

Surrey Junior & Cadet Trials – 10th September 2016

CADETS

The day at Graham Spicers started with the cadets' events. With just one withdrawal we were left with 21 cadets boys – 3 groups of 4 and 3 groups of 3 with all players going through to the second round. In the 1st group top seed Robert Pelc was untroubled winning his 3 sets each in 3-straight games. Ajay Potavadoo secured the runner up spot. 3rd & 4th place was closely contested between Adit Gandhi and Merk Sark with Adit running out the winner at 11-9 in the 5th.

Group 2 was between Mikael Toosy and Will Hart of Crusaders with Mikael securing top spot with scores of 8, -9, 9, 9. Henry Maric-Murray took 3rd place ahead of Udit Tuteja. No 3 seed Ivan Wong was beaten into second place in his group by Angus Norman by a margin of 11-6 in the 5th. All other games were 3-straight with Ho Cheung taking 3rd place ahead of Rocco Martinez-Paoli. Rohan Raj found it very tough going in Group 4. An 11-6 in the 5th win was taken by Charlie Cunningham over surprise package Alex Ito-Arammedia to decide the group placings. In Group 5 Ollie Gray suffered a surprise defeat at the hands of Jon-Vai Chung. They both finished ahead of Daniel Ryan. In the last Group there was the battle of the youngest – Ollie Maric-Murray, aged 9, and Francesco Bonato Tazartes aged 8. Ollie's experience was too much for his younger opponent! Ollie also managed to beat Rosehill's Sam Bushell – and Sam beat Francesco 9, 7 & 10.

The 2nd round of groups saw the competition much more evenly balanced. The 3 players finishing 4th played each other and it was Merk Sark who emerged the clear winner. The group of 6 x 3rd-placed players saw Adit Gandhi clinch 5 wins which included a win over second-placed Ho Cheung by scores of 10, -7, 13 & 9. Young Francesco chalked up his first win in this group at the expense of Rohan Raj 5, 9, -8, -9, 8.

Ajay Potavadoo, having been put into 2nd place by the number 1 seed, recomposed himself to win 5 matches in the group for places 7-12. He was challenged by Will Hart who finished as the runner-up in this group with Ajay winning 7, 9 & 10. Alex Ito also gave Ajay a run for his money although Alex lost -5, 11, -9, -8. Will Hart beat Ivan Wong into 3rd place with scores of 11, 6 & 7.

And so to the top group of 6 where Robert Pelc did not have things all his own way against Jon-Vai Chung. Robert eventually pulled through -8, 3, 3, -5, 8. Robert also contested three deuce games against Woking's Charlie Cunningham with the No 1 seed scraping through 12, 5, -10, 10. This group involved a countback situation for 3rd-5th places. Charlie took 3rd with his superior games difference, closely followed by Mikael Toosy who did well to beat Jon-Vai and put him down to 5th.

But the big surprise was a small package in the form of Ollie Maric-Murray who chalked up 3 good wins to finish as runner-up over all. Ollie beat Jon-Vai 8 in the 5th, followed by Charlie at 10 in the 5th, followed by Mikael 3-straight. Angus Norman was just one win behind the countback players and consequently finished 6th with his sole win being against 2nd placed Ollie!

The **Cadet Girls** event was relatively straight forward with 5 sets being won 3-straight and one set being won at 4 in the 5th. The "5-setter" (5-gamer) was between Ariana Di Giammarino and Wallington's Yuvathi Vijaya 9, -4, -8, 9, 4. This meant that Ariana finished 2nd and Yuvathi 3rd. Federica Bonato proved far too strong on the day for all before her. 11 year old Lucy Adams bravely competed but found it tough going. However next year could be a rather different story for her ...

JUNIORS

Ladies first! There were two groups of 4 junior girls to kick things off. Surrey No 1 Isabelle Joubely won her three matches including an 11-5 in the 5th victory against 2nd-placed Federica Bonato. The match deciding 3rd and 4th places was won by Yuvathi Vijaya against Taiwan's "rusty" Lute Durham -10, 5, 7, 7.

The 2nd girls group was headed by Medha Verma with 3 wins. Little-known Ellie Frost from Ashford stormed into 2nd place in the group with wins over two of the cadets, Lucy and Arianna. It was Ariana who beat Lucy 7, 7, 6 to take third place.

At the next stage the two 1sts and 2nds joined each other as did the two 3rds and 4ths. Lute Durham redeemed herself with 3 wins including one over Yuvathi 6, 8, -10, 10. Yuvathi gained her 'revenge' over Arianna, reversing her cadet loss earlier in the day. Yuvathi was merciless against young Lucy Adams conceding only 4 points. Credit must be given to Lucy for even competing in the Juniors – a tall order for anyone of her limited experience!

The top group produced at least one surprise. Federica Bonato ended the day unbeaten having overcome Isabelle Joubely -10, 10, -6, 13, 8. Isabelle won her other two matches thus putting Medha Verma into 3rd place. Medha's sole win in this group was 3, 6 & 5 against Ellie Frost who found the top group a bit of a handful. However I'm sure we haven't seen the last of Ellie as she certainly showed some potential.

The Juniors Boys event comprised 4 groups of 4 initially but only 3 of the seeds won their groups. Top seed Jamie Nordin needed 4 ends against both Ajay Potavadoo and Josh Arulia but he saw off the much fancied David Suk (Thames Valley League) 5, 10 & 7. However David managed to hold on to second place. Josh Arulia beat Ajay for some consolation. Some sympathy has to be felt for Ajay as he was unfortunate enough to meet the No 1 seed in the 1st round of both events he entered.

In Group 2 Asa Gauntlett needed 4 ends to beat Jon-Vai Chung into 2nd place. In this group it was Ollie Maric-Murray who took consolation in beating James Dailey in 4 who is almost double Ollie's age! Group 3 produced another unexpected result when Alexander Guertin (York Gardens) beat Damien Gray at 8 in the 5th. Alex recorded exactly the same margin against Angus Norman while Angus took his consolation against Dilan Patel. Dilan took games from all 3 opponents but could not quite manage a win.

Finally to Group 4 where Robert Pelc came out on top with his 3 wins including one over Charlie Cunningham 6, 9, -9, 10. Crusaders' Kushal Patel, although ill-prepared for the event, took runner up spot beating Charlie in 5 – 10, -6, -10, 7, 8; and then against Alex Ito 11, 10 & 9. Alex may have bagged a duck but he did not escape unnoticed!

Group 4 of the 2nd round saw a countback for Ajay Potavadoo, Alex Ito and Dilan Patel with two wins a piece. Alex came out on top followed by Dilan and then Ajay. Group 3 needed a countback too. Angus Norman, Ollie Maric-Murray and Josh Arulia all won 2 each and it was Charlie Cunningham who was out of luck having retired injured against Josh. Angus came out on top, closely followed by Josh and then Ollie who had been potentially disadvantaged by Charlie's injury.

The group of 4 runners up was won by Damien Gray who beat David Suk in 5, Jon Vai Chung in 4 and Kushal Patel in 3. The other 3 players created yet another countback situation which saw Jon-Vai take 2nd, Kushal 3rd and David 4th place.

The group of group winners had no countback but 3 sets saw a 5th end contested. Jamie Nordin beat Asa Gauntlett 5 in the 5th and he dropped one game against Robert Pelc. Robert secured 2nd spot by beating Alex Guertin 8 in the 5th and beating Asa 3 games to one. Alex won -11, -5, 7, 11 & 4 against the luckless Asa.

My thanks to all the players for being so well-behaved and keeping the events running smoothly and pretty much to time. Thanks too to members of the Surrey TTA Committee for their support including Kim Mudge, Tony Laws, Kim Johnston, Chris Andrews and Margot Fraser. Also to team captains Phil Snelson and Steve Sharp. There were also quite a few parents who seemed to enjoy the day. Loads of great games and not too many tears!

Michael Loveder
(Organiser)
13.9.16.



Ollie Maric-Murray



Lucy Adams