



DAY SEVEN - THURSDAY, 14 APRIL

NAIL-BITING FINISHES TO TWO TENSE FINALS

Whiteknights and Swale trios chalk up emotional wins

Favourites Whiteknights and Swale came out on top in two thrilling national indoor triples finals at Melton Mowbray today, when Rob Newman, Sandy Hazell and Wendy King added lustre to their already impressive records - but Riverain, who were appearing in the men's and women's finals, pushed the winners all the way, and deserve the highest praise for their achievements this week.



Swale, in their orange tops and black trousers won the women's triples title in style

SWALE DO THE DOUBLE

The Sittingbourne club are national champions at Triples and Fours

Women's Triples

To win one national title is a major achievement, but to win two in the same week is something very special indeed, but Swale trio Paige Dennis, Sandy Hazell and Wendy King, who won the fours on Tuesday, added the triples title with a 19-13 win over Riverain's Brenda Hollands, Joan Welch and Jenny Ralph.

Riverain may have scored on only six of the 18 ends, but they picked up a four on the fifth end and a five on the 13th, and were only two shots adrift with two ends left to play. Swale's all-international trio showed their class as they patiently built up good positions on the 17th and 18th ends to get home by six shots - a margin that probably flattered them slightly.

Dennis, Hazell and King won this title together in 2012, and were the runners up two years ago, and it was Hazell's seventh national indoor title, while King was celebrating her sixth national indoor title, and the 22-year old Dennis has now won the triples and the fours twice apiece.

The three engaged in a now traditional group hug to celebrate their victory, and tears were shed before they lined up to receive the trophy from EIBA President Jenny McConnell.

In the semi finals, Swale had swept to a straightforward 22-11 victory over Colchester's Gill Costin, Jill Nicholson and Pam Smith, while Riverain scored eleven shots over the last three ends to beat Jackie Watts, Margaret Moffat and Kath Patrick, from Portsmouth Victory, 19-16.

Semi finals

Brenda Hollands, Joan Welch, Jenny Ralph (Riverain) bt Jackie Watts, Margaret Moffat, Kath Patrick (Victory) 19-16; Gill Costin, Jill Nicholson, Pam Smith (Colchester) bt Paige Dennis, Sandy Hazell, Wendy King (Swale) 21-11.

Final: Swale bt Riverain 19-13.

NEWMAN'S WONDER BOWL TAKES TITLE

Last bowl magic sees jack ditched and a deadlock broken



Michael Knight, Simon Jones and Rob Newman won the men's triples for the Reading-based Whiteknights club.

Men's Triples

In an enthralling final that finished in high drama, Reading Whiteknights trio Michael Knight, Simon Jones and Rob Newman edged home by one shot, 17-16, to beat Riverain's Bradley Prowle, Glenn Williams and Tony Webb, and lifted the national indoor triples title.

Ironically, the final was a sort of replay of last year's pairs final, in which Knight and Newman defeated Williams and Webb, but this time Knight and Newman had former WIBC world junior singles champion Simon Jones on board, and Williams and Webb were joined by 24-year-old Bradley Prowle, who, amazingly, is in his first season of indoor bowls.

The balance of power shifted continually: Riverain made the early running to lead, 10-5, after six ends, but Whiteknights levelled at 12-12, and moved head with a treble to lead, 15-12, after 13 ends. Two ends later it was 15-15, and, with one end left to play, it was all square, 16-16.

Brilliant play from both sides kept spectators on their toes, and on the edge of their seats, but when Webb played a brilliant take out shot with his last bowl of the very last end, it looked all over for Whiteknights.

Newman, an experienced international, who was looking to win his seventh national indoor title, wound himself up and reached for the big gun, and an accurate firing shot rocketed the jack into the ditch, and lay beside it for the single that broke the deadlock. And, as that was the last bowl of the end, Riverain had no right of reply.

In the semi finals, Whiteknights had steamrolled the Acle trio of John Colcombe, Ian Wones and George Tubby, the shell-shocked Norfolk team throwing in the towel with seven ends still to play with the score standing at 22-3 to Whiteknights.

Riverain had a much tougher time in their semi final against Lincoln's Kevin Rand, Danny Brown and Billy Jackson, and left their winning charge rather late. Lincoln led, 9-3, after seven ends, but Riverain score a double, a single and a treble to tie things up at 9-9, by one shot, before taking a 16-10 lead with a scoring spree of 2-4-1, but the pendulum then swung Lincoln's way.

With Riverain leading by only three shots when the last end began, Webb faced a match lie of six shots when he stood on the mat to deliver the last bowl of the match.

A near-perfect draw, under intense pressure, cut the count to two shots, so Riverain got home, 17-16, which, ironically, was the score by which they lost the final.

Semi finals

Michael Knight, Simon Jones, Rob Newman (Whiteknights) bt John Colcombe, Ian Wones, George Tubby (Acle) 22-3 (11 ends)

Bradley Prowle, Glenn Williams, Tony Webb (Riverain) bt Kevin Rands, Danny Brown, Billy Jackson (Lincoln) 17-16.

Final: Whiteknights bt Riverain 17-16.