

Southwark City Tennis Club – 2006 Singles Results

THE MENS TOURNAMENT

The Group Stage

The field for this year was stronger than last year with Leo Gonzalez, Alex Pavanello, Clive Mongelard and Ikani Agabi making their first appearances and three of last year's semi-finalists, George Thomas, Luke Smith and Bob Hubbard, returning. The field of 26 was divided into 4 groups with a round robin format based on the first to three games.

George Thomas and Ikani Agabi dominated the Federer group and it was left to their individual match to determine the winner and runner up, George coming through 3-1. Our youngest competitor at 16, Ilya Litvinov, also emerged with great credit taking games off both the qualifiers.

Stanley Hickeya went through easily and Ross Murray just edged out Niyi Bello and Charles Hubbard Snr, our most experienced player, on games difference to take runner spot in the Ashe group.

The McEnroe group was the most competitive of all with Leo Gonzalez, Luke Smith and Clive Brown all winning 5 out of 6 matches. Leo's 3-0 victory over Luke proved decisive in giving him the best games difference record while Luke narrowly edged out Clive for the runner up spot on the same basis.

The Nadal group was won comprehensively by Clive Mongelard. Alex Pavanello just edged out Charles Hubbard Jnr on games difference after both achieved a 4-2 result. Last year's runner up Bob Hubbard struggled with the shorter format and came in just behind.

Quarter Final

Ross Murray was playing some good technical shots but lacked match sharpness and went down 6-0 to George.

Stanley Hickeya had dominated his group winning 15 games for the loss of just one. However, the jump in pace against Ikani proved too great and he lost 6-1.

The short format of the group stage had left some players lacking in rhythm and the left handed Alex Pavanello seemed to suffer from this falling 6-3 to fellow left hander Leo Gonzalez.

The most closely fought of the QF was between Luke Smith and Clive Mongelard with both players getting in front at various stages. The match went to the wire with Clive playing some inspired tennis to take the tiebreak 7-5.

Semis

Leo used his big serve and sliced backhand to great effect to take the first set against Ikani 6-4. However, after winning a close second set 6-4 Ikan stepped up the pace in the deciding set taking it 6-2.

The other semi also went all the way to a deciding set after George took the first 6-3 and Clive had hit back in the second 7-5. The third set was tight but George Thomas served out to take it 6-4.

The King is Dead, Long Live the King!

Last years' champion George Thomas took on Ikani Agabi in a delayed final kicking off at 3.30pm. George played some attacking tennis and volleyed crisply in the first set to take it 6-4. However, George looked as if he was tiring after playing the longer semi-final earlier in the day while Ikani still looked fresh. The challenger seemed to sense this and stepped up his attack at the beginning of the second set. George had lost a step of pace on the first set and this left him having to play more difficult volleys. This proved decisive as Ikani won the second 6-1. The momentum was now all with Ikani who raced to a 4-1 lead in the deciding set mixing up powerful groundstrokes and net play before George suffering with a thigh strain had to concede.

Please see the separate results sheets and photo gallery.

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THE LADIES TOURNAMENT

The ladies tournament was played in sweltering heat on the Sunday. An entry of 14 players was split into two groups playing the first to 3 games. Four players would go through to the knockout stages. Unfortunately last year's challenger and runner up were unable to compete but as with the men's tournament the overall standard was noticeable higher than last year.

Highlights from the group stage included some blistering service returns from our most senior competitor Kate Gifford. Eleonora Oliva once more couldn't take her heavy hitting game into tournament play and lost both her matches before having to retire with an achilles injury. Our youngest two competitors both played well with Melanie Croft qualifying for the knockout stage and Zeni Sekabanja taking games in almost all her matches. Our squad players Becca Beach, Jane Holliday and Mabel Wanogho all played solidly to go through to the knockout stage but Eliana Bruni had a frustrating afternoon and failed to qualify. However, ominously for the field Jolanda Hagoort dropped only one game on her way to qualification.

Quarter Finalist

Melanie Croft had the thankless task of taking on the number one seed, and despite some close rallies Jolanda went through 4-0.

Maya Ramsey a new player with the club stepped up to play after Jackie Hodge had to leave early. Maya pushed an assured looking Mabel Wanogho all the way but eventually lost by one game.

Becca Beach looked to be suffering in the heat and found the big serving Evelyne Sozi in commanding form losing 4-0.

In the longest of the QF's Jane Holliday went down 4-2 to Marion Veisseire. The rallies were well fought but Jane ultimately paid the price for not having a game plan and rushing her serve.

Semi Final

The semi final was noticeable for the appearance of three new competitors.

Jolanda again stormed through with out the loss of a game to Evelyne. Marion pushed Mabel all the way losing 6-4 in a very competitive match. In her first tournament Marion's result was perhaps the most stand out of all the players.

Queen of All She Surveys!

It was already after 6pm by the time the Final started and the players agreed to a shorter one set format. Jolanda Hagoort varied her baseline game with some forays to the net with Mabel Wanogho playing from the baseline. While there were some good rallies and nice winners from both players, Jolanda always had the edge with greater power on both wings. Jolanda eventually came through 6-1 to cap a dominant performance losing just two games for the whole tournament.