

Squash Club Championships Finals 2025



Best and Fairest **Tim Butler**

A very surprised winner, Tim Butler happily received his award. Having been involved in numerous friendly matches

over the season Tim has continued to improve and is seeing his reward with some good wins in both matches and internal leagues.

O40s Doubles

Duncan Odds and Paul Lindsay beat **Joakim Jonsson and Johnny Perkins** 3-1. 11/8, 11/1, 8/11, 11/7.

An entertaining doubles finals to start the evening with the energetic pairing of Joakim and Johnny up against left and right hand combo Duncan and Paul. Joakim and Duncan also had the pressure of being in the handicap doubles and singles finals respectively, so a potentially long evening was in store.



The first game saw both pairs try to get into a rhythm with some low attacking shots. Duncan's advantage of being a left hander seemed to create angles to surprise his opponents and managed to force a few more errors giving the first game to Duncan and Paul. The second game went a little too quickly for Johnny and Joakim with errors and winners from Duncan extending to a two-game lead.

A regroup and more relaxed and persistent approach from Joakim and Johnny saw them frustrate their opponents into errors and all over a sudden the game moment switched and they were back in the match. 2-1 to Duncan and Paul.

The fourth saw Duncan and Paul start quickly and open a lead they would not give away. Some very entertaining rallies and shot ensured but the lead remain intact, and Duncan and Paul took the match 3-1.



Handicap Doubles
Joakim Jonsson and James Machin beat **Nathan Tavares and Dan Thomson** 3-1. 11/3, 11/7, 9/11, 11/5. One question mark over the match

would be if Joakim was too tired from his O40s final or if the match had provided the ideal warm up. With both James and Dan, members of the Bath Cup teams, trying their hardest to make the pace of the game quick it was left to Joakim to remain solid and see if his patience and fitness could match Nathan. A very quick start from James and Joakim meant they won the first game before Dan and Nathan had time to get into the match. The second game was a lot tighter as Dan started to move the ball around the court with precision. Nathan tireless chased down any shot that came his way, but James and Joakim stuck to their gameplan with steady play and waiting till the opponents made an error or opportunity came to hit a winner. A tight third game gave great entertainment to the watching crowd and this time Dan and Nathan turned the tables to force errors and hit winners at the correct time.

Momentum can be everything in sport, and James and Joakim stopped any positive momentum Dan and Nathan had with a fast start in the fourth. There was no coming back from this as James and Joakim kept their lead and won the match 3-1.

O55s Doubles **Cavin O'Driscoll and Michael Hill** beat **Rory Ross-Russell and Hugh Thorneycroft** 3-1. 11-9, 9-11, 11-7, 11-10.

Déjà vu as Michael and Cavin lived up to their pre final title favourites tag for a third year. Their consistency and ability to play winners at the front of the court always makes them tough to beat and this year there were glimpses Hugh and



Rory had found the answer. Rory's low driving backhands and Hugh's retrieval and great width really made Michael and Cavin work in each game. And had the final point of the game in the fourth gone the other way who knows what might have happened in the fifth! We will never know as Michael and Cavin came through successful to keep the winning streak going and get their names on the trophy.



Open Doubles **Adam Shean and Rudi Willemse** beat **Peter Marshall and Alison Waters** 3-1. 12/10, 12/10, 5/11, 11/9.

Last year's runners-up were up against new pairing Peter and Ali. With previous high world rankings of 2 and 3 respectively and Commonwealth Silver medals in doubles for Ali, this had all the hallmarks for a classic.

Adam and Rudi were focused from the off and made sure to make each point count with very few errors combined with taking the ball in short at every opportunity to try find a winner or create attacking angles. Both the first and second games were mirror images with the score line nip and tuck all the way but at the crucial points it would be Adam and Rudi who remained calm and took both games 12/10. The crowd wondered if this would have been the point Peter and Ali's heads dropped but no chance. The fierce competitors showed their skills in the third game reeling off winners from all angles as new attacking approach proved successful winning rather comfortably. The fourth game Rudi and Adam came on and made sure the remained resilient, retrieving all the shots fired at them and reducing their errors count. Again, the score remained close throughout and Adam and Rudi worked tirelessly to force errors and claim the title for the first time.

Handicap Singles
Duncan Odds beat **Harry Lipscomb** 3-2. 15-6, 15-9, 11-15, 12-15, 15-6.

Duncan, fresh from



his O40s doubles win and Harry, his junior title, both prepared as they contested the handicap singles trophy. Duncan having to give a 16-point disadvantage to start the game would have to be focused and remain patient in equal measures. Harry also knowing should he win any easy points the pressure would increase on Duncan. The match up initially looked one-sided. Duncan has settled quickly and was positioning the ball into the open spaces as he quickly removed a score advantage Harry had. A slight shock as he moved two games ahead. Harry was not out of this as Duncan had to work hard and mentally, it must have been tiring. Harry dug deep and started to play more winners with reward and soon found himself back in the match. Duncan remained clam and both players played the game in great spirit. Harry once more was running himself into the ground but would not let any shot go un-chased. This paid off as the match was now two games all with all to play for. It seemed the efforts to get the match back level from Harry were starting to hit home as his movement slowed and errors were becoming more frequent. Duncan just kept pushing the ball around the court and once he established a lead he never looked back. A match that played over 200 points ended up going the say of Duncan to claim his second trophy of the evening.



O45 Singles Chris Dawson beat Duncan Kynoch 3-0. 11/9, 11/7, 11/9. Chris Dawson, who has never lost in the O45 singles club champs, was against old foe Duncan

Kynoch who was hoping to upset the odds and get his hands back on the O45s trophy. Both players have 'trademark' shots. Duncan's notable backhand boast and Chris with his low cross court drive. This year Duncan was better prepared for the low cross court drive, and the first game was a close battled throughout but Chris just edged it. The second was slightly more in favour of Chris, who was retrieving more of Duncan's attacking shots than Duncan would have wished. The third again proved a battle with both players giving their all. Chris took a slight lead and just did not let it go to get over the line and continue his winning streak in the O45 singles.

O55 Singles Duncan Kynoch beat Cavin O'Driscoll 3-1. 8/10, 9/7, 9/2, 9/6. How to get over a O45s defeat ... Enter the O55s for the first time. This was Duncan's plan with eligibility to a new event! He was against the 2024 winner Cavin O'Driscoll. A close first game and won by Cavin looked like a 'wiser' more 'experienced' O55 specialist could retain his title. Sadly, Duncan was not aware of this script and quickly adapted his game and although a close second game it seemed Duncan had found his form. This continued in the third game as Duncan kept the rallies short and raced through the game as quick as he could. Cavin fought tirelessly in the fourth game but just couldn't get a lead to hold on to and it was Duncan who prevailed and claim his first O55s title.



Junior Open Harry Lipscomb beat Lucas Tavares-Reed 3-2. All the juniors involved in this year's competition deserve praise as it fell during GCSE and A-level exams season, so revision was the priority. This year the final was contested between two new finalists with Lucas taking on Harry. Both players have improved physically and technically this season, and the final showed as neither player would give up at any stage of the match. It was only fitting the match went the distance and it would be Harry who managed to come out on top with a 3-2 victory.

Women's Singles Kace Bartley beat Megan Thomas 3-0. 11/8, 11/2, 12/10.

A repeat of the 2024 final, Meg was up against reigning champion Kace who was the favourite once again. This year a more relaxed Meg started the match positively, knowing Kace would be hitting winning shots from all angles, but Meg kept the ball tight and deep as best she could. Kace, in her relaxed style of play, threw a few too many errors



in for her liking but was still able to win the first game. Kace was on form, using her disguised shots at every opportunity to keep Meg guessing. A more comfortable second game to Kace. Ther third was a battle of Meg's determination and Kace lack in concentration and before both players knew it the score was 10/10. Kace using her experience of pressure situations dealt with this impeccably, gaining full focus at the important time, winning the next two points and the title with it.



Open Singles Ben Coates beat Lewis Walters 3-2. 15/13, 3/11, 7/11, 11/7, 11/8. The two players in-form, a repeat of the 2022 final which provide the crowds with an epic. Notable Lewis was

now in his fourth Open singles final while Ben was going for a fourth Open title. Lewis as recently as February, won the Jamaican National Championship and Ben, who by his own standards had had a poor season in Bath Cup league, was starting to find form. World class shots and movement from both players saw them push hard from the outset and the first game really could not have been closer. Ben somehow hanging on to take what felt like an important game in the match 15/13. The first game did little to dampen Lewis's determination and a combination of his focus and Ben's wane in concentration provided a complete opposite to game one. Lewis comfortably winning the second game and the crowd wondering if Ben had been mentally broken. The third game was more even but Lewis continued his relentless attacks and with a slight lead he never gave it back to take a close third game.

The fourth game had everything from silly errors, amazing shots and pure effort while outside the court you could feel the excitement, nerves and tension. Ben was looking in control of his emotions and kept in each point, retrieving every shot Lewis threw at him. Ben won the game and took the match to a decider, much to the delight of the crowd. Another epic game ensued and both players pushed beyond their limits wanting to win the title. This is where you feel bad knowing there must be a winner and loser. Lewis deserves his first title; Ben was pushing to win his fourth. As the points played out nearly toe to toe it was Ben who just sneaked ahead at the crucial time, and he managed to close out the game and match 11/8 to win a hard-fought title.