

Report on the Basingstoke Junior Doubles Tournament, Sunday 12th November 2023:

A big thank you to all those who participated in the Basingstoke Junior Doubles tournament, Sunday 12th November at QMC. It was great to be back, having missed the November 2022 date.

We ended up with 18 pairs, with representations from Alton, Alresford, Burfield (Berks - Willink Community School), Newbury, Odiham (Robert Mays School) and Basingstoke clubs/schools. It honestly brings me great joy to be able to provide a tournament for grass roots players in this region of North Hampshire/ Berkshire. So a big thank you to you all for your continued support. Any helpful comments for improvement always welcomed.

Two groups of 9 pairs contested every point available with just the top two pairs from each group going on to contest the semi finals, 3rd/4th play off and final.

Group A:-

Winners: Matthew Oetinger & Varshal Sisubalan (Kennet & Shaw Juniors, Newbury) with an maximum 120 points. (Varshal was 5th in March!)

2nd place: Thomas Eastwood & Ashwin Anish (Newbury Juniors) on 109 points.

3rd place: Aranyak Singh & Yuuma Peel (Basingstoke Juniors) - 100 points

4th place: Brigid Joyce & Julia Gardner (Kennet Juniors) - 99 points

5th place: James Hope & Adam Yarnton (Basingstoke Juniors) 94points

6th place: Marco Guse & Yousif Saheb(Robert Mays School) 77 points

7th place: Dillon McLean & Otto Thant (Robert Mays & Basingstoke Juniors) 60 points

8th place: (Our youngest participants): Krishna Banga & Zach Carnaby (Robert Mays School) 50 points

9th place: Morgan Harrison-Furse & Maisie Day(Robert Mays School) 17 points

Group B:-

Winners: Isaac Cottrell & Leo Tan (Perrins, Alresford) with an maximum 120 points.

2nd place: Jonny Hogg & Ethan Smith (Kennet Juniors, Newbury) with 114 points.

3rd place: Nigel Wong & Jensen Leno (Shaw Juniors, Newbury) - 113 points

4th place: Sophie & Ethan Lau (Willink Community School, Burfield) - 101 points

5th place: Jack Collier-Smith & Charlie Burrige (Alton Eagles & Robert Mays School) 91 points

6th place: Jamie Reid & James Key(Basingstoke Juniors) 87 points

7th place: Charlotte Freeman & Stephanie Sheldon (Newbury Juniors and St Barts, Newbury) 74 points

8th place: Finlay & Megan Domloge (Basingstoke Juniors) 73 points

9th place: Josh Benth & Harvest Thant (Robert Mays & Basingstoke Juniors) 53 points

The leading girls pair this time around were Brigid Joyce & Julia Gardner (2nd ladies pair back in March'23) who maintained their dominance over their rivals, Charlotte & Stephanie in a play-off game 15:8

In the **first Semi-final**, Isaac & Leo defeated Jonny & Ethan - 15:10.

In the **second Semi-final**, Matthew & Varshal defeated Thomas & Ashwin - 15:6

Not quite as tight as the March'23 semis but still exciting.

In the Final, the honours this time went to the Newbury pair. Another incredibly tight finish. In a roller coaster game, with the lead constantly changing hands, Matthew & Varshal gutsily clawed their way back from a 13:10 deficit, to claim the final 15:13. Well done Varshal - 5th in the group stage last year to champion (with Matthew) this year. Well done sirs.

Runners Up: Isaac Cottrel and Leo Tam - Alresford (Perrins)

Winners: Matthew Oetinger and Varshal Sisubalan - (Kennet & Shaw Juniors, Newbury)

A big thank you to my loyal volunteers, Linda Oxford, and Andrew Scott, who's calm operational skills were once again evident, recording the scores as they came in. To the parents, for giving up your time, as always, in support. To our youngest competitors, Krisha & Zach (for the boys), and Morgan and Maisie (for the girls) for joining us and competing bravely. A big, appreciative "Thank-you" to Morgan & Maisie, who, despite sustaining some heavy defeats, never lost their smiles and always fought for that extra point. Great spirit girls, well done. And to so many first-timers to our tournament - without you all, there is no tournament. So well done and thank you.

Look out for the next doubles in March 2024.

Keep training and enjoying your badminton guys.

All the best
Phil