



McBeath wins Commonwealth Fair Play Award

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Posted On: December 21, 2015

David McBeath has capped a memorable Commonwealth Championships by winning the Fair Play Award.



David McBeath with the Fair Play Award

His sportsmanship was recognised at the end of the tournament in Surat, India, where McBeath was part of the England team which won silver, as well as reaching the singles last 16 and mixed doubles quarter-finals.

The Southampton player said: "I'm very honoured that they have recognised my sportsmanship and that this has not gone unnoticed."

On the tournament as a whole, he added: "In the beginning I wasn't too sure how I was going to go because I felt a slight niggle in my shoulder, but once I got started I actually felt quite good."

"I think the result against Singapore was fairly unexpected. Especially with a younger team, everyone was expecting we probably weren't going to make it past that match, so to win that was good and we all got one point each, which was a massive team effort.

"In the final against India, I think I had a good chance to win my second match but having said that everyone put in quite a good performance, especially the young lads should be proud of themselves.

"In the singles, I'm a bit disappointed, I definitely had a good shout to go quite far. I feel like I didn't play as smart as I could have done but I gave it everything and I didn't give up. Overall I'm quite happy with how I played."

The rest of the England players have also been speaking about their experiences in Surat.

Alex Ramsden (team silver, first round singles, second round doubles)



Alex Ramsden

"I was very happy to be picked. Even though I realised for the team event I wouldn't be able to get as many matches as maybe hoped for because of being No 4 in the team. But as soon as I got my match against Ireland it was good that I won it.

"After Ireland I realised I probably wouldn't be playing so I was getting myself prepared for the singles. I had quite a tough group but as I was playing I was thinking I've got a good chance of getting through. The Sri Lankan guy that I beat, that was a really good win for me – he's quite an unorthodox player.

"The guy from Cyprus was hard to play against because he had a lot more power and I'm normally dealing with younger players. He was hitting the ball much harder and it was harder to control. But overall I think it was a good tournament for me."

Helshan Weerasinghe (team silver, singles last 16)



Helshan Weerasinghe

“Obviously it was great to get to the final of the teams and I was especially pleased with my performance leading up to the final, especially the match against Singapore. I thought I showed a level that I knew I was capable of performing at but maybe hadn’t before, and I’ve shown that to everyone.

“I was really pleased to come back from 2-1, 8-5 down in that match against Singapore and win that for the team to get to the gold medal match.

“I was a bit disappointed with my performance in the final. I felt that nerves got to me a little and I didn’t perform to my best but nevertheless a silver medal is pretty good, considering we beat the top seeds.

“In the singles I felt I played well again. It was a tough match in the last 32 against McCreery – he played a lot better than in the team event.

“The match against Desai – he was third seed, the local boy, on national TV and it was a privilege to be in that situation. It’s difficult to accept losing 16-14 in the seventh but I have to be happy with that performance and I am happy with that performance.”

Tom Jarvis (team silver, doubles second round, singles group stage)



Tom Jarvis

"I'm obviously happy with the team event. I thought we did really well to step up and beat Singapore to get to the final, and I was happy with my wins in it, but disappointed that the final didn't go our way.

"In the singles I played well and lost a close match against an Indian. Overall it's been a really good learning experience and I'm really happy I got the opportunity to compete.

"It's about learning the senior game and trying to step up from juniors to seniors, seeing how Dave and Helshan are coping and knowing I've got to raise my game to be on a par with these guys."

Karina Le Fevre (team bronze, mixed doubles quarter-finals, singles last 16)



Karina Le Fevre

"We did well in the team event to get a bronze medal. We did well to win some of the matches, me against Singapore and Maria did really well to win a match against India.

"It's a bit of a shame I couldn't do more in my singles but it's just the way she played, it's really awkward – I think a lot of the Indians are. I've learned a few things that I'm going to have to practise more in training.

"A lot of them are very consistent. In England you would play a powerful shot and probably win the point but here they will block everything back, so it's more about changing the pace and changing the spins. There's a lot more to think about in the point rather than just hitting a big winner.

"It's about being more consistent in practice and thinking about it when you're at home."

Tin-Tin Ho (team bronze, doubles quarter-finals, singles quarter-finals)



Tin-Tin Ho

"I think we did well in the team event, the girls played really well to get a bronze. In doubles, I think Maria and I are really disappointed because we had a really good chance against the Singaporeans but there's a lot to work on, we know exactly what to work on. Same in the singles, unfortunately."

Maria Tsapsinos (team bronze, doubles quarter-finals, singles last 16)



The full England squad including officials

"I think I started better, as in I peaked at the beginning. I played well in the team event, had some good wins,

then it went a bit more downhill.

“Singles, last 16 I played as best as I could. Maybe I was tired from the other days but wasn’t playing at my best. She’s a good player, I can’t really do anything about it now, I’ve just got to learn. Maybe if I’d played her near the beginning of the tournament it might have been different.”

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