NATIONAL INDOOR BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS AT MELTON MOWBRAY 8-17 April, 2016

DAY ONE - FRIDAY, 8 APRIL UPDATE

PREMIER TITLES UP FOR GRABS



The latest round of

national championships were officially opened today by Councillor Jeanne Douglas, the Mayor of the Borough of Melton

No fewer than eleven national indoor bowls titles are on offer at Melton Mowbray this week. They include men's and women's singles, pairs, triples and fours (that's eight titles), plus the men's under 25 inter-county Double Rink title, as well as the men's and women's inter-county championships for the Liberty and Atherley Trophies. This is the schedule for the next ten days of competition.

Friday, 8 April	1400	Men's Pairs - last 32 (first half)
	1830	Men's Pairs - last 32 (second half)
Saturday, 9 April	0900	Men's Pairs - last 16
	1300	Women's Pairs - last 16
	1800	Men's & Women's Pairs - Quarter finals
Sunday, 10 April	0900	Men's & Women's Pairs - Semi finals
	1400	Men's & Women's Pairs - Finals
	1400	Men's U25 inter-county Double Rink - Final
Monday, 11 April	0930	Women's Fours - last 16
	1330	Men's Fours - last 16
	1800	Men's & Women's Fours - Quarter finals
Tuesday, 12 April	1000	Men's & Women's Fours - Semi finals
	1500	Men's & Women's Fours - Finals
Wednesday, 13 April	0930	Women's Triples - last 16
	1330	Men's Triples - last 16
	1800	Men's & Women's Triples - Quarter finals
Thursday, 14 April	1000	Men's & Women's Triples - Semi finals
	1500	Men's & Women's Triples - Finals
Friday, 15 April	1000	Men's Singles - last 32 (first half)
	1300	Men's Singles - last 32 (second half)
	1600	Women's Singles - last 16
	1900	Men's Singles - last 16
Saturday, 16 April	1000	Men's & Women's Singles - Quarter finals
	1300	Women's inter-county championship (Atherley Trophy) - Final
	1730	Men's & Women's Singles - Semi finals
Sunday, 17 April	0930	Men's & Women's Singles - Finals
	1330	Men's inter-county championship (Liberty Trophy) - Final

MEN'S PAIRS GET CHAMPIONSHIPS UNDERWAY



The scene at Melton before the trial ends began - 32 men can't wait to launch their bid for a national title

Men's Pairs - last 32 (phase one)... 1400hrs

Taylor Monk & Martyn Sekjer (Cyphers) bt David Marsh & Bradley Pounds (Ashford) 23-11;
James Alcock & Tom Alcock (Charnwood) bt Lee Barber & Andy Law (Bounds Green) 18-17;
James Fuge & Ed Morris (Essex County) bt Danny Brown & Billy Jackson (Lincoln) 18-17;
Mark Burdett & Martin Timms (Welford-on-Avon) bt Malcolm Mayhew & Phil Gregory (Ipswich) 19-15;
Neil Chandler & Dave Howes (Cotswold) bt Chris Daniels & Peter Ward (Bournemouth) 23-13;
Jamie Holmes & Bill Nelson (Barking) bt Mark Squirrell & Jonathan Forcer (Hartlepool) 21-14;
Rob Elmore & Ed Elmore (City of Ely) bt Norman Coad & Paul Bennett (Bodmin) 22-9;
Stuart Irwin & Kevin Harrison (Cumbria) bt Craig Doughty & Graham Shadwell (Clarrie Dunbar) 20-19.

Men's Pairs - last 32 (phase two)... 1830hrs

Louis Ridout & Sam Tolchard (Torquay United) bt Martin Coles & Bradley Coles (Watford)
Kieran Earnshaw & Mark Hughes (Featherstone) bt Ron McCarthy & Barry Patterson (Moonfleet 2000) 21-13;
Tom Doig & Phil Broughton (Nottingham) bt Kevin Carrie & Stuart Holland (Egerton Park) 22-18;
Jason Bryan & Connor Cinato (Kingsthorpe) bt John Barnes & Clive Baugh (White Oak) 30-11;
John Dawes & Mark Dawes (Blackpool NH) bt Ken Uglow & Barrie Forse (Weston St Andrew's) 30-6;
Adam Watts & Peter Wilkinson (County Arts) bt Simon Jones & Andy Knapper (Whiteknights) 22-21 (after extra end);
Phil Dixon & Gary Farquhar (South Shields) bt Keith Beckett & Bryn Davies (Isle of Wight) 23-5;
Duncan Heard & Jon Wilson (Wey Valley) bt Mervyn King & Sam King (Gallow) 23-15.

FORMER CHAMPS MAKE EARLY EXIT

Danny Brown and Billy Jackson, who won the national men's indoor pairs title in 2001, and were among the favourites to repeat the feat this year, crashed out in the first round, beaten 18-17, by Essex County duo James Fuge and Ed Morris, who led throughout.

Another hotly tipped pair - Bournemouth's Chris Daniels and Peter Ward, who were runners up in 2011 and 2013, also bit the dust, losing 23-13 to Cotswold's Neil Chandler and Dave Howes, who play at Stroud in Gloucestershire.

Clarrie Dunbar's Craig Doughty and Graham Shadwell, who is on the short list for England's five-man team to compete in the world outdoor championships in Christchurch (New Zealand) in November, were involved in a close encounter with young Cumbrians Stuart Irwin and Kevin Harrison, who sneaked home, 20-19.

The Elmore brothers, Rob and Ed, from the City of Ely posted a 22-9 win against Bodmin's Norman Coad and Paul Bennett, while Martyn Sekjer, winner of several national titles, steered his Cyphers clubmate Taylor Monk to a 23-11 win over David Marsh and Bradley Pounds, from Ashford in Kent.

More stars were derailed in the evening session, when world-ranked Mervyn King and his son Sam, who play for the Gallow club in Fakenham (Norfolk) were beaten, 23-15 by Duncan Heard and John Wilson, from the Wey Valley club in Guildford.

And Commonwealth Games medallist Andy Knapper, with his Whiteknights clubmate, former WIBC world under singles champion Simon Jones, at lead, was knocked out on an extra end, 22-21, by Adam Watts and Peter Wilkinson, from the Norwich-based County Arts club.

On an end rink, favourites Louis Ridout and Sam Tolchard, from Torquay United, owed a lot to a freak count of seven shots they picked up to moved from 8-6 to 15-6 against Watford's father-and-son duo Martin and Bradley Coles.

Two runaway wins saw Blackpool Newton Hall's brothers John and Mark Dawes beating a Somerset pair from Weston St Andrew's, 30-6, and Jason Bryan and Connor Cinato, from Kingsthorpe (Northampton), overwhelmed a pair from White Oak in Kent, 30-11.