
Report for the LRTA Mixed Handicap Doubles 2022

It was so good that we were all together again for this popular competition sponsored by Addison Law having not played it for two years due to Covid. We, once again, met up with old friends who have played in this tournament for several years and also welcomed several new pairs. It was so great to see a pair from Leamington, Rachel and Charlie, who did very well to get through their group and Ariane from Paris and Adrien from Fontainebleau who won all their group matches and looked a very strong pair. It was lovely to see Bernie Bidouze again, a very strong supporter of the ladies' game, from Bordeaux.

Most of the group matches were close and very entertaining. The first quarter-final was between two Hardwick pairs Candida Nicholls and Peter Mawson versus Pam and Tim Tomalin who started well going to 3 love up and then Candida and Peter got going and won 6/3. Next up was Lucy Hutchinson and Chris Halliwell (our very generous sponsor) against Rachel Hollington and Charlie Wells who went on to beat Lucy and Chris 6/3. The next match was between local pair Karen Dixon and Matt Boulton and past winners Katie Leppard and Simon Constantine. Katie and Simon proved to be too strong and went through 6/2. The final match in this round was between local pair (the top handicap) Alex Garside and Simon de Halpert against the French couple Ariane Huynh-Lenhardt from Paris and Adrien Harnay from Fontainebleau. Giving owe 40 rec 30, Alex and Simon had a very hard match ahead of them but with fine serving from Simon, Alex and Simon won the match 6/2. The semi-finals proved closer with Candida and Peter winning 6/4 against Rachel and Charlie and Alex and Simon only just winning 6/5 against Katie Leppard and Simon Constantine in a very hard-fought match. The final proved very close with Alex and Simon again giving quite a large handicap to Candida and Peter. Candida and Peter took a 4-0 lead, but Alex and Simon managed to get back to 4-4 and then went 5-4 up. However, Candida and Peter were not put off and came back strongly to win 8/5 in what was a very exciting match.

We had a full dedans for most of the matches and some very exciting matches which were enjoyed by all. Our thanks to the staff at the Club who worked hard over the weekend, ensuring the dinner ran smoothly on Saturday evening and that drinks were on hand when needed! Tori Wall supplied her superb breakfast/brunch throughout the competition which was well received by all the visitors. Thank you, Tori. Our thanks too to Andrew Lyons and Adam Player for their superb marking throughout the competition and also to Alex and Viv who ensured the tournament ran smoothly.

Finally, thanks must go to Chris Halliwell of Addison Law for once again being our sponsor and hosting the lovely Pimms and canapes drinks party prior to the Saturday evening dinner.