

**British Ladies Open**  
**29<sup>th</sup> March – 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2023**  
**Sponsored by Peter Luck-Hille**  
**held at Seacourt**

Singles Winner: Claire Fahey  
Doubles Winners: Claire Fahey and Tara Lumley  
Singles Plate Winner: Araminta Oldham  
Doubles Plate Winners: Araminta Oldham and Sophie Dunnreuther  
Handicap Doubles Winners: Olivia Boulton and Bella Harvey



What a tremendous 5 days we have had at Seacourt! The Competition started at 9.00am on Wednesday 29th March and finally finished at teatime on Sunday 2nd April. The play was continuous finishing after 10.00pm on the Wednesday and Thursday and on the Friday play went on until after 11.30pm. Luckily the semis & final days were shorter playing days, thank goodness! The matches, although the scores do not do credit to the hard-fought games, were so advanced from previous years. As Peter Dawes (who presented the prizes) said in his speech, we have seen all the tournaments from 1978 when Seacourt held the first British Ladies Open and the standard of play has improved beyond all expectations. Leading from the front Claire Fahey has brought the ladies' game to new heights and although the scores do not sound close, the rallies went on and the games were won after many deuces but mostly by the lower handicap player.

There were several new players this year both recent juniors and ladies new to the game and the standard they have reached really shows how the game has progressed. Claire won both the Singles against Tara and with her, as her partner in the Doubles, against Saskia Bollerman and Jess Garside and, again, both matches were hard won. Araminta Oldham won both the Singles Plate and the Doubles Plate with Sophie Dannreuther beating first Bella Harvey in the Singles and Sophia Lewis and Marina Eastwood in the Doubles, but she, with Sophie, lost the Handicap Doubles to Olivia Boulton and Bella Harvey. Two out of three for Araminta – what a good tournament she had! Sophia, Marina, Olivia and Bella have all come through the junior programme which is all very encouraging and good for the future of our game.

Thanks must go to Drew and Adam who did all the marking between them except for the finals day when Drew was on his own. Thanks also to Ben Geytenbeek for the excellent streaming of the competition – what a difference streaming has made in promoting the game worldwide. To Lee, our chef, and all the staff at Seacourt who really worked hard to make the tournament go

smoothly and finally thanks to Alex, Viv and Jess for all their hard work both before and during the week.



We wish all those going to the World Championships at The Oratory next week our very best wishes and know that, once again, it will showcase the ladies' game in the very best way.

*Report by Viv Dawes*