



NATIONAL INDOOR BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS AT NOTTINGHAM

7-16 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 plans to email bulletins and updates to media outlets, once or twice a day during the above championships. Results will be 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 - Friday, 14 April

MEN'S & WOMEN'S OVER 60 SINGLES

MEN

PITT STILL ON COURSE

He plays Essex stalwart John Stewart in final



Dave Pitt, from Hounslow, still has his sights set on that Over 60 singles hat-trick

Londoner Dave Pitt, who is hoping to win the National Men's Over 60 Singles title for the third year running, has only one more hurdle to clear after quelling the challenge of Sussex star Steve Jeapes, from the Hastings-based Falaise club.

Jeapes proved to be no pushover this morning (SAT). A fascinating 17 ends semi final in which only three singles were scored, and in which the initiative changed hands several times was always good to watch, but it was Hounslow ace Pitt who came out on top, 21-18.

The Sussex man opened with a 1-2-3 sequence to lead, 6-0, but Pitt scored 17 shots to Jeapes's four over the next nine ends to lead, 17-10, after 12 ends, when the balance of power shifted yet again.

Pitt's consistency deserted him for the next three ends, allowing Jeapes to regain the lead with a 2-3-3 sequence, but Pitt levelled the scores at 18-18 on the 16th end, and played a perfect take-out to score a match-winning treble on the 17th.

In the other semi final, Essex County (Southend) stalwart John Stewart was always in control against Norfolk's Malcolm Starkey, from the Gallow club in Fakenham. After speeding into an 11-2 lead, Stewart kept a lid on Starkey's attempts to recover, and ran out the winner, 21-13.

Pitt will face Stewart in tonight's (SAT) final. Only three men - Stanley's Bill Bell, East Dorset's Bill Ward and Pitt himself - have successfully defended this title, so Pitt would become the first to win it three times if he can defeat Stewart. A hat-trick awaits.

RESULTS...

National Men's Over 60 Singles

Semi finals:

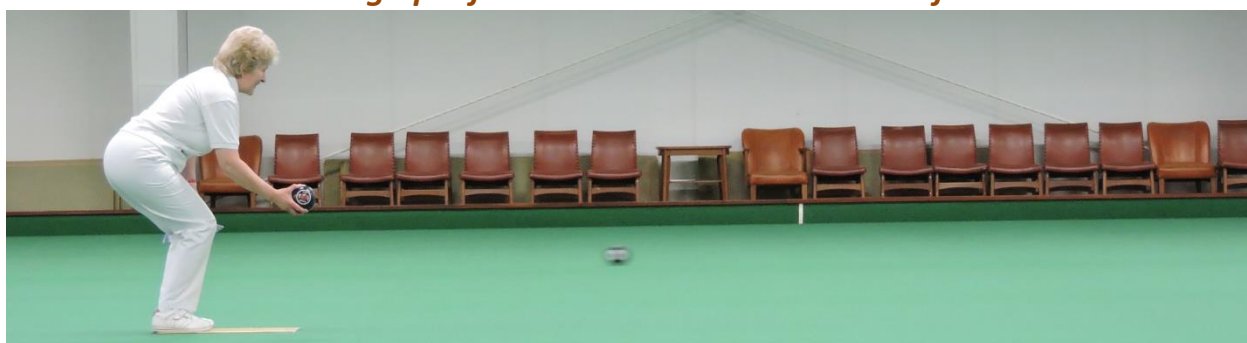
John Stewart (Essex County) bt Malcolm Starkey (Gallow) 21-13;

Dave Pitt (Hounslow) bt Steve Jeapes (Falaise) 21-18.

Final (tonight - SAT): Stewart v Pitt

ELIZABETH MACDONALD PIPS JEAN ARNAUD

setting up a final encounter with Carol Crafer



Elizabeth Macdonald, from Bromley, who knocked out the favourite, Jean Arnaud, from Bournemouth

Chigwell's Carol Crafer, who has qualified for the final stages of the national championships many times without ever winning a national title, meets Elizabeth Macdonald, from Bromley, in the final of the National Women's Over 60 Singles championship in Nottingham tonight (SAT).

David Pitt, from Hounslow, meets Essex County (Southend) stalwart John Stewart in the final of the equivalent men's event - so the final session has a distinct south east England, if not London, feel to it.

In this morning's (SAT) semi finals, Crafer led all the way against Pat Fowkes, who plays at the Rivermead club in Reading, taking a 6-1 lead after four ends, and stamped her authority mid-game to lead 17-7 after 16 ends.

Fowkes, who had been in good form, beating Over 60 triples champion Maureen Hill, from Wey Valley, and North Cave's Rita Hodgkinson on her way to the last four, rallied briefly, and looked dangerous when she closed to 13-17 after 20 ends, but Crafer sealed a 21-13 victory with a full house of four shots on the 21st end.

Macdonald, who had endured a gruelling quarter final last night (FRI), before edging home, 21-20, against Acle's Jenny Kirby, came through another marathon encounter to beat Over 60 pairs champion Jean Arnaud, from Bournemouth, 21-19.

Arnaud led, 7-3, and 16-11, but the dogged Macdonald, making her national championships debut, proved to be the better finisher, scoring ten shots to three on the run-in for a 21-19 victory that set up a final encounter with Crafer.

RESULTS...

National Women's Over 60 Singles

Semi finals:

Carol Crafer (Chigwell) bt Pat Fowkes (Rivermead) 21-13;

Elizabeth MacDonald (Bromley) bt Jean Arnaud (Bournemouth) 21-19.

Final (tonight - SAT): Crafer v MacDonald

LIBERTY TROPHY FINAL

DASHING DEVON POWER TO EMPHATIC WIN

as confident Cumbrians disappoint



Devon lifted the Liberty Trophy for the first time since 1993

Why is it that Devon do so well outdoors on grass, but fail to fulfil their potential indoors on carpet? That is a question that has been asked many times. The high-flying county has won the (outdoor) Middleton Cup eight times in the last fifteen years - but Devon's indoor team have won the Liberty Trophy only once - way back in 1993!

The team of 2017 responded defiantly in today's (SAT) final, beating Cumbria, 114-82, and effectively declaring that things have changed. We may see a resurgence from Devon indoors from now on. After all, the core of the county's indoor and outdoor teams are similar, and the presence of so many top stars of the game suggest that the quality is there.

Devon took control from the start, and never relaxed their grip against a county that has won the title three times. It must be said that Cumbria, like Devon, have a better record outdoors than indoors, but were expected to put up stronger resistance than they did today.

Cumbria did win well on one rink, where Stuart Irwin's men returned a 25-10 scorecard, but Devon won handsomely on four rinks, and by one shot on the rink skipped by Sam Tolchard. Louis Ridout's quartet won by 14, Ryan Whitlock's by 13, Danny Denison's by 11 and Ian Bond's by eight.

"We do have the reputation of lagging behind our outdoor counterparts," agreed Devon's team manager Kevin Phillips. "The records speak for themselves - but things are changing, and this side has developed a great team spirit. That was a good win today!"

RESULTS...

National Men's Inter-County Championship (Liberty Trophy)

Devon bt Cumbria 114-82 - Rink scores (Devon names first):

Kieran Kniveton, Harry Goodwin, Simon Broom, Sam Tolchard 18, Neal Shearer, Rick Gallagher, Graeme Vipond, Stuart Airey 17; Lloyd Roberts, Phil Hackett, Kevin Phillips, Ryan Whitlock 22, Tom Prescott, Lewis Baxter, Mark Nanson, Ian Gallagher 9; Jamie Heard, Matt Bass, Ian Lesley, Louis Ridout 21, Steven Green, Greg Rice, John Wills, Gavin Taylor 7; Bob Condon, Dave Evans, John Evans, Danny Denison 25, Eddie Murray, Jackie Walker, Paul Barlow, Stephen Farish 14; Paul Stone, Kieran Daniels, James Hampton, Ian Bond 18, Robert Carruthers, Alan Glendinning, Rae Graham, Ben Sherwen 10; Paul Daley, Dan Holloway, Ollie Lucas, Stuart Evans 10, Kevin Harrison, Paul Wallace, John Baird, Stuart Irwin 25.

MEN'S & WOMEN'S OVER 60 SINGLES

MEET BOB LOVE

The man with no arms puts his best foot forward



At 9-9, Steve Jeapes (R) knows he has a game on his hands against Bob Love

With due respect to the established stars who have shone brightly in Nottingham this week, and also to the talented unknowns who have paraded their skills, the big story of these national indoor championships has been the achievement of a man who has played two and lost two matches.

Bob Love enthralled spectators on Wednesday, when he skipped his Tamworth clubmate Neil Southall to the brink of victory, but agonisingly missed out on a place in the Over 60 Pairs quarter finals on a tense extra end.

The 'man with no arms', who says, "I'm a bowler with a disability; I'm not a disabled bowler," was back in action today (FRI), when he took on the highly experienced Steve Jeapes, from the Hastings-based Falaise club - and he again put up a remarkable display of drawing bowls.

Love led 5-2 after four ends, 13-10 after 11, and 19-16 after 17, but Jeapes, digging deep, overhauled him with two doubles and a single for a 21-19 victory.

"I'm really disappointed after coming so close in the pairs and the singles," sighed Bob. "It would have been great to have got through to the last eight, but I feel satisfied that I put up a fight, and would like to think that I made my opponents make hard for victory."

He hates the word 'inspiration' when it is used about him, and he merely wishes to be thought of as a bowler. But it is impossible not to be inspired by the way he not only copes with his disability, which he has experienced since birth, but reaches an enviable level of skill at the sport of bowls.

Having won a bronze medal in the paratriples at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2014, Love is hoping to be considered for the England team for the 2018 Games in Queensland, and is looking forward to taking part in an Eight Nations jamboree at the Broadbeach club this summer.

HOLDER PITT PREVAILS

Two full counts seal victory for him over local hope John Mildren



A crunch match between local hope John Mildren (bowling) and defending champion David Pitt

63-year-old David Pitt, who lives in Chiswick and plays on the Hounslow indoor bowls club, has his sights on achieving an unprecedented hat-trick by adding the 2017 national Over 60 singles crown to the titles he won in 2015 and 2016.

Today, he accounted for Ron Sydney, from the White Oak club, 21-12, before facing a stern test from the host club's hero John Mildren in the quarter finals. After Pitt opened up an 11-4 lead, Mildren clawed back, and actually took the lead at 14-13 after 19 ends.

At that point, Fatigue clearly hit Mildren, and the Londoner, a bus driver instructor, was quick to take advantage, scoring two fours in succession to leap to victory, 21-14.

As mentioned above, Steve Jeapes, from the Falaise club in Hastings, pipped Bob Love, who bowls with his feet, 21-19. Following that success, he went on to beat Cumbria's John Crozier, 21-16, setting up a semi final clash tomorrow (SAT) with Pitt.

John Stewart, from the Essex County club in Southend-on-Sea, will play Malcolm Starkey, a clubmate of former world champion Mervyn King at the Gallow club in Fakenham, in the other semi final.

RESULTS...

National Men's Over 60 Singles

Last sixteen:

John Stewart (Essex County) bt Bill Jackson (Palmerston) 21-15; Alan Lawton (South Shields) bt Kevin Phillips (Exonia) 21-16; Malcolm Starkey (Gallow) bt Andy Nightingale (Chesterton) 21-12; Mark O'Connell (Church Gresley) bt Barry Williams (West Berks) 21-9; Dave Pitt (Hounslow) bt Ron Sydney (White Oak) 21-12; John Mildren (Nottingham) bt Will Anderson (Ilminster) 21-12; Steve Jeapes (Falaise) bt Bob Love (Tamworth) 21-10; John Crozier (Cumbria) bt Colin J Mason (Bounds Green) 21-18.

Quarter finals:

Stewart bt Lawton 21-9; Starkey bt O'Connell 21-14; Pitt bt Mildren 21-14; Jeapes bt Crozier 21-16.

PAIRS CHAMPION ARNAUD IN GOOD FORM

But can she do the double?



Two of the favourites - Alex Jacobs (red) and Jean Arnaud (blue) - clashed in the quarter finals

Yesterday (THU), Jean Arnaud, from Bournemouth, partnered her clubmate Joan Halliwell to the national Women's Over 60 Pairs. Today, she powered her way into the semi finals of the Over 60 Singles championship, chalking up excellent victories over Kingsthorpe's Marilyn Oram and North Wilts (Chippenham) star Alex Jacobs.

Both players have won multiple national titles, and the quarter final between Arnaud and Jacobs came up to expectations, show-casing good drawing, and, occasionally, some accurate attacking bowls.

The scores were tied at 6-6, 12-12, 14-14 and 15-15, before Arnaud scored a double and a treble to lead, 20-15. Jacobs replied with a double, but Arnaud sealed a 21-17 victory on the 23rd end.

England international Pat Bourne, from Croydon, suffered a 21-17 defeat at the hands of Chigwell's Carol Crafer, who will play Pat Fowkes, from Winchester's Rivermead club in tomorrow's (SAT) semi finals, while Arnaud faces Bromley's Liz MacDonald in the other semi final.

RESULTS...

National Women's Over 60 Singles

Last sixteen:

Rita Hodgkinson (North Cave) bt Eleanor Gass (Cumbria) 21-10; Pat Fowkes (Rivermead) bt Maureen Hill (Wey Valley) 21-11; Carol Crafer (Chigwell) bt Sara Quayle (Plymouth) 21-17; Pat Bourne (Croydon) bt Jacqui Walker (Cambridge Chesterton) 21-14; Elizabeth MacDonald (Bromley) bt Marilyn Crane (Clacton) 21-8; Jenny Kirby (Acle) bt Jenny Humphries (Newark) 21-11; Alex Jacobs (North Wilts) bt Pamela Daters (Bridport) 21-5; Jean Arnaud (Bournemouth) bt Marilyn Oram (Kingsthorpe) 21-14.

Quarter finals:

Fowkes bt Hodgkinson 21-14; Crafer bt Bourne 21-17; MacDonald bt Kirby 21-20; Arnaud bt Jacobs 21-17.

SCHEDULE - Saturday, 15 April

0930hrs - Men's & Women's Over 60 Singles championship - Semi finals

1200hrs - Men's Inter-county championship (Liberty Trophy) final

1600hrs - Men's & Women's Over 60 Singles - Finals

1830hrs - Family Pairs - Last sixteen

YOU CAN CONTACT DAVID RHYS JONES ON 07980-896-931 OR EMAIL HIM ON DRHYSJ@AOL.COM