



2020 NCTA City Championships Wrap-up

The 2020 National Capital Tennis Association (NCTA) City Championships were recently held at 5 Ottawa area clubs; Ottawa Tennis and Lawn Bowling Club (OTLBC), Rideau Sports Centre (RSC), Rockcliffe Lawn Tennis Club, Elmdale Tennis Club and Tennis Centre West Ottawa (TCWO). With 66 entries in MS, 16 in WS, 24 men's doubles teams and 10 mixed doubles, the event got a lot of local support. With a lot of younger up-and-comers junior talent, college and club players, as well as seasoned veterans, there were a lot of matches played in the main event and consolation rounds. Tournament director Hao Pan and NCTA president Phil Johnson welcomed a high entry numbers this year and enthusiasm around the tournament. The team of dedicated volunteers: Marinus Wins, Mark Armstrong, Phil Johnson, Matt McKinnon and others held down the tournament desks at the host clubs with all the COVID-19 safety and social distancing measures in place

In the Men's singles finals, number one seed and ITF seasoned 25 year old Iancu Ghinda took the champion's trophy 7-5, 6-4 in a tight match against third seed Ray Xie, who is still U18. In women's singles 15 year old Scarlett Wang, who is an ITF ranked junior, prevailed over number one seed and former college player Melanie Roy 6-2, 6-2. Melanie went on to win the doubles title alongside Monica Chodniki over Claudine Rouleau and Emilie Tiemmerman.

In the Men's Doubles draw there were a lot of close matches. With great teams like Colin McAlpin and Mykell Reiffer, Rolf Krantz and Kevin Drew, as well as legends like Jim Cameron in the mix with Jeff Hinkelman, it was the one to win. In the finals, it was number one seeds and coaches duo Jeremy Gibbens-Schneider and Jordan Sweeney running away with a 6-2, 6-1 win over Ian Brander and Adrian Tudor.

The Mixed Doubles Finals went into a third set tie-breaker with Simon Lavoie-Perusse and Sarah Turcotre edging player coach team Rachael Cruickshank and Tudor Lungu 3-6, 6-4, 11-9.

Thank you to the NCTA board and Phil Johnson personally, all our wonderful volunteers, Marinus Wins, Mark Armstrong, Paula, Matt. Depth of gratitude to all the clubs who helped this event possible in the time of COVID to support us with court time, logistics, protocols and helping to make this such a successful event. Big thank you to Maria Pierre-Noel and Jenny Mitchell at OTLBC, Nicki Bridgland and Trevor Polk, Sacha Krishna at RSC, Frances and Kate at TCWO, Matt at Elmdale and Phil English and Chris Hannant at Rockcliffe! Congratulations to all the winners, runners up, to all the players and supporters! Stay strong, keep playing, competing and keep the great tradition of our NCTA City Open Championships going!

Picture above, l to r, Men's Singles Champion Iancu Ghinda and Finalist Ray Xie.