

Christmas Tournament 2008

Following a late change of venue, the Junior Christmas Tournament was held at Henbury School Leisure Centre on December 29th. Of the original 41 entrants, 31 arrived for the 11.00 am start – coincidentally, exactly the same number as played in last year’s tournament and almost the perfect number to provide two pools of 16 players. After a hasty reorganization of the draw, play got underway on 7 tables in groups of four on each table. The group matches were played on a “best of 3” basis while the later knock-out stages were “best of 5”.



Group A in Pool A provided some of the closest results with 4 out of the 6 matches being decided in the third game and only Rebecca Seal winning any matches in 2-straight games. Patrick MacFarlane topped group B with 3 wins but second place had to be decided on a count of games won and lost as the remaining three players had one win each. This put Matt Gillard (*see left*) through to the quarter finals where he was joined by his brother Jack as runner-up in group C behind Niall Mordecai. Group D were the unlucky ones who played with just three in the group although Kiron Young made up for it by winning both of his two matches in the third game. Jack Vaughan made sure of his place in the main tournament with a straight games win over Ross McLaren

who became the first entrant into the Pool A Plate competition (to be joined by the third and fourth placed players from the other three groups). Meanwhile, in Pool B, Jade Cope topped group A with 3 wins including a 12 – 10 third game victory over Jack Cross who also lost by the same score (this time in the second game) to James Ledger. Jacqui Page lost to group B runner-up Marcus Czemerys but finished top of the group on “games difference” having won both of her other matches in straight games. Glenn Daly won all his matches in group C and Jye Allen just managed to take the runner-up position after an 11 – 9 third game victory over Seb Hingston. Group D was won by Frank Tobin with only Sam Cross able to take a game from him.

Following completion of the group matches players were allocated places in their respective Main or Plate K.O. competitions. The Pool A Main quarter-finals produced straight-games wins for Patrick MacFarlane over Jack Gillard, Rebecca Seal over Jack Vaughan and Niall Mordecai over Matt Gillard. In the fourth quarter-final a 17-15 first game victory by Kiron Young proved to be critical in his four-game win over Chris Arthur (*see right*). However, Kiron came up against Patrick MacFarlane in unstoppable form in the semi-final and went down 11-4, 11-6, 11-4. In the other semi-final Rebecca Seal came back from losing the first game 10-12 to take the next two 11-3, 11-7 and finally overcame stern resistance from Niall Mordecai to win 15-13 in the fourth. In the final Patrick produced another fine performance to beat Rebecca in straight games; 11-6, 11-4, 11-7.



Pool A		Pool A Plate	
Winner	Runner Up	Winner	Runner Up
Patrick MacFarlane	Rebecca Seal	Ross McLaren	James Bessant



In Pool A's Plate competition Ross McLaren had a four-game win over Callum Parkins as did Tim Webb (*see left*) in his match with Warren Taylor. Ross and Tim then met in the semi-final where Ross won in straight games. In the other half of the draw, James Bessant had a bye into the semi-final which he just managed to win in a five-game match against Owain Joslin who had beaten Mark Attwood in 3 games in the previous round. The final was another long 5-game match with Ross eventually winning 8-11, 11-7, 14-12, 12-14, 11-6.

Jade Cope won her Pool B quarter-final comfortably after dropping the first game to Tim Cherry and Jacqui Page joined her in the semi-final following a 3-game win against Jye Allen. Jade took the upper hand in the first game of their semi-final and held on to win the next two much closer games to gain her place in the final. Perhaps her passionate supporters had provided the crucial extra assistance to help her through. The other semi-final followed a similar pattern with Frank Tobin winning the first game against Glenn Daly 11-4 and then the next two 11-9 and 12-10. Previously, in the quarter-final, Frank had beaten James Ledger in a very tight 5-game battle while Glenn had not found it any easier in beating Marcus Czemyers in 4 games. In the final Jade took the first game and Frank leveled in the second. The next two games were both close and both went to Jade. The enthusiastic encouragement of her supporters then turned to congratulations as they applauded her 11-5, 7-11, 11-8, 11-9 victory.

Pool B		Pool B Plate	
Winner	Runner Up	Winner	Runner Up
Jade Cope	Frank Tobin	Jack Cross	Sam Cross

Christmas spirit seemed to have bypassed the Cross family in the Pool B Plate quarter-finals as Jack allowed Matt Groom just 5 points in total in their three games while brother Sam was little more generous to Zoe Taylor, winning 11-2 in each of their three. Shane Jenkins got through to the semi-final with a straight games win over Kate Groom but fell to Jack Cross, also in three games. Seb Hingston was involved in a long struggle before taking the deciding fifth game 11-6 against Hannah Cope and then found himself up against Sam Cross in the semi-final. Although Seb provided some strong opposition he was unable to prevent Sam from getting through in straight games to meet his brother in the final. Here Jack (*see right*) demonstrated his superiority winning in straight games 11-5, 11-7, 11-6.



At the end of the day's play medals were awarded to the winners and runners-up of each of the competitions. Thanks go to several members of the Executive Committee who gave their support and assistance on the day in particular in helping the vocally challenged Organiser (suffering the affects of one of the many winter ailments available this Christmas) to communicate match details to the competitors.

M. Moore