

# English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd



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## **REPORT ON BIIBC CHAMPIONSHIPS & BIIBC SENIOR INTERNATIONAL SERIES MARCH 2009 held at Belfast Indoor Bowls Club**

The Senior International Series was held over the weekend of the 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2009 in Belfast. Belfast was a wonderful setting for the inaugural Joint International event for both the ladies and the Gentlemen and the men. The bowls played over the period were played at the highest possible standard and played in the sportsmanlike traditions that we have come to expect.

### **BIIBC Championships**

Prior to the International Series taking place the BIIBC events were played. The highlights for England were the Cumbrian triple winning the event along with Mervyn King and Jamie Chestney winning the pairs. This is a great achievement for all concerned - well done.

The results from the BIIBC events were:

Junior Singles – Dean Tute lost to Ross Tomlinson of Wales 11-21

Singles – Gary R Smith lost to Stewart Anderson of Scotland 7-21

Pairs - Mervyn King and Jamie Chestney beat Steve Harris and Marc Wyatt of Wales 22-21 after an extra end.

Triples – Craig Docherty, Trevor Taylor and Stephen Farrish beat Rod Coleman, Andrew Riley & Brendan Thompson of Ireland 16-6.

Fours – Paul Field, Terry Heppell, Tom Doig and Andy Thompson, lost to the Channel Islands 16-19.

Over 60's Senior Fours - John Andrews, Bob Lock, Jim Bunce and Martyn Jackson lost to Ireland 20-25.

### **Greg Harlow:**

Greg Harlow was awarded a crystal decanter to celebrate his 50<sup>th</sup> cap before the game against Ireland; our congratulations go out to Greg on this magnificent achievement.

### **International Series**

The International Series started well for England. In the first game England had a large victory over Wales 138 shots to 76. All the rinks were up except one, with the highlight being a 19 shot victory for the Captain Andy Thompson's rink.

On the second day England also ran out victors against a brave Irish side. England won the match by 116 shots to 97. England got off to a slow start with Ireland playing well and up to the 10<sup>th</sup> end the match was very close. Then between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 15<sup>th</sup> ends England took control scoring 36 shots to Irelands 13. This dominance gave England the platform to go forward with and win the game. 4 out of the six rinks were up except one rink that drew and one that lost.

With both England and Scotland winning all their games the deciding game was played out on Sunday afternoon. Unfortunately disappointing team performances lead to England losing the game by 28 shots. The only highlights of the day for England were Greg Harlow and Steve Farish beating Graham Robertson and Alex Marshall. Greg's rink was unbeaten in the series.

The game was a close encounter up to the 10<sup>th</sup> end with only one or two shots separating the sides as end after end they battled each other out in a contest that can only be described as "bruising". The majority of the vociferous crowd were supporting the Scottish team and stirred them into action in the ultimate part of the game. The Scots took the game by the scruff of the neck and went from strength to strength to win the game and ultimately the series.

Our congratulations go out to the Scottish Captain George Sneddon and the rest of the team on winning the event and procuring the Hilton Trophy.

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