

ALTC 2018 Adult Tennis Championship Finals

The ALTC Adult Finals kicked off with the Men's Singles, on a beautiful sunny day at Bawksbury.

This pitted the dynamic all court play of Al Williams against the baseline retrieving of Nick Turner. The first set was a tense affair with Williams always looking to attack but Turner proving extremely consistent and allowing few chances for Williams to get to the net.

Williams had to be patient and work long rallies to get openings but he did this well and came out on top 7-5. The second set was very similar but Williams knew what he had to do and won it 6-3.



He had little rest before he was back on court in the Men's Doubles Final with Shaun McDonald, facing Andrew Winnett and Martyn Isherwood. This was a close fought affair with Winnett and Isherwood on top in the first set, winning 6-4. It is no coincidence that all four finalists have excellent skills at the net and a slight shift saw Williams and McDonald take the second set 6-2. The match had really caught the crowd's attention and in a thrilling championship tie break, Winnett and Isherwood came through 10-7 with Winnett covering the court and closing down the net and Isherwood serving accurately and returning positively. A great effort by all four players.

The Ladies Doubles Final followed and saw a repeat of last year, with Fay Fradgley and Claire Reid versus Ros Hursell and Jennie Pope. They have had many close matches but on this occasion it was Fradgley and Reid who played the more relaxed, confident tennis. They knew they would have to counter Hursell's consistent, accurate retrieving and Pope's strong driving. This they did with Fradgley approaching the net with clever volleys often set up by Reid's attacking ground shots. It proved a winning combination on the day by 6-2, 6-3.





The next Final was the Mixed. Andrew Winnett and Claire Coomer have won the title many times since they were juniors and are an extremely difficult team to beat as they know each other's games so well. Coomer's tactical know how and relaxed technique enable her to orchestrate points and Winnett is an ever present threat at the net. They were up against Andy Brett and Kate Sloane and the four players produced some memorable rallies when all playing well at the same time. Brett has a great forehand and Sloane has exemplary movement, always balanced to make good

shots. Coomer made important volley contributions, cutting off Brett's down the line forehand and the Winnett Coomer combination served far more consistently and came out winners by 6-3. 6-1.

The last Final was the Senior Men's Singles. This was Al Williams' third match and Shaun McDonald's second match and stamina was likely to be a factor. However, both men are extremely competitive and it was a battle. McDonald pursued his game plan to get to the net on every point and dominate from there. Williams also likes to finish points at the net but he had to be patient and accurate to make himself opportunities. The first set went to Williams by 6-2. But McDonald hit back winning the second set by the same score. A championship tie break tested their fitness and resolve and at one point both men were on the ground. But it was Williams who held his nerve to take the breaker 10-8 and win his second title of the day.

