



NATIONAL INDOOR BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS AT NOTTINGHAM

26 March to 2 April, 2016

DAY SIX - THURSDAY, 31 MARCH

PRICE RISES TO THE CHALLENGE



The winners of the national Women's Over 60 Pairs title - Eileen Devonald-Batt and Mary Price, from the Desborough club

Women's Over 60 Pairs

Mary Price showed she still has the skill and killer instinct that made her one of the world's top women bowlers, when she skipped her Desborough (Maidenhead) clubmate Eileen Devonald-Batt to the national women's over 60 pairs title in Nottingham today (THU).

A great exponent of the outdoor game, her greatest successes indoors came when she won the English women's indoor singles title three times (in 1985, 1991 and 1994), but she insists she has never stopped believing that she had another national title in her.

Receiving good support from Devonald-Batt, Price, who is 72, played superbly on her way to the final, and delivered what turned out to be a match-winning bowl on the 16th end of a fascinating encounter with Elsie Elvin and Carole Baker, from the Norfolk Bowls Club in Norwich.

The Desborough duo surged into an 8-1 lead after seven ends, but a profitable mid-game spell enabled Elvin and Baker to get their noses in front for the first time at 12-11 after 15 ends, and the Norfolk pair looked as if they might take control when they held six shots on the 16th.

Price, who won the WIBC women's world title in Guernsey in 1991, and has served as England's team manager indoors and out, dipped into her vast repertoire, and ditched the jack to claim three shots, and the Buckinghamshire duo, who were back in front, 14-12, went on to win, 20-13.

This morning, Desborough defeated Sue Evans and Di Routley, from Taunton Deane, 22-14, while the Norfolk pair proved to be too good for Catherine King and Jan Roberts, from Exmouth Madeira, beating the Devon duo, 22-15.

Women's Over 60 Pairs - results

Semi finals:

Elsie Elvin & Carole Baker (Norfolk) bt Catherine King & Jan Roberts (Exmouth Madeira) 22-15;
Eileen Devonald-Batt & Mary Price (Desborough) bt Sue Evans & Di Routley (Taunton Deane) 22-14.

Final: Devonald-Batt & Price bt Elvin & Baker 20-13.

A 'FIRST' FOR BEDFORD BOROUGH



The winners of the national men's Over 60 Pairs title - Graham White and Mark Curtis, from the Bedford Borough club

Men's Over 60 Pairs

Mark Curtis and Graham White, from the Bedford Borough club, won the national men's over 60 indoor pairs title when they defeated Welford-on-Avon's Anglo-Italian partnership of Mario Rosso and Bill Ward, 20-17, in a final that was a classic game of two halves.

Curtis and White looked certain winners when they opened up a 16-3 lead over the first 13 ends, but Rosso, who was born in Italy, and Ward proved to be stubborn opponents, and scored ten shots to one over the next five ends to close the gap to just four shots at 17-13.

On the 19th end, the Welford pair were holding shots when White achieved a crucial turnover, and the treble gave the Bedford pair some breathing space - though Rosso and Ward defiantly finished with a single and a treble to make the score respectable at 20-17.

Bedford Borough boasts a splendid club with indoor and outdoor greens, and a proud history - but, although they won the national men's outdoor pairs title through David Hurst and John McConnell in 1982, this was their first national success on carpet since the indoor green was opened in 1971.

In this morning's semi finals, the 'Bedford Boys' beat Charlie Bailey and Barry Starks, from Portsmouth's Victory club, 22-14, and Welford-on-Avon put an end to the fairytale run of Andy Sayer and Richard Bunton, from the Lynnsport club in King's Lynn.

Men's Over 60 Pairs - results

Semi finals:

Mark Curtis & Graham White (Bedford Borough) bt Charlie Bailey & Barry Starks (Victory) 22-14;
Mario Rosso & Bill Ward (Welford-on-Avon) bt Andy Sayer & Richard Bunton (Lynnsport) 23-16.

Final: Curtis & White bt Rosso & Ward 20-17.

FOUR-AND-SIXTY PENSIONERS IN PITCH BATTLE



The Nottingham green was awash tonight with 64 players, all over 60, competing for national titles.

Over 60 inter-club Double Rink championships

What a coup for the spin doctors who want Sport England to recognise that bowls, while not being the proverbial Old Man's Game, is actually a great sport for senior citizens, providing beneficial physical exercise, an outlet for their competitive urges, and a valuable source of social interaction.

Thirty two men and thirty two women from eight different clubs - Boston (Lincs), MidGlos (Brockworth), Essex County (Southend-on-Sea), Taunton Deane (Somerset), Nottingham, Tye Green (Harlow), West Berks (Newbury) and Adur (Southwick, near Brighton) - thronged on to the green to do battle in the semi finals of the national over 60 inter-club Double Rink championships.

So - who survived to compete in tomorrow's finals? - In the women's event, Essex County steamrolled Taunton Deane, 42-19, the Somerset side throwing in the towel with eight possible ends left to play, and Boston edged home by five shots, 44-39, against MidGlos.

In the men's semi finals, Nottingham's home advantage must have been a factor in their 43-32 win over Tye Green, while West Berks defeated Adur, 47-37.

Men's Over 60 Double Rink (Fowler Trophy) - results...

Semi finals:

Nottingham bt Tye Green 43-32 - Rink scores (Nottingham names first):

Phil Rigby, Ray Bartholomew. Ronnie Cowan, John Mildren 20,
Barry O'Connor, Malcolm Tucker, Eddie Smith, Jimmy Oakes 15;
Keith Burton, Dennis Hurley, Alan Fallows, Dave Adams 23,
Maurice Crocker, Harry Wood, Roy Buckner, John Anderson 17.

West Berks bt Adur 47-37 - Rink scores (West Berks names first):

Fred Brown, Sandy Steele, Richard Kozlowski, Tony Aubrey 22,
Lee Cooper, John Hide, Chris Rolph, John Godfrey 22;
Barry Williams, Keith Lavery, Martyn Chant, Derek Parsonson 25,
Dave Cornwell, Ken Holden, Bob Martin-Cramp, Terry Honnor 15.

Women's Over 60 inter-club Double Rink (Mason Trophy) - results...

Semi finals:

Boston bt MidGlos 44-39 - Rink scores (Boston names first):

Janet Vinter, Sue Simpson-Shaw, Jill Smith, Jean Cammack 20,
Joan Surman, Myra Savage, Gill Fry, Margaret Stalley 22;
Sue Hoyles, Rita Epton, Jean Thompson, Sheila King 24,
Audrey Marsden, Margaret McColl, Sandra Hambidge, Pauline Gunn 17.

Essex County bt Taunton Deane 42-19 - Rink scores (Essex County names first):

Mary Poole, Lynne Daughtrey, Jan Soar, Pat Algie 22,
Wendy Merchant, Ann Beale, Joan Jenkins, Sue Evans 5;
Kay Lee, Ruth Green, Dawn Howard, Brenda Bowyer 20,
Chenda Harris, Sue Cridland, Lynne Williams, Di Routley 14.