

## 2016 SOL NATIONAL TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL REPORT

### SOL OPEN & VETERANS NATIONALS

Seanon Williams and Ilana Blackwood are the 2016 Sol Nationals Open champions. Blackwood who is also the Sol u18 National Junior Champion and defending Open champion, is undefeated in singles matches played in Barbados for over a year. Blackwood had to fight for this one, and it was a long and exciting match. Taking on veteran Donna Gibbs in the final, Blackwood found herself down a set before rallying back to win the match 3-6,6-4,6-1 in just over two hours. Gibbs showed her metal

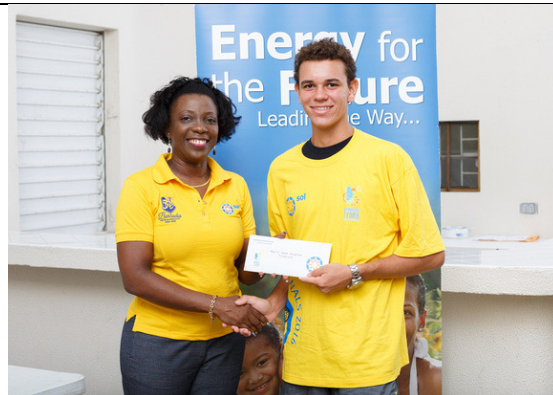


Sol Ladies & Junior National Champion– Ilana Blackwood

when defeating the no 1 u14 Gabrielle Leslie 6-1,6-2 in the semifinals. Blackwood also had an easy win over Tangia Riley-Codrington 6-1,6-0 in the other semi-final.

The Sol National Men’s champion is Seanon Williams. As Barbados’s sole Davis Cup player in the tournament he was the favorite despite being unseeded and true to form he completed the championship with a 6-0,6-2 win over top junior Kyle Frost. Williams played the tournament without

losing his serve and only losing 6 games in 5 matches. He was dominant throughout using his kick serve effectively as well as his superior ground strokes. Frost had a tougher road to what was his second consecutive Sol National Men’s Open final, playing two long 3 setters against veterans Damien Applewhaite and Matthew Weir. Playing Applewhaite In the semifinal Frost got the early break and closed out the opening set 6-3 but quickly found himself down 0-4 in the second. He was able to recover one break of serve but lost



Sol Mens Nationals Runner-Up – Kyle Frost

that set. In the final set which went late into the night his superior fitness proved the key as he rallied from 3-3 in the third to close out the match 6-4,3-6,6-3 without losing any further games. On the top half of the draw fifteen year old Romani Mayers defeated the number 1 seed Andrew Thornton 6-3,7-5 in what was an keenly contested battle which saw Thornton save match points at 4-5 and come within one point of forcing a second set tie-breaker. Mayers however was not able to



Sol Veterans u35 Nationals Winner – Matthew Weir

keep up his form and was defeated in the semis by Williams 6-0, 6-1 in match that lasted just over an hour.

In veterans action Matthew Weir is the Mens over 35 singles champion in the Sol National seniors tournament. With the defending champion Damien Applewhaite unavailable due to coaching commitments, Weir was untouchable right through to the final winning over Oneal Marshall relatively easily, 6-1, 6-1.

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Sol Veterans u35&u45 Nationals Winner – Donna Gibbs

Craig Smith captured the over 45 singles title in the Sol National seniors tournament with a straight sets win over Alan Grogan. Smith is recently returned from representing Barbados in the Senior Games in Utah in which he won gold.

In women's veterans action it was a clean sweep for Donna Gibbs who played undefeated in both the o35 and o45 ladies singles and doubles events.

### SOL JUNIOR NATIONALS

Fourteen year old Kaipho Marshall is the Barbados Sol National Male Junior Tennis Champion. Playing in the finals of the u18 boys singles, Marshall had a comfortable come from behind victory over Kyle Frost 5-7,6-1,6-2. Marshall also defeated the number 1 seed Romani Mayers in the semi-final 7-6,7-5. The loss against Marshall was a disappointment for sixteen year old Frost who had dropped only 3 games in 3 matches on his way to the finals.



Sol Junior u18 Nationals Winner – Kaipho Marshall



Sol Junior u16 Nationals Winner – Romani Mayers

However, it was Mayers who got his revenge against Marshall in the u16 final which he won in 3 sets 6-4,5-7,6-1.

With players permitted to enter three age groups for the first time, Marshall, playing in the under 14s made no mistakes defeating Kyle Griffith 6-1,6-0 in the final. Marshall won his second title dropping only 5 games in his 3 matches

Hannah Chambers recently back from the 12&Under ITF Caribbean Team Championships in Curaçao continued her winning ways capturing the u12 and u14 SOL junior girl's national titles. Chambers defeated rival Amelia Dickson in a very close match 6-3,1-6,7-6 in the u14 final after beating Gabrielle Leslie 6-3,6-0 in the semifinal. Chambers had a perfect record in singles in Curaçao winning all 5 of her singles matches including a victory over the Jamaica u12 no 1, with the strong Jamaican girls team placing first overall.



Sol Junior Nationals u14 & u12 Winner – Hanna Chambers

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Sol Junior Nationals u16 Winner – Tangia Riley-Codrington

The u16 SOL national girls champion for the first time is Tangia Riley-Codrington who defeated Leslie 6-1,6-2 in the final. Leslie reached the final of the u16s with a 6-3,4-6,6-3 victory over Dickson while Riley-Codrington booked her place in the final with an early round win over Chambers 7-5,6-0 and a walkover in the semis over Alesha Alleyne who withdrew from the singles due to injury. The girls no 1 seed Ilana Blackwood is the u18 SOL National champion. Ilana, currently #870 in the ITF junior rankings, did not drop more than 4 games in a match on her way to a comfortable 6-0,6-3 victory over Riley-Codrington in the final.

In the u12 final it was Callum Dickson who defeated his friend and rival Lance Castagne-Clairmont 8-3. Both boys had also represented Barbados at the 12&Under ITF Caribbean Team Championships in Curaçao with Dickson having a 4-2 record in singles including a victory over the Trinidad u12 no 1 player - the Trinidadian boy's team placed first overall.

Chambers won the girls u12s SOL National girls title ending undefeated in the round robin. Serena Bryan was the runner up.



Sol Junior Nationals u12 Winner – Callum Dickson

The presentation was held at the National Tennis Centre on October 21 2016 and the prizes were presented by Karen Bishop-McClean the Sales & Marketing Manager of Sol (Barbados) Ltd.



Sol Champions pose with Representatives of the Sol and the BTA president Dr Raymond Forde (in red)