

Island Times Volume 1 Number 5



READING

Welcome to the fifth edition of The Island Times.

This week we concentrate on the Final's weekend.

As you know, **Specsaver Reading** have agreed to support Finals' weekend and will be sponsoring the trophies give out to the winners and runners-up of the internal competitions. This is the first time that the Finals have been sponsored.

They were present on **Saturday September 12th** offering free ear screenings to our members and friends. Hayley and Anushree did a great job and were busy throughout.

They also gave out Goodie bags and lovely cup cakes.

They had a successful time and some members have booked follow up appointments.

Before the Internal finals, news of two of our ladies who have played in the County Benevolent Triples competition.

Laura Woodley and Helen Woodley, together with Caroline Mabley from Woodley sailed through the first day of competition winning all their matches and did not need the full 15 ends to win these matches.

This put them in the semi finals where they played and beat a team from Three Mile Cross. The final was against Maiden Erlegh , where in a very close match, they were beaten 14 – 12.

Congratulations to Laura and Helen from the whole club.

The finals start at 11.00 on both days and the afternoon games start at 3 pm.

Carol Goddard and her team provided rolls for lunch and after the finals have finished, Carol organised an American Supper where you bring some food to share with everyone else.

The cups will be awarded by our President Ted McDonnell after each match and the Specsavers individual trophies will be awarded at a later date.

Kevin O'Connor worked out the timetable for all the matches and did a great job in managing the day. Thanks and well done Kevin.

The results were as follows:

Ladies' Triples: Norma Croshaw, Sheila Phillips and Helen Woodley won over Caroline Aubrey, Ganga Pokhrel and Carole Allcock.

Ladies' Pairs: Sheila Phillips and Pat Emmett beat Caroline Aubrey and Laura Woodley.

Ladies' Championship : Janette Devlin won this with a win over Sue Rehm

Mixed Pairs : Laura Woodley and Ross Courtnage won over Ted McDonnell and Sue Rehm

Open Singles : Ross Courtnage beat Steve Barlow

Men's Triples : Oliver Tien, Adrian Barrett and Ted McDonnell beat Paul Goddard, Paul Allcock and Graham Lyke.

Benevolent Triples : Kevin O'Connor, Paul Allcock and Ted McDonnell beat Steve Barlow, Adrian Barrett and Malvern Costelloe

Men's Pairs : Mark Belcher and Ross Courtnage beat Oliver Tien and Derek Parsons

Men's Novices : Andy La Fontaine won this, beating Malvern Costelloe

Men's Two Wood : Len Hillier beat Kevin O'Connor in a very close match going to the last end.

Men's Championship : Alistair McLean won this in a close game over Dave Bennett

Men's Handicap : Ross Courtnage beat Graham Lyke in another close game

And for the first time we have a trophy for the New Bowlers, playing in a triple.

New Bowler's Triples : Angela Melvin, Joss Plowman and Gavin Dubery were the inaugural winners of this competition over Chris Smith, Shane Powell and Emma Phippard,

The Centenary Cup played on Friday afternoon saw Dave Murray win over Malvern Costelloe.

There was a very high standard of bowls and although some were disappointed with their performance, all the finalists should be proud of their achievements in getting to a final.

Ross Courtnage had an outstanding weekend winning four titles, two with very good partners on Saturday and two individual wins on Sunday.

Sheila Phillips did well to win two titles, with her team mates.

Well done to the two Championship winners, the Blue Riband events, Alistair McLean and Janette Devlin. Good luck for next year when you represent the club in the county Tournaments.

President Ted McDonnell triumphed in two Triples teams, well done to his skipping and his teams.

It has been good to see so many different players in the finals and especially encouraging to see the newer bowlers doing so well.

The sun shone on Saturday, showers on Sunday but a fantastic weekend, enjoyed by everyone who turned up to play or watch. These weekends do not just happen, a lot of people have put a lot of time into making it a great day.

Malvern on the green, all the boaters, Carol and her team in the kitchen, Kevin on the organisation, all the markers, Anne as Umpire, others I may have missed, sorry, plus all the players and spectators for creating a wonderful atmosphere.

Thanks to the sponsors, Specsavers but also Farmer & Dyer, estate agents in Caversham and The Village Hotel on Caversham Bridge for their sponsorship.

Hopefully you will all return next year and are already looking forward to next season.

Happy times,

Graham Lyke. September 16th 2026.