhedge C).

The new pairing of Nigel Hodder and Kevin Gowlett (H20 Rowhedge B) beat the more defensive Andy Warner and Gary Young (Gt Horkesley C) in five tight games in the Men's Doubles final. Earlier there was a major shock with holders and odds-on favourites Antony Greenwood and Michael Andrews (H20 Rowhedge A) going out in the early stages to David Moss and John Andrews (H20 Rowhedge B) avenging defeat in last year's final.

In a repeat of last year's Ladies Doubles final Janet Faiers and Aimee Sparkes (Gt Horkesley) once again beat Sue Welham (Tollgate A) and Hazel Hume (St Peters) this time in four games.

The level of table tennis was taken to new heights in this year's Mixed Doubles competition with a mother-son combination winning for the first time. Gill Lock and James Denyer (St James A) beat Annabelle Rodriguez (St James B) and Colin Stallwood (Tollgate A) in three competitive games 12-10, 12-10, 11-5.

The holders and favourites Aimee Sparkes and Mike Wright (Gt Horkesley A) went out in the first round as Jane Li and Greg Green (Tollgate) came back from two games down to beat them playing together for the first time.

James Denyer won the Junior Boys final, beating Tom Lewis (Tollesbury A) in three straight sets, who had consolation in winning the Senior Handicap Singles final. Jane Li (Tollgate C) retained the Junior Girls singles title beating Alice Rudge (H20 Rowhedge) once again.

Li lost out to a much improved Jermaine Fearon (H20 Rowhedge) in the Cadet final in five excellent games. Fearon had a busy weekend having entered no fewer than ten events; he also won the Junior Handicap Singles and Senior Handicap Doubles with Josh Sidiki both products of the Rowhedge club.

Alan Burgess regained the Division Two Singles event with Steve Holland (Gt Horkesley D) winning the Division Three title and Russell Hillier (St James D) the Division Four crown.

Another successful tournament was enjoyed by all as once again proof was had that table tennis can be enjoyed by all age groups, a credit to the organisers!

COLCHESTER CLOSED TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-Finals:

Andy Warner bt Mike Wright 3-0 (11-9, 11-8, 13-11)
Steve Joslin bt Richard Goodhand 3-0 (15-13, 11-9, 11-6)

Junior Boys Final:

James Denyer bt Tom Lewis 3-0 (11-4, 11-4, 11-6)

Ladies Doubles Final:

Aimee Sparkes & Janet Faiers bt Sue Welham & Hazel Hume 3-1 (15-13, 2-11 , 11-6, 13-11)

Veteran's 40+ Final:

Mike Wright bt Nigel Hodder 3-2 (16-14, 12-14, 5-11, 11-7, 11-8)

Mixed Doubles Final:

Gill Locke & James Denyer bt Annabelle Rodriguez & Colin Stallwood 3-0 (12-10, 12-10, 11-5)

Men's Doubles Final:

Kevin Gowlett & Nigel Hodder bt Andy Warner & Gary Young 3-2 (9-11, 11-7, 9-11, 11-8, 12-10)

Ladies Singles Final:

Aimee Sparkes bt Gill Locke 3-1 (11-8, 8-11, 11-6, 11-9)

Men's Singles Final:

Andy Warner bt Steve Joslin 3-2 (10-12, 11-9, 11-9, 3-11, 11-7)

Saturday's Events
Winner & Runner-up

Cadet Singles Jermaine Fearon bt Jane Li

Junior Girls Singles Jane Li bt Alice Rudge

Junior Doubles Adam Cuthbert & Jermaine Fearon bt Andrew Harvey & Tom Lewis

Junior Handicapped Singles Jermaine Feron bt Dan Rhodes

Junior Handicapped Doubles Andrew Harvey & Thomas Lewis bt Alice Rudge & Adam Cuthbert

Senior Handicapped Singles Tom Lewis bt Chris Brook

Senior Handicapped Doubles Jermaine Fearon & Josh Sidiki bt Alice Rudge & Adam Cuthbert

Division 2 Singles Alan Burgess bt Matt Watson

Division 3 Singles Steve Holland bt Nathan Nicol

Division 4 Singles Russell Hillier bt Richard Baxter

Veteran's 50+ Singles Nigel Hodder bt Ian Whiteside

Veteran's 60+ Singles Alan Burgess bt Fred Button

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