

OVER 35'S FINAL – Steve Howie (blue top) v Mike Sutherland (red top)



Steve won the spin and a good start saw him go to 2-0 up. Mike stopped his progress and countered to 1-2. Steve responded with 3 quick points to go 5-1 up. The next 16 rallies were tightly contested with Mike whittling away at Steve to bring the score to 6-4 in Steve's favour. 10 more rallies and Mike was still in the game at 5-7, 6 rallies where both players exchanged the serve but unable to convert into points. Steve broke away to go to 8-5 game ball. Mike held on to go to 7-8, before Steve was able to close out the game at 9-7.

Game 2 and Mike made swift progress with a change to deep drives and punishing cross courts to go to 3-1. Steve closed out a rally to regain the serve but Mike was taking no prisoners and retook the serve pushing through to 7-1 before Steve was able to halt Mike's progress. Not for long as Mike closed out the game at 9-2.



Mike took charge in the third some really good rallies but Steve unable to stop Mike progressing quickly to 6-0. A change of game plan from Steve saw some tight boasts and diagonals pushing Mike to stay in the rallies. Steve took the next 3 points to go to 3-6. Mike wasn't ready to let Steve back into the game and closed out the game 9-3.

Game 4, Mike to serve 2-1 up and eight tight rallies with some great pickups and exchanges of serve before both players progress to 1-1. Steve then took the next two points to go 3-1 up. Mike took back the serve but unable to capitalise as Steve again took hold of the game to go 5-1 up. Some deep breaths and changes in direction a handful of great lobs and tight drops saw Mike close the gap to 3-5. Steve took the next and retained the serve to push through to close out the 4th game 9-3.

Into the decider, Steve to serve at 2 all, a similar start to the last game, thirteen rallies and the score at 3-2 to Steve. Steve then got up a head of steam and despite Mike's best efforts, he was unable to stop Steve progressing to close out the match at 9-2.

Steve Howie won 3-2: 9-7, 2-9, 3-9, 9-3, and 9-2.

