



**English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd**

The National Governing Body for Indoor Level Green Bowls in England

## **NATIONAL INDOOR BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS AT MELTON MOWBRAY**

*8-17 April, 2016*

**DAY TEN - SUNDAY, 17 APRIL**

### **SPALDING SPLIT SPOILS**

*Clubmates Martin Spencer and Annie Dunham are the new singles champions*



**Martin and Annie show off their silverware.**

History was made in Melton Mowbray today, when, for the first time since the women's event was introduced in 1973, both national indoor singles titles - men's and women's - were won by players from the same club. Spalding's Martin Spencer, who is 27, played superbly to defeat the favourite Sam Tolchard, 21-10, in the men's final, and his clubmate Annie Dunham (nee Bellamy), aged 28, fought back bravely to turn an 11-7 deficit after 19 ends into a 21-19 victory after 25 over Amy Stanton.

### **SPENCER TAMES TOLCHARD**

*"I'm so pleased I was able to bring my 'A' game to the semi finals and final"*



Spalding's Martin Spencer bowls in the final - watched by Sam Tolchard from Torquay United.

### Men's Singles - Final...

When Sam Tolchard, from Torquay United, led, 4-2, there was nothing to suggest that the men's singles final would turn out to be a runaway affair, but Spalding's Martin Spencer strung together a devastating 2-3-1-1-1-3-3 sequence, punctuated only by a Tolchard single, to lead 16-5 after 12 ends.

Spencer's accurate drawing to the jack was the major factor, but it has to be said that Tolchard often came close, but never got the breaks. On one end, for example, he struck accurately, only to see the jack rebound up the green, giving Spencer three shots.

When Tolchard scored doubles on the 13th and 14th ends, many in the spectators' gallery anticipated a comeback from the talented Devonian - but Spencer was ruthless, and allowed the 26-year-old Tolchard, who won the pairs with Louis Ridout last Sunday, only one more single as he sealed victory, 21-10.

"I have always watched people winning this title, and wondered if I might do so one day," said Spencer. "But I really didn't think it would happen, and I don't think it's really sunk in yet!"

Has he played ever better this? - "I don't know about that," he replied. "But I was certainly glad to be able to bring my 'A' game to the semi finals (when he beat defending champion Greg Harlow, 21-10) and final - and it's fantastic for the club that Annie won the women's title."

Two years ago, he should have been in the Spalding trio that won the national triples title, but, after helping Matt Whyers and Graham Smith to qualify, it was discovered that he had a tumour on his spine, and had to undergo an emergency operation.

Ashley Caress took his place in the nationals, and Spalding powered to an impressive victory - so it was a special moment for Spencer today when he was presented with the men's singles trophy by EIBA President Jenny McConnell.

**Final: Martin Spencer (Spalding) bt Sam Tolchard (Torquay United) 21-10.**

# DUNHAM'S 'RED BUS' ARRIVES ON TIME

*"Scott told me to believe I was a red bus!"*



Annie Dunham's distinctive delivery - and refusal to admit defeat - saw her home against Amy Stanton.

## Women's Singles - Final

Before the final began, Annie Dunham's husband Scott Dunham, a fine bowler in his own right, told her to pretend she was a red bus - a concept that perhaps that needs some explaining.

"In a recent Test Match against Scotland, the commentator, referring to my red bowls, suggested that I was playing so well I was as unstoppable as a red English bus - and we rather liked the description, explained Dunham.

"Scott's always very good at helping me prepare for a big game, and I went out there with that phrase running through my mind. Although I was behind for most of the final, I was determined not to give up - and I kept on revving myself up, and believing I could do it."

Her final opponent Amy Stanton started brilliantly, carding a full house of four shots on the very first end, and was 12-7 ahead by the 12th end. Seemingly always in control, the 26-year-old Stanton, from Welford-on-Avon, looked the likely winner when she led, 17-11, after 19 ends.

But Dunham, who scored a treble on the 20th and a double on the 22nd, struck a telling blow when she picked up a full house of four shots on the 24th end to take the lead for the very first time, and, on a nail-biting 25th end, she trailed the jack gently to a place that Stanton just could not reach.

"It's really special to have won both titles for Spalding," Dunham said. "It's such a close-knit and friendly club, with a lively junior section that Martin, who is three months younger than me, and I came through the juniors at the same time."

Yesterday (SAT), Stanton, who was born in Somerset, but now lives in Worcestershire, and works for Bowls England, had recovered from a 19-5 deficit to beat Ellen Falkner, from the City of Ely, 21-20, and the manner of her defeat in the final gives her some idea how Falkner must have felt.

**Final: Annie Dunham (Spalding) bt Amy Stanton (Welford-on-Avon) 21-19.**

# KENT ECLIPSE DURHAM

**BUT ONLY BY TWO SHOTS**



Kent celebrate winning the Liberty Trophy for the fourth time - after beating Durham by two shots in the final.

## LIBERTY TROPHY FINAL

Kent won the national men's inter-county team title, and lifted the Liberty Trophy for the fourth time since the event was introduced in 1975, when they managed to stay in front of eleven-times champions Durham in an absorbing - and rather loud - final in Melton Mowbray this afternoon.

Even though Durham never got their noses in front, it was always an exciting game, because the Northerners always looked threatening, once even getting to within one shot of Kent at 104-103 with only nine ends left to play across the green.

Ian Honnor's rink led the way for Kent, winning by eleven shots, 23-12, while Sean McCaughan's men were not far behind with a 22-16 win, while Duncan Hanmore's quartet played out a 17-17 tie with Paul Mosley's rink.

Durham actually won on three rinks, but their winning margins were not quite enough to unseat the Kentish Men and the Men of Kent. Phil Smithson's rink won by one shot, while Paul Hartley's men, who included EIBA Competitions Director Carl Higgins at second man, and the rink skipped by Gary R Smith both won by seven shots.

Both teams were well supported, which made for an exciting atmosphere, and it was agreed that it was one of the best finals witnessed in this important competition, with the result in doubt until the very last bowl.

## LIBERTY TROPHY FINAL - RESULT...

### **Kent bt Durham 111-109 - Rink scores (Kent names first):**

Chris Morris, Joe Kelly, Marc McCaughan, Shaun McCaughan 22, Dan Targer, Barry Hopkins, Mark Jones, Andy Kirtland 16; Kieran Moss, Arthur McCaughan, Martyn Sekjer, Perry Martin 18, Mal Peach, Bill Ferry, Gary Farquhar, Phil Smithson 19; Mick Fisher, Paul Gent, Paul Barnicott, Duncan Hanmore 17, Brett Arkley, Colin Boston, Glenn Skipp, Paul Mosley 17; Tom Bishop, Andrew Rodger, Taylor Monk, Mark Johnson 18, Matthew Ray, Carl Higgins, Marc Squirrel, Paul Hartley 25; Matthew Bint, Sean Coyle, Michael Cheeseman, Ian Honnor 23, Paul Dixon, Noah Cummings, John Fielding, David Bolt 12; Paul Field, David Holmes, Roger Kendrick, Andy Thomson 13, Jonathan Forcer, Mark Barkess, Ian Jackson, Gary R Smith 20.