

LAWNS PAIR WIN FINAL OF LODESTONE CLASSIC 2018

“What a brilliant day of tennis out in the countryside” was the catchphrase of the day!

Amidst all the rain of late, the Moutere really turned on the sunshine for the ninth annual ‘Lodestone Classic’ Tennis Tournament, on Sunday 20th May. Visiting clubs from the Nelson region competed in this mixed doubles tournament held at the Moutere Hills Community Centre. The Nelson Vets Club joined in for the first time this year, with both their teams reaching the semi finals.

An integral part of this event is to showcase and promote the local businesses who produce such an excellent range of superb products and services. The Upper Moutere Tennis Club thanks the generous support of all their sponsors, who continue to make the Lodestone Classic a prominent event on the Nelson Bays Tennis Calendar:

Brambleby Orchards; Lodestone Wines & Seeds; Moutere Gold; Moutere Inn; Moutere Motors; Neudorf Olives; Owen Bartlett Pottery; Patisserie Royale; Peckham’s Cider; Pomeroy’s; Proper Crisps; Thorvald; Upper Moutere On the Spot Store; and the Upper Moutere Takeaways.

Two clear winners surfaced from each of the two pools in the Social and Competitive Divisions. Between matches the players refuelled with nutritious nibbles from the sponsors: Thorvald cheese & yoghurt, Proper crisps & popcorn, Neudorf Olive oil & bread, Pomeroy’s coffee, and Moutere fruit & chutneys.

A delicious lunch, prepared by the hosts from Upper Moutere Tennis Club, and Patisserie Royale sausage rolls, was enjoyed by all. The top half of the draw resumed play after lunch, and a glass of Lodestone wine, with some fiercely contested semi finals.

In Division 2 (Social), Ben Acheson and Sally Shaw from the Lawns’ Club came through strongly from pool play to have a decisive win 6-2 over Nelson Vets’ pair Ed and Lorraine Lukey in their semi final. The second semi final, in this division, was much closer with Han Choi and Kay Field from the Stoke Club narrowly beating Al and Linda Bridgland from the Mapua Club 4-3.

Choi and Field, who had lost earlier to their opponents in pool play, were the stronger pair in this match. They won 9-2 over Acheson and Shaw in the Social Division final.

In Division 1 (Competitive), Nick Caton and Nic Kidson from the Nelson Lawn Club came through undefeated from pool play to win their semi final 8-3 from Upper Moutere pair Ian Newton and Bree Arnott. Their opponents in the final, Stokes' Kolie van Zyl and Julie Walker had a decisive win 7-3 over NZ Vets' pair Geoff Nalder and Trish Stephens, in their semi final.

The grand final of this top division provided some excellent viewing of action-packed tennis courtside, as two of the regions' coaches went head to head with their partners. The first set was taken narrowly 7-5 by Caton and Kidson. Van Zyl and Walker took the second set 7-6 in a tie breaker, with some dynamite serves and vollies. Then the match went to a hard fought third set super tie. Caton and Kidson finally won the super tie breaker 10-7 with some superb down-the-line passing shots; securing them the Lodestone Classic Trophy for 2018.

The afternoon was finished off with a prize giving to the division winners and runners-up, followed by some generously donated spot prizes.

Results

Division 1 Competitive: Score 7-5, 6-7, 10-7

Winners: Nick Caton & Nic Kidson – Nelson Lawn Tennis Club

Runner Up: Kolie van Zyl & Julie Walker – Stoke Tennis Club

Division 2 Social: Score 9-2

Winners: Han Choi & Kay Field – Stoke Tennis Club

Runners Up: Ben Acheson & Sally Shaw – Nelson Lawn Tennis Club