

## THE PLATE FINAL – Ian McGourty (red top) v Stuart Black (blue/black top)



Stuart & Ian took to the court and the crowd went wild, or at least they'd stayed having watched the Ladies and were waiting for the Championship final. As the 1st game got under way it followed a similar pattern to the earlier matches, serve was exchanged a number of times before Ian moved to 3-0. Stuart brought the game level at 3-3 and then a flurry of drops took Ian to 6-3. Stuart responded with a well crafted rally on left handed Ian's backhand to get back to 4-6. Ian turned the tables and won the next 3 points and the 1st game 9-4.



Ian got off to a flier in the 2nd game to go 5-0 up serve was then exchanged a dozen times and a couple of points traded to take the score to 5-2. The exchanges continued to 6-3 before Ian was able to string together 3 points to win the 2nd game 9-3.



The 3rd game continued with frequent exchanges of serve, neither player able to group points and this continued up 4-3 with Ian edging ahead. Ian then had a flurry of point to move quickly to 7-3. A voice from the crowd 'Come on lads string it out there's 30 minutes before the next match'. A turn in fortune saw Stuart grasp the next 3 points to close the gap to 7-6. Ian took back the serve and a point to go 8-6 up and Match ball. Stuart again rose to the challenge and dug deep to level the game at 8-8. Ian requested 2 points, and so Stuart obliged to take the third game 10-8.



The 4th game started with some serve exchanges before Ian broke the deadlock to win the 1st point, Stuart responded with 3 points of his own, Ian won the next one to bring the score to 3-2. Stuart then had a run of 5 points stretching Ian and himself to all corners of the court to take the score to 8-2. Ian took back the serve, but couldn't hold on as Stuart was now on fire (might have been the deep heat kicking in) won the fourth game 9-2, to square the match at 2-2.

Into the deciding 5th game and the exchanges of serve continued both players trading points up until 4-4. Stuart then went two points clear to lead 6-4. Ian responded by taking the next two points to level the game at 6-6. Stuart again found some touch and put Ian under pressure to then close out the game and match 9-6.

**Stuart Black Won 3-2: 9-4, 9-3, 8-10, 2-9, 6-9**