

## National Squash Club Championship Finals 2021/22

The 2019/20 group results had meant Roehampton Club made both the Men's and Ladies finals stages but covid then delayed these.

With the Finals now being played in May 2022, this past Saturday our two teams made the journey to Hallamshire Club in Sheffield.

Men's Team: Adrian Waller / Joe Lee / Vini Rodrigues / Ben Coates.

Ladies Team: Satomi Watanabe / Alison Waters / Kace Bartley.

The Ladies played host Club Hallamshire in the semi-final.

Kace was first on and although the points were evenly shared for the first few rallies it was Kace who was the stronger of the players as she pushed on to win the match 3-0.

Satomi recently back from her performance at the World Championships in Egypt, losing in a close battle against the number 3 seed, was second on and gave her opponent full respect and not letting her settle into the match. In a short time, Satomi had won the match 3-0.

Alison's match was entertaining to watch with the Hallamshire player trying her best and enjoying the experience of being up against a former World number 3. Alison recently retired from the professional tour is still training for the up-coming Commonwealth Games where she will represent England. It was her quality of shot and clinical decision making that gave her and the team a comfortable 3-0 win.

**Roehampton Club** beat Hallamshire 3-0.

Game Scores

Satomi Watanabe beat Katie Wells 3-0. 11/2, 11/6, 11/6

Alison Waters beat Charlotte Jagger 3-0. 11/8, 11/7, 11/3.

Kace Bartley beat Gabby Mawson 3-0. 11/2, 11/4, 11/1.

In the final Roehampton Club faced Pontefract.

Kace was on again first against a tricky opponent who used the boast to good effect and made Kace work hard. Kace didn't panic and managed to take a close first game. Some words of wisdom from Chief supporter and self-elected tactical coach, Michael Hill, "Do you mean to boast EVERY ball, can we stop that?" After the close first game 12/10 to Kace it was then comfortable winning the next two games.

Satomi on next delivered what can only be classed as a truly professional performance. Knowing her opponent would give it her all Satomi did not let up, winning the first game 11/0 and the next two games nearly as comfy. Title was Roehampton's.

Alison did know this at the time she started the match and again this was a professional performance against an opponent who moved around the court well. This would not prove enough of a challenge as Alison won 3-0.

**Roehampton Club** beat Pontefract 3-0.

Game Scores

Satomi Watanabe beat Polly Clarke 3-0. 11/0, 11/4, 11/1.

Alison Waters beat Grace Clarke 3-0. 11/1, 11/2, 11/3.

Kace Bartley beat Katie Smith 3-0. 12/10, 11/1, 11/5.

The Men's team played Hallamshire Club in the final, who were led by 3x World Champion, Nick Matthew, at his home Club.

First on court were Adrian v Nick Matthew and Ben v Alex Cutts.

Both these matches were a repeat of the previous match in 2018 between the two Clubs when both Nick and Alex won.

This time our recently crowned Club Champion, Ben, was focused and disciplined from the start and after a few tough rallies he never let his opponent get into the game. A solid 3-0 win to Ben getting us off to the perfect start.

Adrian, world rank 25, was mixing up his game and playing in a controlled and calm manner. Nick started fast trying to impose himself taking the ball early where possible and found success taking the first game. Adrian was undeterred and stuck to his game plan moving Nick around the court with some hard hitting and quality lobs mixed with taking the ball in short at the front of the court at just the right time. A close second game went Adrian's way. Adrian knew he couldn't let up and stayed relaxed as Nick came out in the third giving it his all. The work Adrian was making Nick do to cover the court was paying off as a few more errors from Nick gave Adrian a 2-1 lead. A similar pattern in the fourth game as Adrian closed out the match to win 3-1.

As this match was ending Vini was now on the other court and took a very close and tough first game against Harry Falconer. The second game was just as tough, but Vini looked the stronger player and a 11/9 win put the title in our hands and Vini had broken his opponent as he went on to win 3-0 and claim the title for Roehampton.

Joe, although knew the overall match had been decided went on court against Joel Arscott and delivered a classy and controlled match to win 3-0 and round off the match.

**Roehampton Club** beat Hallamshire 4-0.

#### Game Scores

Adrian Waller beat Nick Matthew 3-1. 8/11, 11/9, 11/7, 11/9.

Joe Lee beat Joel Arscott 3-0. 11/4, 11/5, 11/4.

Vini Rodrigues beat Harry Falconer 3-0. 13/11, 11/9, 11/4.

Ben Coates beat Alex Cutts 3-0. 11/6, 11/1, 11/3.

Thank you to Tom Richards, Nathan Lake, Charlie Lee, Oliver Pett, Steve Richardson, Jaz Hutton, Haley Mendez-Lake, Kim Hay and Elspeth Young all of whom played their part in getting us to the finals.

Kind Regards

**Paul Lindsay**  
**Racquets Manager**  
**Head Squash Professional**  
Roehampton Club

