

33rd Annual Long Island Open

January 25 & 26, 2014

Spurred by the increasing popularity of Big Ball 4-Wall events, the 2014 Long Island Open achieved higher participation than previous years. The event raised \$1500 for the Junior Development Fund and was great start to this year's fundraising drive which began February 1st, 2014. Our thanks to Danielle Daskalakis, Annie Huang, and Kristina Hall who simplified the Co-Director jobs, welcoming our participants as well as keeping the tournament on schedule

Results

BIG BALL MEN'S OPEN SINGLES- The #1 seed, Jon Sese lived up to his reputation defeating all contestants on his way to the finals. In an early match against Harry Velez, Jon lost the first game but pulled it together in game 2 and soundly defeated Velez 11-1 in the tiebreaker. He then comfortably rolled past Jose Garcia to the finals against Danny Torres who seriously challenged Jon by winning game one 21-11 but fell in the 2nd game 21-18. An anxious crowd awaited the tiebreaker; Jon took control midway through, winning 11-5. On the other side of the draw-Danny Torres (3) had a mild upset over #2 seed Allan Sanchez in the semi-finals.

SMALL BALL MEN'S OPEN SINGLES- This year's event brought back some of our past stars including Jai Ragoo who could not keep away from our game for too long. The finals pitted Tyree Bastidas (1) against Mike Schneider Jr (2). Game 1 belonged to Tyree who soundly defeated Mike 21-6. Mike must have taken the loss personally as he rallied back defeating Tyree convincingly 21-12. The exciting tiebreaker saw great gets, shooting and smart defensive play with Mike coming out on top 11-7. On the way to the finals, Tyree defeated Bob Ajisafe 18, 18 and the ever tough competitor Billy O'Donnell 21-18, 21-20. Mike rolled past Joe Kaplan 21-4, 5 then Jurell Bastidas 21-13, 15 to reach the finals.

BIG BALL WOMEN'S OPEN SINGLES- This year again had Danielle Daskalakis show her outstanding talent. She won the finals over Na Liu 21-6, 2 displaying her exceptional shot selection and two-handed skills. Na Liu earned the finals defeating Annie Huang.

SMALL BALL WOMEN'S SINGLES OPEN- The small field was missing some of our top women stars but missed nothing in the action department. The finals saw Na Liu charge ahead in game 1 over Annie Huang only to have Annie fight back to a close 21-18 loss. Game 2 defeat by Na 21-11 in no way reflected the heart and hard-fought effort of Annie.

SMALL BALL B SINGLES- This event saw upsets of both #1 & #2 seeds. Jared Vale (1) lost to a determined Franklin Vera in the semi-finals 21-17, (21-15) 11-10 while Eric Lee (2) lost to Mike Torres also in the semi-finals (21-16) 21-11, 11-8. In the finals Mike persevered over Franklin in game 1 -21-20 and rolled in game 2 -21-11.

SMALL BALL C SINGLES- This year's winner, Mike Torres, may be unfairly termed as a sandbagger especially given his B singles win. However he never won a 4-Wall C event previously and in the finals had all he could handle to defeat Danielle Daskalakis 21-17, 21-17. Danielle rolled over her opponents Andrew Ortiz 21-4, 2 and Sheikh Hossain 21-17, 5. Mike handled Irvin Sibrian 21-8, 3 then defeated Mohammed Shafi 12 & 13 in the semi-finals.

SMALL BALL 19 & UNDER SINGLES- Robert Lee (1) comfortably defeated Mark Avilez 21-6,4 to earn the finals. Eugene Lau won 21-9, 16 over Andrew Ortiz in his semi-finals. In the finals it was all Robert Lee winning 21-11, 7.

SMALL BALL 17 & UNDER SINGLES- Sheikh Hossain (1) convincingly defeated his opponents Steven Woo 21-6, 15 and Mohammad Shafi 21-18, 17 to the finals. On the lower half of the draw Gabriel Carbuccia (3) upset Eugene Lau (2) in the semi-finals 21-18, 15. The finals were won in a forfeit as Gabriel was a no show.

40+SMALL BALL SINGLES- The #1 Andy Rousseau struggled in this year's event most likely victim of the recent flu. Nevertheless he waged a tough battle in the finals against the well-conditioned Chris Hlavatovic 21-10, 7.

50+SMALL BALL SINGLES- There were no surprises in the finals again this year. It seems the northeast tournaments always contest Mike Angley against Dan Vera. This year Dan was the victor defeating Mike 21-13,15. This division always seems to have several who can take the title with Paul Williams, Paul Lonergan or Jim Lynch, all in contention.

60+SMALL BALL SINGLES- Glenn Hall (1) breezed to the finals with a defeat of Artie Diamant, perhaps revenge for his loss in the one National final where he was soundly beaten. His finals opponent, Marc Siegle defeated #2 seed, Vince Ruggiero to earn the berth. Mark's rangy style and determination challenged Glenn throughout the match but ended in a loss of 21-11, 14.

70+SMALL BALL SINGLES- Dennis Uffer (1) traveled from Syracuse and was rewarded with a win over a determined Gary Grossman 21-17, 12. Dennis defeated Rich Hanley to earn the final. Ben Marguilio had the flu and forfeited so Gary had a bye to the finals.

BIG BALL MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES- Allan Sanchez & Cesar Sala (1) defeated Harry and Johnny Velez in route to the finals while Danny Torres and Jon Sese (2) rolled in the semi's over Franklin Vera & Robert Lee 21-8,7. Torres/Sese won comfortably 21-14, 13 and Jon Sese slammed in the Big Ball Open events.

SMALL BALL MEN'S OPEN DOUBLES- The Brothers Bastidas, Jurell & Tyree (1) defeated Cesar Sala/ Joe Kaplan in the semi-finals 21-13, (13-21), 11-4 to earn the finals. In the lower bracket, Billy O'Donnell and Mike Schneider Jr. (2) cruised to the finals over Eric Smith/Raul Retain 21-7, 7. It was unfortunate but Tyree strained his leg in the singles play and an injury default was declared providing Mike Schneider Jr. with a slam in the Small Ball Open division.

SMALL BALL B/C DOUBLES- Jared Vale/John Garcia (1) held their ranking winning their finals over Franklin Vera/Robert Lee 21-4, 9. Vale/Garcia earned the finals with a defeat over Jim Lynch/Gary Grossman 21-10, 15 and Vera/Lee defeated Anthony Aguirre/ Neil Flaum.

SMALL BALL 40+ DOUBLES-Originally Paul Williams was to have played with Mike Angley but family needs took priority so Paul Lonergan substituted. This #1 ranked team rolled to the finals over Robert Scola/Raymond Ortiz 21-14, 14. George Brandeburg/Dan Vera (2) always the finalists in the division had an injury forfeit to reach the finals. The finals was all Lonergan/Williams with a 21-9, 9 victory. Paul Lonergan a one-wall doubles star was a standout in this very tough doubles field transitioning his game efficiently to 4 wall competition.

SMALL BALL 60+ DOUBLES- Last year's winners, Billy Farber/Glenn Hall repeated with a finals win over Alan Careddu/Gary Grossman 21-16,9 and Glenn Hall slammed the 60 events. In the semi-finals they defeated Dan Danilczyk/Mario Angrisani 21-15,10. Angrisani at 70 something is still playing like he is in his 50's. Carreddu/Grossman earned the finals defeating Steve Kraft/Dennis Uffer 21-7, 14.

BIG BALL MEN'S 19&UNDER SINGLES- A newly added event, this drew 9 contestants. The finals was all Gabriel Carbuccia (1) who won easily 21-6, 7 over Nicholas Liaros. Liaros (3) defeated Steven Woo but then had 2 forfeits to reach the finals.

Several members of the ICHA board had impressive results at our featured 4-Wall event. ICHA founder, Paul Williams won the 50+ Doubles with Paul Lonergan. Danielle Daskalaskis won the women's Big Ball and 2nd in small ball C singles. Cesar Sala was runner up in the big ball men's open doubles and Glenn Hall slammed in the 60's.

Next year we hope to include a **40+ big ball 4-wall event**-another first by ICHA, appealing to our veteran big ball stars. The addition of the Big Ball events has brought added excitement to our 4-Wall tournament which grows each year, and we encourage junior one wall players to participate in next year's 4 wall tournament. As always, training is available for junior players contact ICHA about membership in our Junior Development Program.