

FINALS WEEKEND – SEPT 19/20th 2009

Because of our arrangement with the Weather Gods, no one was at all surprised that the Saturday dawned bright and clear, with the air still and cool. Ideal tennis conditions for our eager finalists.

The first match was to be the Ladies final with Francesca Gutteridge going for a fourth title and her lucky opponent was to be her cousin Nadine Poli. A brief whiff of nostalgia for me as I can recall many hard fought matches between their parents on this same occasion. A good pedigree then.

Nadine, though dwarfed by her bigger and older cousin is nevertheless technically equipped to deal with Francesca's brand of aggressive tennis. The first games were hard fought and Francesca had to dig deep to keep Nadine at bay 2 – 2.

Francesca inched ahead winning several deuce games and won the first set 6-2 with both girls producing fine tennis. The second set, though initially tight was easily won as the reigning champion gained a decisive lead and loosened to win comfortably. However Nadine has really improved this season and could be a real threat for the future. Look out champ.

Result Francesca won 6 – 2, 6 - 0



The next match was the men's singles final between the 'veteran' Adam Jewell and the newcomer Paul Barnes. Adam already has three singles titles to his name, while the newcomer Paul is rapidly improving his game.

The first rallies were long and exhausting with neither player giving anything away. Paul belied his lack of experience by fighting neck and neck with Adam through the first set. Eventually Adam won the first set with both contributing some fine rallies. Once again it was Adam's trusty backhand that was the difference.

The second set started well but after a hard fought game each it was never as tight and though Paul fought all the way Adam began to dominate and soon gained a winning lead.

Result Adam won 6 – 4, 6 – 1.

The Sunday was again fine and clear and the teams assembled for the start of the proceedings at midday. First to go was the Ladies Doubles, with Francesca and Nadine again meeting across the net. Francesca had Petrina Beck, while Nadine was ably assisted by Liz Ardley.



Nadine and Francesca carried on where they had left off yesterday with some fierce rallies, while Liz used her experience to nip in and intercept, so that Liz and Nadine soon gained the lead.

However, not to be outdone Petrina and Francesca dug in and fought back, winning some long rallies to level the score at 5 – 5.

With everything to play for both sides now produced some fine tennis trading point for point. Eventually Petrina and Francesca sneaked ahead and won the first set 7 – 5.

The fine tennis continued into the next set with all players contributing to the contest. Francesca began to dominate at the net, while Petrina doggedly returned everything that Liz and Nadine threw at her with interest. At 3 – 3 there was no sign of either side giving ground, but suddenly Francesca and Petrina took the next three games, almost against the run of play to win the Ladies Doubles title. Final Result Francesca and Petrina won: 7 – 5, 6 – 3.

The next match was the Men's Doubles between Paul Barnes and Alex Reid and Steve Lane and Matt Hallam. The two youngsters were making their debut at this level and I am sure that the Men's Selector was watching them with interest.

The other two senior partners were now well established in the men's teams and even though Paul had not been with the Club very long, he had played with the Men's First Team last season.

Steve had been at Enderby for a number of years and was well established in the teams. So on paper, not much to choose between the pairs.



Remarkably Paul and Alex set off at a rapid pace and soon forged a good lead, which saw them win the first set 6 – 1 with apparent ease. However Steve and Matt began to get on equal terms in the second set.

The rallies became longer and longer (and in some cases higher and higher) starving Paul of the easy chances at the net that he had thrived on in the first set. Soon the match was nicely poised, and indeed Paul and Alex had to fight back to force a tie-break from 5 – 6 down.

Their reward was to win the tie break and take the title. Result Paul and Alex won 6 – 1, 7 – 5

The last match was the mixed doubles with Francesca chasing the treble and Steve Lane staggering back on court for another session ably assisted by Jan Stokes.

Francesca was paired with the talented Alex Carpenter. Anything could happen.

Steve and Jan set off very solidly and won the first set 6 – 0 with ease.



Into the second set Francesca began to dominate the rallies and Alex managed to intercept with some good volleys and they had soon won the second set, despite some stern resistance from Steve and Jan.

The third set started with Francesca and Alex inching ahead again, though it was not easy, as the rallies had become very long and entertaining. The match now see-sawed back and forth until Francesca held serve, having eleven deuces, to go 3 – 1 up.

Even though Jan and Steve pulled games back it was soon left for Alex to serve for the match at 5 – 4. There now followed several nervous points as he tried to rally cautiously, much against the grain. Needless to say, after seven deuces everyone was on tenterhooks until he served a fierce ace past Steve's outstretched racquet and finished the match with a series of strange fumbled shots forcing an error to win.

Result: Alex and Francesca won 0 – 6, 6 – 2, 6 – 4, with a very entertaining match, though perhaps not for the purist. Well done Francesca for doing the Treble.

A special thanks to all those who helped out, provided the food and drink, umpired, line-judged, etc. And an extra-special vote of thanks to Rose for organising the tournaments: always a daunting task.

For the record Francesca, Auntie Anne was the last lady to win the treble in 1997.