

Defending champions make flying start

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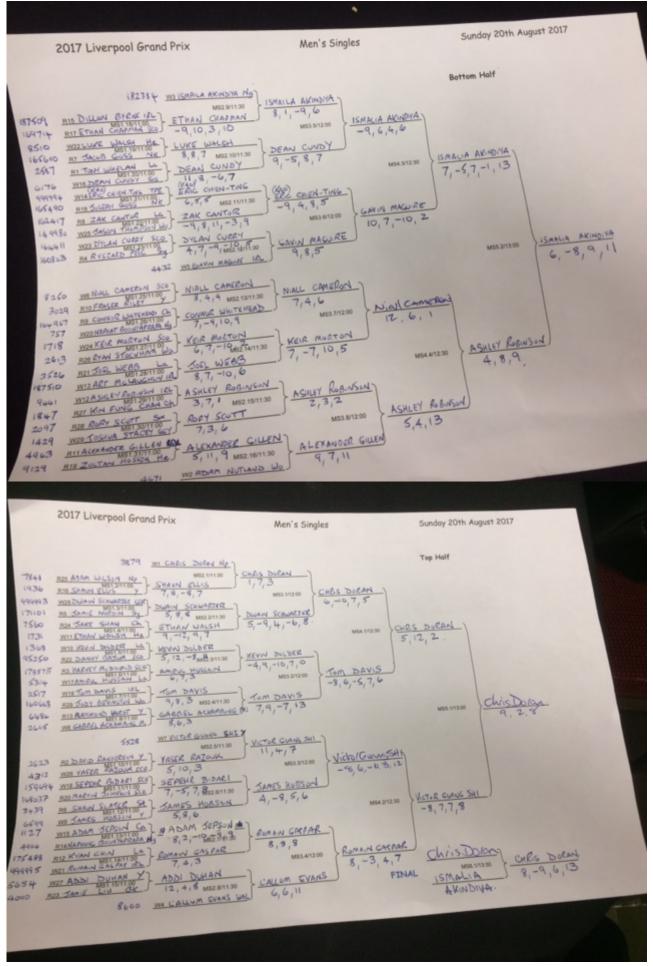
Chris Doran and Karina Le Fevre opened the defence of their overall Grand Prix series titles in the best possible way by claiming the men's and women's singles titles respectively at the season-opening Liverpool Grand Prix.

Men's Singles

Chris Doran was largely untroubled as he picked up where he left off last season with victory in the Men's Singles.

The Northamptonshire player lost only two games in the event, one of the them in the final where he beat third seed Ismaila Akindiya 3-1 (11-8, 9-11, 11-6, 15-13).

Akindiya had ended a good run by Ireland's Ashley Robinson, the 12th seed, in the semi-finals, while Doran overcame Victor Shi, ranked No 7.



Men's Singles results

Women's Singles

Karina Le Fevre made hard work of it but got her own overall series defence off to a good start with a 3-0 (11-7, 11-4, 11-8) win over Gauri Duhan.

The England international had lost her opening group match 3-2 (11-2, 9-11, 6-11, 11-4, 3-11) to Beth Richards of Wales, but victories over Jamie-Lee Harley and Jennie Yang saw her through in second place.

She was further inconvenienced in the knockout stages, first coming from 2–0 down to defeat Rebecca Matthes of Scotland 3–2 (9–11, 9–11, 11–5, 11–9, 11–9) and then 2–1 down to young Welsh star Anna Hursey, prevailing 3–2 (9–11, 11–2, 11–13, 11–6, 11–6). Her semi-final was a relatively calmer 3–0 (12–10, 11–8, 11–5) win over Rebecca Plaistow.

Duhan had also come through two five-game matches in the earlier rounds, sinking Richards 11-8, 11-6, 10-12, 4-11, 11-5) and then, in a thrilling semi-final, Megan Phillips 11-6, 5-11, 14-12, 13-15, 14-12.



Women's Singles results

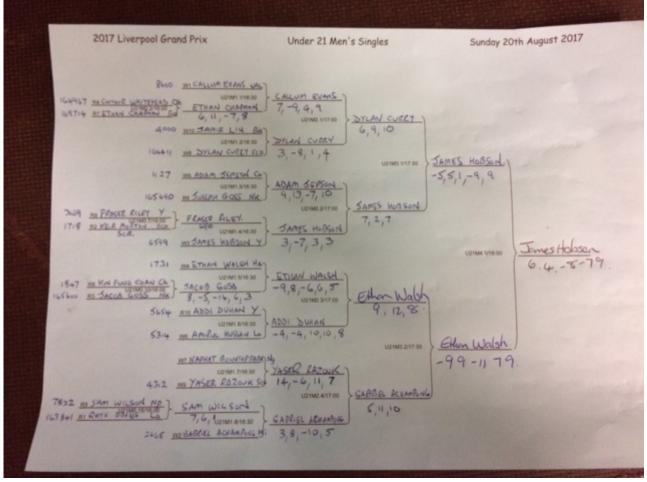




U21 Men's Singles winner James Hobson (right) and runner-up Ethan Walsh (left)

It was five sets all the way in the semi-finals and final. James Hobson, having overcome Dylan Curry in a topsy-turvy clash in the last four (5-11, 11-5, 11-1, 9-11, 11-9) then defeated Ethan Walsh in the final.

He needed to withstand a determined fightback to prevail 3-2 (11-6, 11-4, 8-11, 7-11, 11-9), Walsh having earlier also dug deep to see off Gabriel Achampong in the semis by a 3-2 (9-11, 11-9, 11-13, 11-7, 11-9) margin.



U21 Men's results

U21 Women's



U21 Women's winner Anna Hursey (left) and runner-up Bethany Farnworth (right)

Anna Hursey took the top prize thanks to a 3-1 (11-9, 11-8, 10-12, 11-6) victory over Bethany Farnworth. Earlier, Farnworth needed five to overcome Mari Baldwin (13-11, 12-14, 10-12, 11-6, 11-7) in a prolonged quarter-final.

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U21 Women's results

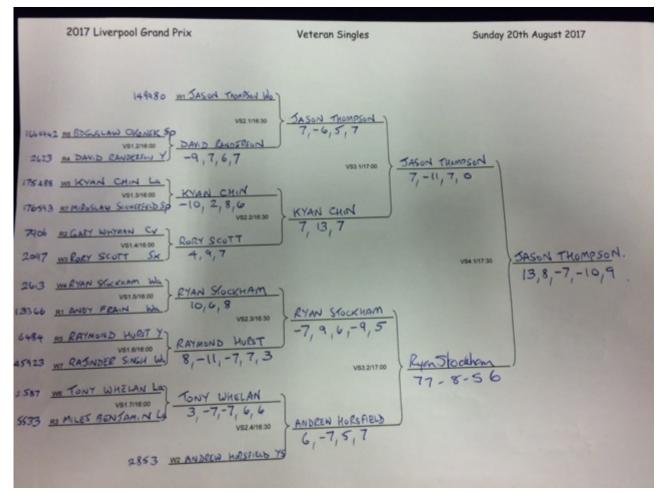
Veterans' Singles



Mixed Veterans' winner Jason Thompson (right) and runner-up Ryan Stockham (left)

Jason Thompson held off Ryan Stockham 3-2 (15-13, 11-8, 7-11, 10-12, 11-9) in the final.

It was a third successive match to go the distance for Stockham, who defeated Raymond Hurst in the quarters and Andrew Horsfield in the semis.

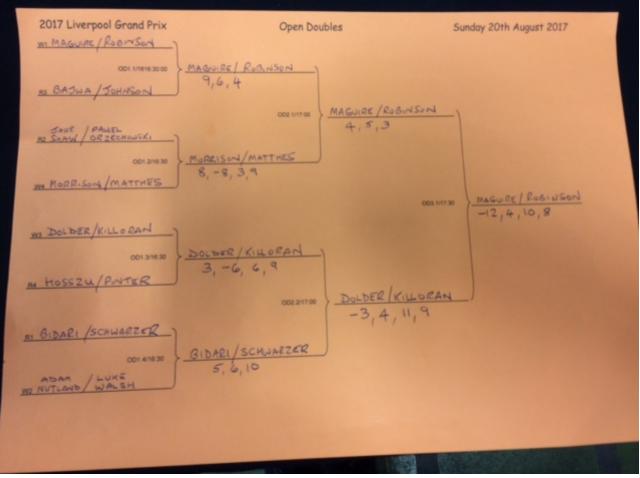


Mixed Veterans' results

Open Doubles



Open Doubles winners Gavin Maguire and Ashley Robinson (Maguire to left) and runners-up Kevin Dolder (middle) and Joe Killoran (right)



Open Doubles results

Player of the Weekend



The Liverpool Grand Prix Player of the Weekend, Romain Gaspar

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