

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

# DAY FOUR - MONDAY, 11 APRIL STRONG FIELD FOR WOMEN'S FOURS



This morning, 64 women harboured hopes of a national title - by the end of the day, only 16 were left

#### **Women's Fours**

A star-studded field gathered at Melton this morning with quarter final places in the national women's fours championship at stake. England players past and present were everywhere, and one rink, fielded by the Sittingbourne-based Swale club, comprised for international players.

Swale superstars Paige Dennis, Amy Banes, Sandy Hazell and Wendy King were pushed all the way by a St Neots quartette, sisters Hannah and Emma Felce, their mum Hayley, and England international Michelle Barlow, before winning, 21-16.

Pam Cutts, an England player, skipped Nottingham to a 20-16 win over Plymouth, long-standing international Carole Baker skipped Norfolk to a 25-8 won over Portsmouth Victory, and West Denton's Ann Lennie skipped her clubmates to a 20-18 win over a Welford-on-Avon side skipped by Amy Stanton.

Last year's pairs champions Sue Kearsley and Janice Gower, formed the back end of a Blackpool Newton Hall team that accounted for Guildford-based Wey Valley, 19-13, setting up a quarter final encounter with an Ipswich quartette skipped by the ever-present Katherine Rednall, who pipped Joan Halliwell's Bournemouth rink, 18-17, on a tense extra end.

Swale, who won this title two years ago, went on to beat West Denton's Norma Craig, Karen Walters, Heather Smith and Ann Lennie, 24-10, though they trailed 4-6 after 7 ends, before scoring 20 shots to their opponents' four - sparked off by a count of six on the ninth end.

In tomorrow's semi finals, Swale will play Nottingham, who have shrugged off the absence, through illness, of England player Sue Mart, who has been replaced by Jenny Spencer, referred to by skip Pam Cutts as super-sub, and who lines up with Jackie Turner, Elisa Griffin and Cutts.

Nottingham managed to stay ahead of four bowlers from the Norfolk club, who, with Bex Field and Carole Baker at the back end, always looked capable of hitting back to win a close game, but, trailing 17-15, dropped a double and four to lose, 23-15.

Katherine Rednall, who lost in yesterday's pairs final, was back at her best as Ipswich overwhelmed Blackpool Newton Hall, who had last year's pairs champions Sue Kearsley and Janice Gower at the back end, by 25 shots to four.

In yesterday's final, Ipswich lost to Riverain, and they have the chance of revenge tomorrow, because Rednall's team face four players from the Hitchin-based club, though, to put it politely, Muriel Saunders, Val Bingley, Shirley Hughes and Angela Fabris are not as young as Devon Cooper and Rachel Tremlett.

In their quarter final, Riverain trailed 5-15 after 14 ends, but, perhaps inspired by their clubmates' triumph, finished strongly, and edged home, 19-18.

#### Results - last sixteen

Jackie Turner, Jenny Spencer, Elisa Griffin, Pam Cutts (Nottingham) bt Linda Sampson, Vicky Hingston, Sara Quayle, Hilary Avent (Plymouth) 20-16; Louise Knights, Louise Catchpole, Rebecca Field, Carole Baker (Norfolk) bt Jackie Watts, Julie Greenwood, Margaret Moffat, Kath Patrick (Victory) 25-8; Paige Dennis, Amy Banes, Sandy Hazell, Wendy King (Swale) bt Hannah Felce, Emma Felce, Hayley Felce, Michelle Barlow (St Neots) 21-16; Norma Craig, Karen Waites, Heather Smith, Ann Lennie (West Denton) bt Yvonne Hopkins, Joan Parfitt, Viv Hall, Amy Stanton (Welford-on-Avon) 20-18; Ann Newbury, Wendy Featherstone, Jane Saunders, Lyn Clare (Long Sutton) bt Amanda Donoghue, Brenda Donoghue, Ann Halliday, Irene Barber (Hounslow) 20-16; Muriel Saunders, Val Bingley, Shirley Hughes, Angela Fabris (Riverain) bt Wendy Merchant, Meryl Cridland, Sue Evans, Kirsty Hembrow (Taunton Deane) 24-11; Lesley Rush, Louise Norris, Sue Kearsley, Janice Gower (Blackpool NH) bt Barbara Crooke, Eileen Crawley, Margaret Craig, Maureen Hill (Wey Valley) 19-13; Carol Barnard, Christine Rednall, Margaret Insley, Katherine Rednall (Ipswich) bt Jean Arnaud, Mary Lucas, Julie Leake, Joan Halliwell (Bournemouth) 18-17 (after extra end).

#### **Quarter finals - 1830hrs**

Nottingham bt Norfolk 23-15; Swale bt West Denton 24-10; Riverain bt Long Sutton 19-18; Ipswich bt Blackpool NH 25-4.

### **MEN'S FOURS - LAST SIXTEEN**



The men's field for the national indoor fours championship was stronger than ever.

#### **Men's Fours**

The field for the men's pairs was strong, too, and the competition was so fierce that two of the eight matches went to an extra end, Acle eventually getting the better of Nottingham, 18-17, and Clarrie Dunbar pipping Egham, 17-16.

Two young international players came face to face on rink one, David Hubbard skipping his Adur (Sussex) rink to a 25-10 win over a Welford-on-Avon rink skipped by Andy Walters, while a former Scottish international, Rae Graham, helped Cumbria to a 20-11 win over a Folkestone team that included three McCaughans.

Nigel Smith, who memorably reached the final of the world indoor singles championship in 1984, when he was only 21, played third to his Barking clubmate Jamie Holmes, but the Essex team lost, 25-15 to a strong Exonia quartet skipped by Commonwealth Games silver medallist Jamie Chestney.

Along the green, another former Scottish internationalist Edric Vorsterman played third to the upand-coming Ryan Atkins, with Shaun Jones at lead and Ryan's dad Mark Atkins slotting in at second and the Malvern Hills quartet swept to a 24-14 victory over Ipswich, skipped by Martin Heitzman.

George Tubby's Acle, who sneaked past Brett Morley's Nottingham, will face Malvern Hills tonight, while Clarrie Dunbar, who play in Standerwick, near Frome, in Somerset, and are skipped by the interestingly named Barry Barry, meet Russell Thompson's Bedford Borough, who outplayed Peter Ward's Bournemouth team, 22-9.

The men's pairs quarter finals were all very closely contested, and tomorrow's semi finals promise to be something special.

Exonia, skipped by Jamie Chestney, were favourites for the title, but they were kept at bay by a splendid performance from Paul Sainthouse, Stewart Hubbard, Alan Lawton and Ian McIntosh from South Shields.

Keeping their noses in front throughout, the north-easterners had some anxious moments when they dropped a four on the 19th end to go behind, but they recovered to score a double and single to win, 21-19, and will play Adur's powerful-looking rink, Jack Fairhall, Paul Gandey, Richard Moses and David Hubbard, tomorrow for a place in the final.

Adur found Cumbria's David Linton, Rae Graham, Eddie Murray and John Wills a bit of handful, and had to claw back from a 10-4 deficit - but the Sussex quartet managed to put together a late 1-2-1-1 sequence to win, 16-14.

Malvern Hills, with Shaun Jones at lead and Mark Atkins at two, fielded former Scottish international Edric Vorsterman at third, and Mark's son Ryan Atkins at skip, and, although they always seemed to be in control, they were never able to shake off the attentions of Acle's Jamie Howlett, Danny Ramsbottom, Ian Wones and George Tubby.

Acle allowed Malvern to score only six singles in the second half, but that was enough to give the Worcestershire team a 17-12, and a place in today's semi finals, when they will play Chris Beard, Mark Curtis, Graham White and Russell Thompson, from Bedford Borough, who beat a Clarrie Dunbar team skipped by Barry Barry, 17-11.

#### Results - last sixteen

Jack Fairhall, Paul Gandey, Richard Moses, David Hubbard (Adur) bt Fred Coleman, Ken Chedgzoy, Tom Millership, Andy Walters (Welford on Avon) 25-10; Eddie Murray, Dave Linton, John Wills, Rae Graham (Cumbria) bt Mick Fisher, Arthur McCaughan, Marc McCaughan, Shaun McCaughan (Folkestone) 20-11; Paul Sainthouse, Stewart Hubbard, Alan Lawton, Ian McIntosh (South Shields) bt Bill Matthews, Mark O'Connell, Darren Allsopp, John Bowman (Church Gresley) 21-14; Jamie Heard, Matt Bass, Joe Melmore, Jamie Chestney (Exonia) bt David Farr, Bill Nelson, Nigel Smith, Jamie Holmes (Barking) 25-15; Jamie Howlett, Danny Ramsbottom, Ian Wones, George Tubby (Acle) bt Mike Bowley, Duncan Robinson, Tom Doig, Brett Morley (Nottingham) 18-17 (after extra end); Shaun Jones, Mark Atkins, Edric Vorsterman, Ryan Atkins (Malvern Hills) bt Lee Calver, Andrew Friend, Phil Gregory, Martin Heitzman (Ipswich) 24-14; John Freeman, Brian Hawkins, Keith Bailey, Barry Barry (Clarrie Dunbar) bt Trevor Hoy, Barry Jenkins, Ian Jenkins, Steve Tuohy (Egham) 17-16 (after extra end); Chris Beard, Mark Curtis, Graham White, Russell Thompson (Bedford Borough) bt Robert Kelly, Nick Revell, Chris Daniels, Peter Ward (Bournemouth) 22-9.

#### **Quarter finals**

Adur bt Cumbria 16-14; South Shields bt Exonia 22-19; Malvern Hills bt Acle 17-12; Bedford Borough bt Clarrie Dunbar 17-11.