

THE CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL – Alan Tasker (green top) v Neil Bennett (black top)



Game 1. Alan won the spin and Neil started well by taking the first rally and putting the first point on the board; holding this for the next four rallies. Alan levelled the score and then pressed on to take the next four points to go to 5-1. A short exchange of serve, but not points and then a brace of points took Alan to 7-1. On the brink, Neil took back the serve and a point, before relinquishing the serve to allow Alan to take the first game 9-2.



Game 2. Alan to serve and after eight rallies Alan held the upper hand at 3-1, seven rallies later and despite service being exchanged, neither player was able to improve their score, and it remained at 3-1. A moment for Neil, and 2 points to level the score at 3-3, then 4-3 in Neil's favour. Alan turned the tables and regained the serve pressing home the advantage to go into a 7-4 lead. Neil responded and despite two exchanges of serve managed to level the score at 7 all. Alan recaptured the serve and the initiative to go to game ball, Neil tried to hold on and saved two game balls before Alan was able to close out the game at 9-7.



Game 3. Into the fray and Neil took charge quickly going into a 4-1 lead after 13 rallies. Possibly Alan was just waiting, poised for his chance to impose himself on this game in squash patience comes with experience, and the lead at 6-4. Neil came back by taking the serve, but Alan countered and moved to 7-4. 7 more rallies and exchanges of serve, and Neil, still unable to close the gap at 7-4. Alan however was able to move to match ball 8-4, Neil wasn't going to go down without one last go and took the next rally. Alan took the next rally and his second chance at match ball, Neil again responded and this time took the next two points to close the gap to 6-8. Alan again took the next rally and a third match ball opportunity, but not this time either Neil hit back and moved to 7-8. Patience and a fourth chance at match ball for Alan; and Neil took back the serve. Some really tight drives and counter plays, both players tested each other. Alan again wrestled the initiative, and with a 5th match ball closed out the match at 9-7 winning the match 3-0.

Alan Tasker Won 3-0: 9-2, 9-7, 9-7

