



English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd

The National Governing Body for Indoor Level Green Bowls in England

NATIONAL INDOOR BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS AT MELTON MOWBRAY

25 March to 1 April, 2017

FREE RESULTS AND ROUND-UP SERVICE

(images may be available on request)

This service is provided on behalf of the EIBA by David Rhys Jones, who has been tasked with emailing bulletins and updates to media outlets, once or twice a day during the above championships. Results are presented in a print-friendly form, but are also available on the EIBA website <www.EIBA.co.uk>. Comments, queries or requests for pictures should be sent to David...

Email him on DRHYSJ@AOL.COM

DAY EIGHT

Saturday, 1 April

PLEASE NOTE

This is the last bulletin from the EIBA national championships at Melton Mowbray.

The next batch of national finals will be staged in Nottingham (9-16 April).

Thankyou for your interest.

We hope that you have found our daily bulletins useful.

PAXTON & BARLOW WIN NATIONAL SINGLES TITLES

Norfolk beat Kent to win the Atherley Trophy

WOMEN'S SINGLES

EPIC RECOVERY GIVES BARLOW THE TITLE



St Neots star Michelle Barlow, who battled her way to the women's singles title receives the trophy from EIBA President Mike Andrew.

A modest Michelle Barlow, 39, admitted that her fifteen-year-old opponent Devon Cooper had probably played the better bowls, but, after pipping Cooper, from Riverain (Hitchin), 21-20, in the final, the St Neots star was ecstatic at achieving her lifetime ambition of winning the national indoor singles title.

Cooper, who has caught the eye with her pin-point drawing to the jack this week, reminding everyone of how she and fellow teenager and Riverain clubmate Rachel Tremlett won the pairs last year, opened up a 7-2 lead after five ends, and kept up the pressure to lead 11-6 after ten and 15-8 after 15.

Barlow tenaciously tied the scores at 15-15 with a profitable 1-2-4 run, but Cooper seemed destined to become the youngest ever winner of the title when she surged to the brink of victory at 20-16, and held a match lie several times - but Barlow scored two doubles to tie again at 20-20, and took the vital single on the 25th end of a fascinating encounter.

"Michelle deserved to win," said Cooper. "I did my best, but she's a fighter, and would not let me get away from her. I know her well, because she used to be a member at Riverain, and I played lead on her rink in the Yetton Trophy!"

Barlow added: "I've been playing bowls for 25 years, and this is the highpoint of my career, but I am convinced that this young lady will be standing where I am standing, and holding this trophy in the future. She was tremendous."

In the semi finals, Barlow led Hartlepool's Lauren Mosley, 11-10 after 15 ends, but cantered home, 21-14, while Cooper toppled Bex Field, who won the title in 2012, and was the only former winner to qualify for Melton this year. Cooper beat Field, 21-14.

Barlow received plaudits from the crowd, but the talk was all about the outrageous potential shown by Cooper, who won the pairs last year, and reached the semi finals of the fours earlier this week. Apart from her obvious skill, she has a great temperament, and is called the Ice Maiden, because she never smiles when she bowls a good bowl, and never frowns when she bowls a bad one.

For sure, she is one cool cookie. But it's the battling Barlow who came out on top on this occasion.

RESULTS...

Semi finals

Michelle Barlow (St Neots) bt Lauren Mosley (Hartlepool) 21-14;

Devon Cooper (Riverain) bt Bex Field (Norfolk) 21-14.

Final

Barlow bt Cooper 21-20.

MEN'S SINGLES PAXTON - 'AT LAST!'



EIBA President Mike Andrew presents the men's singles trophy to Taunton Deane's Rob Paxton

Rob 'Slippers' Paxton, playing out of the Taunton Deane club, made up for his defeat in the final of the 2001 national men's indoor singles championship, when he drew to the jack brilliantly to beat North Cave's Stan Thompson, 21-9, and was crowned national champion for 2017.

Sixteen years ago, Paxton led Les Gillett, 20-6, but the vital winning single remained elusive, as he stuck to the draw, which had seen him power to the brink of victory - and Gillett scored fifteen shots on the trot to win, 21-20.

"I'm a different player now," said the 38-year-old Paxton. "I was very young and inexperienced then, but I wasn't going to make the same mistake again!" This time, although it was the draw shot that laid the foundations for victory, he also played some telling conversion shots.

The first came as early as the third end, when he struck two Thompson counters out of the head to score three shots - and he followed that up with two more trebles to take command. Hard as Thompson tried, he could not outdraw Paxton, and his running shots were generally off target.

Thompson, known as the Smiling Assassin, had opened with a shock win over the defending champion Martin Spencer, from Spalding, yesterday (FRI), before taking the scalp of another former champion Dave Hubbard, from Adur, in the quarter finals.

Thompson used to play in Hull, but is now a member of the North Cave club in South Yorkshire, which is sponsored by North Cave Wetlands nature reserve. Hardly a household name, he has nevertheless previously qualified for the national championships in singles, pairs, triples and fours, and plays a simple but very effective drawing game.

In this morning's semi finals, Thompson beat Malvern Hills star Shaun Jones, a former WIBC World indoor singles champion, 21-14, while Paxton stormed to a 21-11 win over Duncan Hanmore, from the Angel club, Tonbridge.

Paxton, who struck gold at the world outdoor championships in Christchurch in December, when he skipped an England trio to the triples title, now qualified to compete in the British Isles men's indoor championships in Paisley in March, 2018.

However, if, as likely, he is selected to play for England in the 2018 Commonwealth Games on Australia's Gold Coast, he may not be available to play in Scotland - and he would also not be able to defend his English title here in Melton Mowbray.

RESULTS...

Last sixteen

Rob Paxton (Taunton Deane) bt Duncan Hanmore (Angel) 21-11;
Stan Thompson (North Cave) bt Shaun Jones (Malvern Hills) 21-14.

Final

Paxton bt Thompson 21-9.

ATHERLEY TROPHY

NORFOLK RETAIN NATIONAL WOMEN'S INTER-COUNTY TITLE



The Norfolk women's team that retained the Atherley Trophy - with EIBA President Mike Andrew

Twenty four women bowlers from Norfolk defeated Kent, 100-82, in the final of the national women's indoor inter-county championship, but the lead changed hands several times, and the result was in doubt until the very end.

Bex Field, who lost to Devon Cooper in the semi finals of the women's singles this morning (SAT), returned to the green to skip Norfolk's most successful rink, and returned a 20-10 card, but the rinks skipped by Carole Baker, Mel Haylett and Jenny Kirby won by six, five and three shots respectively.

Wendy King's rink replied for Kent with a 17-13 win over a Norfolk rink skipped by Jayne Roylance, and Linda Southby chalked up a two shots win against Linda Blake's quartette.

Norfolk not only retained the title they won last year, but lifted the Atherley Trophy for the fourth time, their previous successes having been achieved in 2000, 2004 and 2016.

RESULTS

WOMEN'S INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP - FINAL...

Norfolk bt Kent 100-82 - Rink scores (Norfolk names first):

Kay Carrick, Jenny Ramsbottom, Amy Barker, Jenny Kirby 15, Elizabeth MacDonald, Ann Moon, Sue Close, Sue Swann 12; Wendy Bryant, Linda Bennett, Barbara Meeks, Mel Haylett 20, Natalie Fox, Olive Moulton, Maggie Standley, Jackie Spice 15; Louise Knights, Mary Johnson, Elsie Elvin, Carole Baker 20, Imogen Jenner, Sara Trotter, Kim Hanmore, Jane Cogle 14; Diane Buck, Joan Randall, Jackie Devitt, Jayne Roylance 13, Paige Dennis, Emily Ferguson, Sandy Hazell, Wendy King 17; Claire Turner, Ada Sumpter, Sharon Rickman, Linda Blake 12, Jane Turner, Ann Hill, Carol McGrail, Linda Southby 14; Brenda Walters, Emily O'Hanlon, Joyce Webster, Bex Field 20, Anne Rutland, Chris Breeds, Sharon Todd, Cheryl Palmer 10.

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