

## Peter Gibbs Cup – Quarter Final Report

The Peter Gibbs Cup kicked off on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December at Greensward school, with eight teams entering the competition meaning it was straight to the quarter final stage. Unfortunately, due to the heavy snowfall, only two of the four ties were able to be completed, with reigning champions East Thurrock one of those unable to play. The two that did though involved both Greensward sides as they looked to make home advantage count.

Greensward Seconds were up first as they entertained Eastwood, who were looking to avoid a second straight first round exit. The first four rubbers, the men's and ladies doubles, saw both sides take two wins each. Vikki Walker and Tracey Carey were edged out 21-19 in both games against Eastwood's Laura Whiteman and Debbie Moon. Greensward responded by winning the first men's as Gary Rose and Ben Bradford came from a set down to beat John Kindred and Will Muggleton. Vikki Walker and Carly Horsler then defeated Laura Whiteman and Dawn Muggleton in straight sets before John Kindred and Martin Rainbow won in straight sets for Eastwood against Gary Rose and Conor Atay.

The first four of the mixed doubles followed a similar fashion with both teams winning two rubbers each and this time all but one went to three sets. Will Muggleton and Debbie Moon narrowly edged out Ben Bradford and Tracey Carey in the third set, 21-20, before Greensward raced through in straight sets with Gary Rose and Vikki Walker. Conor Atay and Carly Horsler then came from a set down to beat John Kindred and Laura Whiteman before Eastwood tied it at 4-4 with a 21-19 win in the third set for Martin Rainbow and Dawn Muggleton.

The last match there was only a difference of three in the handicaps but there was quite a bit of a gap on the court as Conor Atay and Carly Horsler sealed the victory for Greensward Seconds beating Will Muggleton and Debbie Moon.

Greensward Firsts then stepped onto court looking to follow in the footsteps of the Second team and did just that as they shared the first four rubbers with Fitzwimarc Seconds. Emma Dixon and Liz Cullen used their positive handicap to their advantage to claim a straight set win over Mandie Breed and Sara Thompson. Greensward responded with two straight sets wins of their own for Andy McMahon and Rob Dunn and Mandie Breed and Tracey Haylett. Fitz then tied it up as Adam Peters and Oliver Escott won two sets 21-20 to squeak past Andy McMahon and Tim Baskett.

From that point on, last year's finalists showed their quality as they won all five of the mixed doubles without dropping a set. Rob Dunn, Tim Baskett, Tracey Haylett and Sara Thompson all won two rubbers each to help secure an emphatic 7-2 win. Oliver Escott and Kera Lewis came closest to getting a set for Fitz as they lost 21-19, 21-19 to Andy McMahon and Mandie Breed.

Therefore both Greensward sides advance to the semi finals where the second team will meet the winner of Fitzwimarc and SLH Rayleigh and the first team could have a repeat of last year's final against East Thurrock if they beat Westcliff.