

## Dorchester Tennis & Squash Club Annual Tennis Championships 2021

The 2021 DTSC Annual Tennis Championships were held between 20th August and the 16th October. We had a great turnout, especially holding the Championships so soon after the completion of the 2020 Championships in June this year, due to delays caused by Covid-19 lockdowns in 2020/21. The total number of entrants was 53, with 19 women and 34 men taking part. Our main tournament sponsor was Pengillys and Tesco, Dorchester provided free water and squash. Finals day on Saturday 16th October was a great success, with lovely sunny, autumnal weather and light winds and we were treated to a delicious lunch organised by Ros Clark and ably assisted on the day by Jill Maple and Ann Williams with delicious cakes baked by various members. The prizes were presented by Tim Guppy, representing Pengillys and Chantelle Bacon, the Community Champion from Tesco, Dorchester.

In the **Men's Singles**, there was a repeat of last year's final. Kevin Willemse defended his title and beat Ed Keegan 6-0, 6-0. There were some great rallies and the match was, like last year, a lot closer than the score suggests, but Kevin was too steady and was in control of the match throughout. Kevin has now won the title for the last 3 years in a row and a total of 4 times.



**Men's Singles Champion - Kevin Willemse**



**Men's Singles Runner-up - Ed Keegan**

Sarah Skidmore continued her amazing run of victories and won the **Ladies' Singles** again for the 5th year in a row and the 21st time overall. She first won the title in 1992 and continues to beat all her challengers. Losing finalist was Katharine Butler and despite her determined efforts and attacking play, she couldn't match Sarah tactically, who kept pinning her in the backhand corner of the court and she lost 6-0 6-3.

**Tesco Community Champion, Chantelle Bacon (left) presenting Ladies' Singles Champion Sarah Skidmore (right) with her trophy.**



**Ladies' Singles Finalists - Champion Sarah Skidmore (left), Tim Guppy, Pengillys (centre) and Runner Up Katharine Butler (right)**

In the **Men's Doubles**, last year's runners-up Ed Keegan, partnering 16-year old Ethan Robinson had already managed to beat last year's champion Kevin Willemse, playing with a new partner, veteran Paul Scott in the semi-final and they went one better than last year in an exciting final as they outplayed Charlie Barnett and Hal Cazalet to become Men's Doubles Champions for the first time.

**Men's Doubles Finalists (from left to right) Runners up - Charlie Barnett and Hal Cazalet and Champions - Ethan Robinson and Ed Keegan**



The **Women's Doubles** final was delayed until Feb 2022 due to absences and unfortunately had to be played at Wey Valley indoor courts due to rain and wind. The match was a repeat of last year's final, with defending champions Sally Dinham-Scott and Yvonne Henderson again taking on Sarah Skidmore and Immi Reid. Sally and Yvonne got off to a flying start leading by 4-0 and 5-2, but then Sarah and Immi managed to claw their way back into the match and get ahead, even serving for the first set at 6-5, but it went to a tie-break, which Sally & Yvonne won 7-5. After a long and gruelling first set, Sally & Yvonne then dominated the 2nd set to win 7-6, 6-0.



**Women's Doubles Finalists (from left to right) - Runners-up - Immi Reid and Sarah Skidmore and Champions - Yvonne Henderson and Sally Dinham-Scott**

In the **Mixed Doubles**, Sarah Skidmore and Ethan Robinson defended their title in one of the most compelling matches of Finals Day as they beat the new partnership of Millie Sidaway and Ellery Ford. Millie Sidaway and Ellery Ford went 3-0 up in the second set with 2 breaks of serve, and it looked like the match was heading for a deciding set, but the established pair of Sarah Skidmore and Ethan Robinson dug in and dragged their way back into the set, eventually winning in straight sets. The match was very close with some enthralling rallies. Sarah Skidmore has now won the Mixed Doubles 25 times with 10 different partners.

**Mixed Doubles Finalists (from left to right) Runners-up - Millie Sidaway and Ellery Ford and Champions - Sarah Skidmore & Ethan Robinson**



Sarah Skidmore and Ethan Robinson both won 2 titles in the main events and were therefore jointly awarded the coveted **Rod Skidmore Cup**, named in memory of Sarah's husband. This Cup is awarded to the winner of the most events in the main draw and is presented in memory of a much missed club member and club Chair, Rod Skidmore, a Royal Naval pilot who lost his life in a helicopter crash in 2002.

As Sarah still had the Ladies Doubles Final to play, this trophy wasn't awarded on Finals Day.

### **Winner of the Rod Skidmore Cup - Sarah Skidmore and Ethan Robinson**



Consolation events were held in all events and full results are listed below.

**Full Results:**

Men's Singles - Kevin Willemse beat Ed Keegan 6-0 6-0

Women's Singles - Sarah Skidmore beat Katharine Butler 6-0 6-3

Men's Doubles - Ethan Robinson & Ed Keegan beat Charlie Barnett & Hal Cazalet 6-2 6-3

Women's Doubles - Yvonne Henderson & Sally Dinham-Scott beat Sarah Skidmore & Immi Reid 7-6 6-0

Mixed Doubles - Sarah Skidmore & Ethan Robinson beat Millie Sidaway & Ellery Ford 6-3 6-4

**Plate Competitions:**

Men's Singles Plate - Henry Theobald beat Stephen Hockaday 6-2 6-1

Women's Singles Plate - Sue Warren beat Rebecca Hambleton 2-6 6-3 10-5

Men's Doubles Plate - Jon Pryce & Alister Millar beat Stephen Hockaday & Duncan Heath 6-3 6-3

Women's Doubles Plate - Rebecca Hambleton & Lynn Ramsell beat Rebecca Stein & Sophie Perry 6-2 6-2

Mixed Doubles Plate - Ros & Al Clark beat Sue Ramsbottom & Tim Toogood 6-3 6-2



**Tournament Trophies & Prizes**

In the **Plate Men's Singles**, Henry Theobald defeated the exhausted Stephen Hockaday, a recently joined member who had just come off court from a tough Men's Doubles Plate match.



**Henry Theobald receiving the Men's Singles Plate and Prize from Tim Guppy.**



**Stephen Hockaday receiving his runner up prize**



In the **Ladies' Singles Plate** final, Sue Warren defeated new member Rebecca Hambleton in the longest match of Finals Day and the only match to go to a deciding set. Rebecca came out to play in the first set with her normal attacking style and took the first set easily 6-2, but Sue then changed her tactics and played very canny, defensive tennis and kept drawing Rebecca into the net and then accurately lobbing or passing her, throwing Rebecca off her game plan. Sue took the 2nd set 6-3 and in the decisive match tie-break, Sue's consistency and experience pulled her through and she won 10-5.

**Ladies' Singles Plate Winner - Sue Warren receiving the plate and Prize from Tim Guppy**



**Runner-up Rebecca Hambleton with Tim Guppy**

In the **Men's Doubles Plate**, Jon Pryce and Alister Millar came through a close match to beat Stephen Hockaday and one of last year's plate doubles winners Duncan Heath in straight sets.

**Men's Doubles Plate Winners - Jon Pryce (left) & Alister Millar (right) being presented with their prizes by Tim Guppy (centre)**



**Men's Plate Runners up from left - Stephen Hockaday & Duncan Heath with Tim Guppy.**

In the **Ladies' Doubles Plate** final, Rebecca Hambleton overcame her disappointment from the Plate Singles to win the doubles title with Lynn Ramsell. They had a great match with two up and coming juniors Rebecca Stein and Sophie Perry. Unfortunately the juniors left before the presentation ceremony so there isn't a photo of them receiving their prizes.



**Ladies' Plate Doubles Winners - Lynn Ramsell (holding Reggie - a future club champion?) and Rebecca Hambleton (right) receiving their plate and prizes from Tim Guppy.**

In the **Mixed Doubles Plate** final, Tennis Chair Al Clark and his wife Ros, who was returning from a knee injury beat Sue Ramsbottom and Tim Toogood in straight sets.

**Mixed Doubles Winners - Al Clark (left) & Ros Clark (right) being presented with their plate by Tim Guppy (centre)**



**Mixed Doubles Plate Runners up from left - Sue Ramsbottom & Tim Toogood with Tim Guppy.**