

2016 Republic Bank Interclub – Semi finals

RBL Interclub semi-finals – Paragon vs Summerhayes and Yacht Club vs Ocean View

Summerhayes defeat Paragon by one point for a place in the interclub finals.

The Round Robin having now been completed in this year's Republic Bank sponsored Inter-Club tennis competition, the four top teams were in a show down for the 2 spots in the finals. In what was a thrilling encounter that went down to the wire, former champions Summerhayes defeated defending champions Paragon by one point to book their place in the final against Barbados Yacht Club.

Yacht Club had a decisive victory against Ocean View and have an opportunity to play as the favourites for the title which has eluded them since the re-birth of inter-club 7 years ago.

Paragon vs Summerhayes

Paragon started out strong with two decisive wins in the singles. Xavier Lawrence, Barbados' National Champion and #1 junior defeated Summerhayes (SH) Sean Eteen 6-1 while top junior Jaimie Lewis defeated Summerhayes faithful Elise Wilson 6-0. The men's number 1 doubles was a tough match, with former Davis Cup player Michael Date teaming up with Martin Frost to take on Davis Cup player Seanon Williams and overseas based Devard Wharton of Paragon. Summerhayes negated the pace of Williams and used Date's superior volleying skills to run out to a 8-5 lead but Paragon broke Date against the run of play and came back to 8-7. Frost held his nerve to win his serve and the match 9-7.

SEMI	PAR - SH	Paragon	Summerhayes
MS	6 - 1	Xavier Lawrence	Sean Eteen
WS	6 - 0	Jaimie Lewis	Elise Wilson
MD1	7 - 9	Seanon Williams/Devard Wharton	Martin Frost\Michael Date
MD2	3 - 9	Craig Smith/Ian Harewood	Kyle Frost\Preshant Nebhani
WD1	3 - 9	Alison Boyce/Sarah Humphries	Ilana Blackwood\Kim Brandford
WD2	3 - 9	Rosie Jones/Sonia Grant	Marie-Jeanne Symmonds\Caryl Pearson
MD	9 - 1	Chris King/Sherry Belle	Bernard Frost\Abba Kent
Matches	3 - 4		
Score	37 - 38		

Former Fed Cup Player Kim Brandford teamed up with top junior Ilana Blackwood in the number 1 ladies doubles against Paragon's lefty Alison Boyce and Sarah Humphries. In another key encounter Brandford used her net play effectively however Paragon were able to win some key points by lobbing successfully. Brandford served for the match at 8-3 and was broken but Summerhayes kept the momentum to immediately break back to win 9-4. At that stage Paragon were still ahead by 4 points.

Going into the second round of men's doubles, Summerhayes' Preshant Nebhani and Junior Davis Cup player Kyle Frost took on veterans Craig Smith and Ian Harewood. The match was won 9-3 by Summerhayes, while the number two ladies pair of Caryl Pearson and Marie-Jeanne Symmonds played Rosie Jones and Sonia Grant with an identical score of 9-3 to Summerhayes.

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The tables were turned and Summerhayes now needed 1 point to give them victory (by virtue of a 4-3 match record). Experienced captain Bernard Frost, who had been unavailable all season due to injury took to the court with Abba Kent in need of just one point against Chris King and Sherry Belle, but the tie was far from decided. King served first and Summerhayes was hopeful of winning the all-important point in the second game when Frost served. Alas King & Belle broke Frost and Kent twice each and King served at 8-0 in what seemed like an inevitable Paragon victory. The match went down to the wire as King served for the tie and had a first match point at 40-30 but Frost made a great return at the toes of King which he was unable to return, to set up the sudden death deuce point which would determine the winner of the entire tie. King missed his first serve and when Frost returned his second serve King made a polite return towards Kent at net. Kent rose to the occasion; exchanging volleys with Belle before putting away the third volley past Belle for a winner that gave Summerhayes the all-important game and the team win. With the tie decided, Frost went on to win his serve and Summerhayes sealed the victory by one point in what must be one of the most thrilling finishes in interclub history.

Summerhayes celebrated while Paragon was silenced having been 1 point away from the finals.

Barbados Yacht Club vs Ocean View

Barbados Yacht Club (BYC) were able to repeat their success over Ocean View (OV) who they also played in the last round robin match competition a week ago and won 45-38. The teams came out in team colours, and with lots of support, in anticipation of a keenly contested battle.



Both teams made some strategic changes to their line ups and BYC started strong with wins in the men's singles and number 1 men's doubles. Squash player Mark Gilkes defeated junior Zidan Dottin 6-3 while Jason Small & Brain Cadagon defeated former Davis Cup player Ryan Moseley and junior Jared Spencer 9-6. Ocean View's Chloe Weeks had a tougher time with Emanuelle Mottley who she had defeated 6-0 last week, ending with a come from behind victory in the tie break, 6-5.

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BYC's Marie-Ann Gonsalves and Helen Roper dominated the no 1 ladies doubles dispatching of Ellie Brown and Cornelia Kuegeler 9-1.

SEMI	BYC - OV	Barbados Yacht Club	Ocean View
MS	6 - 3	Mark Gilkes	Zidan Dottin
WS	5 - 6	Emanuelle Mottley	Chloe Weekes
MD1	9 - 6	Jason Small\Briar Cadogan	Ryan Moseley/Jared Spencer
MD2	8 - 9	Colin Murray\Roger Edghill	Alan Grogan/Jadon Brome
WD1	9 - 1	Marie-Ann Gonsalves\Helen Roper	Ellie Brown/Cornelia Kuegeler
WD2	5 - 9	Kelly Corbin\Jackie Marshall	Gabby Lopez/Amelia Dickson
MD	9 - 2	Joshua Worme\Donna Gibbs	Harry MacKenzie/Aleisha Alleyne
Matches	4 - 3		
Score	51 - 36		

Former Fed Cup player Donna Gibbs teamed up with Joshua Worme in the mixed to defeat Harry MacKenzie and Aleisha Alleyne 9-2. The men's no 2 doubles was a crucial match for Ocean View, who needed a convincing victory to narrow the gap. Roger Edghill and Colin Murray earned 8 points but were defeated by experienced Alan Grogan and St Michael school victor ludorum Jadon Brome 9-8.

By then BYC was 19 points ahead and had assured the team of a place in the final. The final match, the no 2 ladies doubles was won by Ocean View as former Fed Cup player Gabby Lopez teamed up with top junior Amelia Dickson to defeat Kelly Corbin and Jackie Marshall 9-5.

Summerhayes will play Barbados Yacht Club for the Championship on Saturday May 7, 2016 at the National Tennis Centre.