

Dorchester Tennis & Squash Club Annual Tennis Championships 2023

The 2023 DTSC Annual Tennis Championships were held between 8th September and the 15th October. We had a lower turnout than we've had in recent years as several people who normally take part, were scheduled to be away for Finals Day. This meant that we had some new faces getting through to the Finals. The total number of entrants was 44, with 13 women and 31 men taking part. Our main tournament sponsor was once again Pengillys and we are very grateful for their generous support. Finals day on Sunday 15th October was a great success, the previous few days had seen some soggy semi-finals as we tried to complete the draw in the rain, but the Finals were all played in lovely sunny, autumnal weather with light winds. We were, once again, treated to a delicious lunch organised by Ros Clark and Jill Maple, with delicious cakes and scones baked by Jill Maple, Sue Warren, Joy Hennessy, Sarah Baker and Ann Williams. The prizes were presented by Al Clark, DTSC Tennis and GMC Chair.

In the **Men's Singles**, defending champion Ellery Ford was up against first time finalist Ben Sanders. Ben seems to be completely in control from the start and Ellery initially had no answer to his attacking style. Ben won the first set quickly 6-2, before Ellery started to mix up his pace and make sure he got every ball back in play and frustrated Ben who started to miss some of his aggressive shots. Ellery's defensive style allowed him to win the 2nd set 6-2, so we were set for a deciding match tiebreak. The tiebreak was closely fought and Ben had the 1st Match Point when 9-8 ahead, but couldn't quite close it out and Ellery saved it before getting a Match Point himself at 10-9. Ellery's consistency won the day and he took the match at his first opportunity to successfully defend his title, winning 2-6 6-2 11-9.

Men's Singles Champion - Ellery Ford



Men's Singles Runner-up - Ben Sanders, receiving his prize from Club Chair Al Clark.



In the **Women's Singles**, neither defending Champion Milly Sidaway nor 21 time Champion Sarah Skidmore had entered the competition as they were away, so we knew we would be seeing a new Champion. The final was played between Jess Kennedy, last year's Plate Winner and Anoek van Egdom. Anoek was quite nervous to start with, but settled into the match well. Overall however, Jess proved too strong and consistent and claimed her first singles title in straight sets 6-1 6-0.

**2023 Women's Singles Champion Jess Kennedy with her trophy (left)
and Runner Up Anoek van Egdom (right)**



In the **Men's Doubles**, triple Men's Doubles Champion Ellery Ford (2018-2020) playing with a new partner Matt Grubb were up against first time finalists, and brothers, 17 year old Ben & 14 year old Joe Sanders. This was an exciting contest, with two closely fought sets, but Ellery and Matt came out on top in both to win 6-4 7-5. It was a great contest and good to see Ben, encouraging his younger brother throughout the match. This was Matt Grubb's first senior title at the club, but Ellery has now won the Men's Doubles 4 times with 3 different partners.

Men's Doubles Champions - Matt Grubb and Ellery Ford



Runners up - Joe & Ben Sanders

The **Women's Doubles** final was between last year's runner up Jess Kennedy, playing with a new partner Karine Sehn up against Caroline Hiscock and Sue Warren. This was a great tussle, with some entertaining rallies, and although Jess and Karine won the title 6-2 6-1, the match was much closer than the score appeared. In the end however, a convincing win for last year's runner up Jess Kennedy and her new partner Karine Sehn.



**Women's Doubles Champions
Karine Sehn and Jess Kennedy**

**Runners-up Sue Warren &
Caroline Hiscock**



We were also guaranteed new Champions in the **Mixed Doubles** as the defending champions were both absent. The final had the beaten finalist from 2022 and 2021, Ellery Ford with a new partner Lorraine Slowther facing Joy Hennessy and Mike Williams. This was a great match with lots of touch and variations of pace. Mike always seems to have so much time on the ball, and places it cleverly, and Joy's stop volleys literally don't seem to bounce, but Ellery and Lorraine were too strong overall and managed to win in straight sets 6-2 6-2.

**Mixed Doubles Champions -
Ellery Ford & Lorraine Slowther**

Runners-up - Joy Hennessy & Mike Williams



Ellery Ford showed amazing skill and stamina to play 3 times in a row and win all 3 of his finals in the main events and was therefore awarded the coveted **Rod Skidmore Cup**. 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. Ellery has now won the Men's Singles twice (2022-23), the Men's Doubles 4 times (2018-2020, 2023) and this year added the Mixed Doubles to complete the full set of senior titles at the club.



Winner of the Rod Skidmore Cup - Ellery Ford

DTSC Annual Tennis Tournament 2023

Full Results:

Men's Singles - Ellery Ford beat Ben Sanders 2-6 6-2 11-9

Women's Singles - Jess Kennedy beat Aniek van Egdom 6-1 6-0

Men's Doubles - Ellery Ford & Matt Grubb beat Ben & Joe Sanders 6-4 7-5

Women's Doubles - Jess Kennedy & Karine Sehn beat Caroline Hiscock & Sue Warren 6-2 6-1

Mixed Doubles - Lorraine Slowther & Ellery Ford beat Joy Hennessy & Mike Williams 6-2 6-2

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

Plate Competitions:

Men's Singles Plate - Will Stein (walkover)

Women's Singles Plate - Not Held

Men's Doubles Plate - Dugald Lockhart & Mike Williams beat Jake Pike & James Warne 6-2 6-4

Women's Doubles Plate - Becky Guyett & Lorraine Slowther w/o Ros Clark & Ann Williams

Mixed Doubles Plate - Caroline Hiscock & James Odell beat Becky Guyett & Duncan Heath 6-2 6-2

Tournament Lunch



In the **Plate Men's Singles**, both Semi Finalists in the bottom half of the draw withdrew, so the decision was made to play the top half Semi Final as the Final, but his opponent withdrew at short notice, so Will Stein won the Plate on a walkover.



Will Stein with the Men's Singles Plate and Prize

Due to a lack of entries in the Women's Singles, the **Women's Singles Plate** final was not held.

In the **Men's Doubles Plate**, Dugald Lockhart and Mike Williams proved too consistent and canny and beat James Warne & Jake Pike 6-2 6-4.

**Men's Doubles Plate Winners -
Dugald Lockhart (left) & Mike Williams (right)**



**Men's Plate Runners-up from left -
Jake Pike & James Warne**

Unfortunately, the **Women's Doubles Plate** final couldn't be played on the day as Ros Clark was injured, so Becky Guyett and Lorraine Slowther were therefore awarded a walkover victory over Ros and Ann Williams.



Women's Doubles Plate Winners - Becky Guyett (left) and Lorraine Slowther (right)

In the **Mixed Doubles Plate** final, Caroline Hiscock and James Odell beat Becky Guyett and Duncan Heath in straight sets 6-2 6-2.

Mixed Doubles Winners - Caroline Hiscock & James Odell



**Mixed Doubles Plate Runners-up
Becky Guyett & Duncan Heath**



**The Men's Doubles Finalists after their epic 3 set battle (from left)
Runner Up Ben Sanders and defending Champion Ellery Ford**





**Men's Doubles finalists - from left
Runners up Ben & Joe Sanders and Champions Ellery Ford & Matt Grubb**

**Women's Doubles finalists - from left
Champions Jess Kennedy & Karine Sehn and Runners up Caroline Hiscock & Sue Warren**



Action from the Men's Singles Final





Action from the Women's Doubles final (above) and Plate Mixed final (below)





**Plate Men's Doubles finalists (from left)
Winners Mike Williams & Dugald Lockhart and Runners Up Jake Pike and James Warne**