

Men's Over 35 and Women's Over 50 Inter County Finals - Edgbaston Priory

SATURDAY

Men Over 35

Sussex v Surrey Semi A

First on were the number 5's, Dean Newberry for Sussex and Michael Henning from Surrey. It was a tight match but Newberry looked to be in the driving seat as he went 2-1 up 12/10 in a tight 3rd game, but Henning held his nerve to win the next two 11/7 11/7 to draw first blood for Surrey. Sussex drew level when captain Ben Hutton comfortably beat Jason Fletcher 3-1. The 4th string match was a hum dinger! David Mann worked hard to take the first two 13/11 12/10 for Sussex, however, it took it out of him as his opponent David Greenhead took the next three 3/11 7/11 8/11 to put Surrey 2-1 up in the tie. Tim Vail and Neil Frankland locked horns once more as they had done last weekend in the racketball finals. Again it was Vail who prevailed for Sussex, this time 3-0 in just under 40 minutes. So it all boiled down to the 2nd string rubber, between Tim Garner and Mark Baker. Garner proved too strong and took Sussex through to the final winning 3-0 in 20 minutes.

Tim Vail	Neil Frankland	3-0	11/8 11/9 11/8
Tim Garner	Mark Baker	3-0	11/3 11/6 11/7
Ben Hutton	Jason Fletcher	3-0	11/7 11/9 11/4
David Mann	James Greenhead	2-3	13/11 12/10 3/11 7/11 8/11
Dean Newberry	Michael Hennings	2-3	11/7 5/11 12/10 7/11 7/11

SUSSEX 3 **SURREY 2**

Norfolk v Hampshire Semi B

The first 2 matches on court set the tone for this hard fought semi-final. At 5th String Norfolks' Marcus Cowie went 2 up, and 6/5 up in the 3rd before running out of steam against the fitter Adam Dominey, who went on to take the 3rd 11/8 and the next 2 games to win 3-2 for Hampshire. The 3rd string match between Liam Nolan for Norfolk and Stuart Summers for Hampshire swung one way then the next and lasted over an hour. Nolan took the 1st 11/7 and it was close in the 2nd going to 10/10 before Summers took it 12/10. Nolan came back in the 3rd pulling back from 6/3 down to get a run of points to take it 11/8. The effort of that game looked to have taken its toll as Summers comfortably won the 4th 11/3 to square the match, but the best was yet to come in the 5th. After an early exchange of points Summers went 10/7 up but Nolan dug in to draw level. Summers then had 2 match balls at 12/11 and 13/12, but couldn't close it and Nolan finally took it 15/13. The 4th string match between Stuart Cowie and Ben Thornton was another extremely tight affair, with Cowie winning the first 11/8, and just nicking the 2nd 12/10, Thornton took the 3rd 11/4 to keep Hampshire in the match as Cowie seemed to tire. However the squash was overshadowed by somewhat petulant behaviour from Cowie and Thornton did well to keep his cool in an increasingly hostile atmosphere. A fractious 4th ensued which was tight all the way through, Cowie having 2 match balls at 12/11 and 14/13 but Thornton pinched it 16/14. The 5th was surprisingly easy for Thornton as Cowie seemed to offer little resistance and the Hampshire man took it 11/2 to put them 2-1 up in matches. Norfolk's first string Jamie Goodrich was too strong for Matt Holland and squared the match as he won 3-1. So it was down to the 2's, Ian Cox v Jon Foster to decide who would be the finalists and it was another match that went down to the wire. The first game was close throughout but Cox pulled clear in the latter stages to take it 11/8. Foster was always just ahead in the 2nd and nicked it 14/12 to level for Hampshire. Playing some lovely squash Foster won the 3rd with relative ease 11/3. The 4th went the way of the first 2 games and was a tight affair with Cox winning it 11/9. Even Stevens in the 5th until the midway point of the game when Foster went ahead and had match ball at 10/7, Cox however took the next 5 points to go 11/10 up and he took the 5th and the match on the award of a stroke and Norfolk celebrated reaching the final.

Jamie Goodrich	Matt Holland	3-1	11/7 3/11 11/5 11/5
Ian Cox	Jason Foster	3-2	11/8 12/14 3/11 11/9 12/10
Liam Nolan	Stuart Summers	3-2	11/7 10/12 11/8 3/11 15/13
Stuart Cowie	Ben Thornton	2-3	11/8 12/10 4/11 14/16 2/11
Marcus Cowie	Adam Dominey	2-3	4/11 8/11 11/8 11/3 4/11

NORFOLK 3 **HAMPSHIRE 2**

SUNDAY

Men Over 35 3rd 4th Play Off

Surrey v Hampshire

This was a relatively one sided playoff tie. The 5th and the 1st string matches being the picks of the tie. The 5th string match between Michael Hennings (Surrey) and Jason Vigiers (Hampshire) was close all the way through Hennings won the first 12/10 and then the 2nd 11/7. He could have closed it out 3-0 but Vigiers won a hard fought 3rd game 12/10, he then won the 4th 11/2 and it seemed that he would complete the comeback in the 5th, but Hennings stubbornly resisted and took it 12/10 to put Surrey 1 up. Jason Fletcher also won comfortably at 3rd string for Surrey. The 4th string match was a walkover to Hampshire as James Greenhead could not continue after damaging his hand in the knock up. Neil Frankland had to survive a tough 5 game battle with Matt Holland who went 2-1 up before running out of steam in the final 2 games to give Frankland the match and Surrey the tie. Mark Baker beat Stuart Summers 3-0 in the dead rubber 2nd string match.

Neil Frankland	Matt Holland	3-2	11/7 7/11 10/12 11/8 11/9
Mark Baker	Stuart Summers	3-0	12/10 11/6 11/1
Jason Fletcher	Ben Thornton	3-0	11/1 11/6 11/6
James Greenhead	Adam Dominey	0-3	retired in knock up
Michael Hennings	Jason Vigiers	3-2	12/10 11/7 10/12 2/11 12/10

SURREY 3

HAMPSHIRE 2

MEN OVER 35 Final

Sussex v Norfolk

On paper it seemed that the 3rd string match between Ben Hutton and Liam Nolan could well decide the destination of the title as Norfolk were favourites to win at 4 and 5, Sussex at 1 and 2; and so it proved. Marcus Cowie of Norfolk ultimately proved too skilful for Dean Newberry in an entertaining 5th string match. He took the 1st 11/4, but lost his way in a tighter 2nd, losing it 11/8. The 3rd went in a similar pattern to the 1st with Cowie taking it 11/3. The 4th was tighter but Cowie prevailed 11/9 to put Norfolk 1 up. The 3rd string match started with a tight opening game between Ben Hutton (Sussex) and Liam Nolan (Norfolk). Hutton sneaked it 12/10, and won the next 2 relatively comfortably 11/5 11/4 to win 3-0 and square the tie. Tim Vail showed his class versus Jamie Goodrich, winning the first 2 11/4, 11/3. The 3rd was tighter, a combination it seemed of Vail taking his foot off the gas slightly and Goodrich digging in, alas it was too little too late for Norfolk as Vail held on to win 12/10 and put Sussex one win away from the title. Stuart Cowie therefore had to win at 4 to keep the tie alive for Norfolk, which he duly did, always controlling a fairly tight match against David Mann, winning 12/10 11/9 11/9. Tim Garner was hot favourite to beat Ian Cox at 2nd string, and he duly delivered in a comfortable 3-0 victory 11/5 11/6 11/2 in just 17 minutes to give Surrey the spoils.

TIM VAIL	JAMIE GOODRICH	3-0	11/4 11/3 12/10
TIM GARNER	IAN COX	3-0	11/5 11/6 11/2
BEN HUTTON	LIAM NOLAN	3-0	12/10 11/5 11/4
DAVID MANN	STUART COWIE	0-3	10/12 9/11 9/11
DEAN NEWBERRY	MARCUS COWIE	1-3	4/11 11/8 3/11 9/11

SUSSEX 3

NORFOLK 2

- 1 **SUSSEX**
- 2 **NORFOLK**
- 3 **SURREY**
- 4 **HAMPSHIRE**

The winning team left to right. Dave Mann, Dean Newberry, Ben Hutton, Tim Garner and Tim Vail

