

TABLE TENNIS

The South Canterbury residential singles titles were decided on Monday night. The Open and Second Division titles were wide open after some patchy form towards the end of the season by the top players but Richard Simpson could lay claim to outright favouritism in the Men's Third Division, after an unbeaten run from 18 matches.

Six players contested the Men's Open Division for the Vern Mitchell Cup over a round robin and at the end of the night it was the finalists from 2009, Mike Stapp and Tim Underdown, who battled it out for the title. Underdown, runner up in 2009, was away to a flyer in the first two games and although Stapp fought back to claim the third game, Underdown was too strong winning his first open title in 28 years 11-3, 11-5, 8-11, 11-6. In the Women's Open Division it was the titleholder from last year, Louise Sandri, who again dominated with comfortable wins over all opponents to claim her 12th singles title.

The Men's Second Division, contested by seven players over a round robin, was one of the closest results in many years. Paul Butler, Glenn May and John Fox all finished with 5 wins each and with May beating Butler, Butler beating Fox and Fox beating May, all with 3-1 score lines, the games count back was even. It was therefore necessary to go to a points count back to determine Paul Butler as the winner by a slim margin of 4 points over Fox.

In the Women's Second Division Nancy Gould was the winner after a tense five game win over Karen McKenzie 11-6, 6-11, 11-9, 7-11, 11-9.

The Men's Third Division was split into two pools with semi-finalists from Pool A being Richard Simpson and Peter Adolph with Hayden Butler and Waldo Myburg winning through from Pool B. In the semis Simpson was too strong for Myburg 11-8, 11-7, 11-5 while Butler had a hard fought win over Adolph 11-9, 8-11, 11-6, 12-10. In the final Butler gained the early advantage but Simpson levelled up in the second game. The next two games could have gone either way however Simpson managed to keep just in front to complete the win 9-11, 11-7, 11-9, 14-12.

Lynette Smith won the Women's Third Division fighting back from 1-2 down to beat Janet Doran 11-13, 11-5, 6-11, 11-9, 11-6.