

Squash Club Championships Finals 2026

The annual Squash Club Championship finals evening had nearly everything ... Action packed squash, great rallies, close matches, numerous winners and free San Miguel for the spectators.



O55s Doubles
Cavin O'Driscoll and Michael Hill beat Nigel Clarke and Rory Ross-Russell 3-1. 9/11, 11/7, 11/8, 11/7.

The first match of the evening and Michael and Cavin once again lived up to their pre-final title favourites tag for a fourth year. This year Rory was once again in the final but back with his trusted partner Nigel. Rory's low driving backhands and Nigel's consistent volley defence under pressure made Michael and Cavin unsettled in the first game. Rory and Nigel won the first game and looked the stronger pair. Michael and Cavin started the second game slowly and it wasn't until 7-7 till they found their range, reeling off 4 points in a row to win the second game.

Michael and Cavin consistency and ability to play winners at the front of the court always makes them tough to beat with Rory and Nigel looking for winners, but Michael and Cavin came through successful to keep the winning streak going and get their names on the trophy in a closely fought battle.

O40s Doubles

Duncan Odds and Paul Lindsay beat Michael Hill and Ali Waters 3-0. 11/9, 11/7, 11/6.

Michael, fresh off his O55 doubles win

was straight back on court to partner Ali Waters in the over 40s final against last years winners Duncan and Paul.

The left and right hand combo Duncan and Paul certainly knew they were in a



fight to retain the title and made sure not to allow Ali to get into a rhythm where her attacking shots could be punishing. The first game saw both pairs try work each other out but Duncans 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 was evenly matched but again less errors from Duncan and Paul extending to a 2-game lead.

The third game saw Duncan and Paul start quickly and open a lead they would not give away. Some very entertaining rallies and shots ensured Duncan and Paul took the match 3-0.



Handicap Doubles
Joakim Jonsson and Lewis Walters beat Peter Marshall and Nigel Clarke 3-0. 11/6, 11/8, 11/9. Four players – three of whom had played

a final already in the evening. Would this leave Joakim with the advantage of being the only one with full energy levels!! Answer no. The handicaps were level, so it was all to play for with Lewis doing battle against Peter on one half and Joakim up against Nigel on the other of the court. A close start saw the teams share points till 6-6 and then Lewis and Joakim went on a run of winners to take the game 11/6.

The quality of play and movement was wonderful for all those to watch and the second game continued in this entertaining manner, even seeing Nigel cover for Peter when he was out of position! Joakim and Lewis remained focused and a close second game went their way. The third game was a game of two halves, with Peter and Nigel going 6-1 up only to see Lewis and Joakim come back to 7-7. This momentum remained as Lewis and Joakim won the game 11/9 and match 3-0.

scan here
for photos
of the finals
evening



Open Doubles

Peter Marshall and Ali Waters beat

Lewis Walters and Hasnaat Farooqi 3-0. 11/6, 11/8, 11/3. Last year's runners up were up against

Lewis and Hasnaat. 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, but would the defeat in the O40s final play on her mind?



As with nearly every match on the evening a close battle commenced but at 6-6 Peter and Ali found more angles and less mistakes to take the game 11/6. The second game continue where Peter and Ali had left the first, racing to a 5/1 lead and then 9/3 before Lewis and Hasnaat began a comeback getting to 8/10 but it was not to be. The rallies were fast and frantic with the crowd enthusiastically watching, it would be second year lucky this time and Peter and Ali won the game 11/5 and the match.



Handicap Singles

Meg Thomas beat Hugh Thorneycroft 3-0. 15/7, 15/10, 15/7.

Meg having to give a 4-point advantage to start the match against Hugh meant

the strategy of both would be interesting to watch. Hugh, known for his deft touch and tight drives against Meg's movement and good mix of cross courts and drops. The first two games were very similar with Meg working her way back to 5-5 and then extending her lead. Hugh gave his all in the second game but was never able to catch up the deficit once Meg opened a lead.

The third game was a little more one sided and while both had deservedly made the final with some great wins it was Meg who prevailed on the evening to win the trophy.

O45 Singles Chris

Dawson beat
Duncan Kynoch
3-0. 11/8, 11/4,
11/6.

For those who know, this is not the first time these

two have met in the O45s final! Copy and paste from last year's match report could have been used – 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.

Duncan, who has managed injury niggles this season, put himself through a vigorous warm up – Thero-gun included – and was ready. The first game was closely battled throughout but Chris opened a 4/3 lead and kept it to take the first game. The second was more in favour of Chris, who was retrieving more of Duncans attacking shots than Duncan would have wished. The third Chris took a lead and just did not let it go even though Duncan tried his best.



like a fifth game could be on the cards but Duncan took a deep breath, thought better of even more squash and closed out the last two points to take the game 11/9 and with it the match – retaining his title.

Junior Open Lucas

Tavares beat *Harry Lipscomb* 3-1. 11/5, 11/6, 9/11, 11/9.

This year the final was contested between last year's finalists with Harry winning in 2025.

Both players have improved physically and technically this season with Lucas playing at Warwick Uni and Harry a stalwart at Team Training and playing in the friendly matches.

Lucas started the match the better and quickly went two games up. Harry was not to be put off and after being 0/5 down in the third he found a game plan. It looked too little too late at 9/4 to Lucas but Harry doesn't know when to give up as he charged around the court and suddenly went from 5/9 to winning 11/9 – game on. The further game saw both players giving their all and they exchanged points up to 9/9 but it was Lucas who gained revenge for the previous year to take the title.



had taken a slight toll on her movement. A match involving Kace would not be complete without her lack of concentration going 3/0 down to then go 6/5 up. Both players playing the right shot at the right time mean points were shared and the close battle continued to 9/8 where Kace managed to break the resilience of Meg and win the title for a third time.

Open Singles

Ben Coates beat
Lewis Walters 3-0.
11/3, 11/9, 11/3.

Lewis was now in his 5th Open singles final while Ben was going for a 5th Open title.

Both players were in good form. Ben had, with training sessions, certainly been preparing for the tournament while Lewis had notable wins in the lead-up to the final. The level of squash on display at times was worldclass. Both players moving so well and not wanting to give an inch when they were in control. At 5/3 Ben found a string of points with winners combined with some errors from Lewis as Ben went 1-0 up.

The second game was the game of the tournament. Once more both players giving everything as they searched for winners or the opportunity to make retrieval of the ball physically impossible. At 5/5 Ben played some great winning shots and found the energy to get ball after ball back in play – Lewis was not finished though and from 9/5 found his way back to 9/9.

The crowd were truly treated to epic squash. Ben dug deep and managed to take the closest of games 11/9. The level of play was not sustainable, and the fact Lewis had two more finals that evening to play, saw Lewis try for winners at every chance but Ben was focused and shut out each attempt quickly to go 9/1 up. Lewis did win a few more points with attacking play, but it was to be Ben's night in the Open singles and with it his 5th title.

Congratulations to all those involved over season and in the tournament.



O55 Singles

Duncan Kynoch
beat *Cavin*

O'Driscoll 3-1. 11-9, 11-8, 8-11, 11-9.

A repeat of the year before and the same tonic on

how to get over an O45s defeat ...

Play the O55s. Duncan, now in his second entry to the O55s, was against 2024 winner Cavin O'Driscoll. Every game was close – maybe not always long rallies or rapid movement but the two players can be classed as 'shot-players' hitting remarkable winners from gravity defying angles.

Duncan took the first two games and seemed in control but a purple patch in the third game gave Cavin a lead and he held onto it to take the match into another game. With both players trading blow for blow shots it looked



Women's Singles

Kace Bartley beat
Meg Thomas 3-0.
11/6, 11/7, 11/8.

A three-peat of the 2024 and 2025 final. Kace being successful on the

two previous occasions was up against Meg, full of confidence from the handicap singles win earlier.

Kace started quickly with low driving winners as Meg tried to get into the game. Meg managed to stay with Kace till 6/6 but then a succession of quick points saw Kace take the first game 11/6. The second Kace raced into the lead even quicker going 9/2 up. Meg was not going to go down without a fight and while she tried her best and got back to 7 perhaps the match earlier