



English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd

The National Governing Body for Indoor Level Green Bowls in England

**PRESS RELEASE ON BEHALF OF THE ENGLISH INDOOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL INDOOR BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS AT MELTON MOWBRAY**

23-31 March, 2018

FREE RESULTS AND ROUND-UP SERVICE

DAY SEVEN.2

Thursday, 29 March

BLACKPOOL AND SPALDING WIN PAIRS TITLE

while Colchester lift the Vivienne Trophy



Blackpool Borough's Jonathan Goodall and Mark Dawes - winners of the national men's pairs title



Spalding duo Ruby Hill & Chelsea Tomlin - winners of the national women's pairs title



Colchester - winners of the Vivienne Trophy - with EBA President Margaret Allen

DAWES CROWNS A GREAT SEASON

wins the national men's pairs final at his third attempt

It's been a profitable winter season for Blackpool Borough's Mark Dawes, who won the World Indoor Singles and Open Pairs titles at Potters Resort in January, and has now added the EIBA national men's pairs title with his clubmate Jonathan Goodall.

Having lost in the final twice before with his brother John, Dawes teamed up this year with Goodall, who has been in his team that won the national mixed fours title three times (in 2012, 2015 and 2016).

"That makes it third time lucky, which is a good feeling," he said after he and Goodall had beaten the 2015 pairs champions Mike Knight and Rob Newman, from the Whiteknights club in Reading, 22-8, in the final. "You could say I've had a pretty good season," he added.

Earlier, the Blackpool duo had struggled to get the better of local hopes Les Gillett and Chris Rodgers, who were playing on their home club green, and it took a brilliant last bowl from Dawes to claim the vital single on the 18th end to break a 12-12 deadlock.

Although Newman has won this title twice - with Mark Bantock in 2000 and with Knight in 2015 - he also know how it feels to lose in the final. In fact, this was his fifth final, so his record is two out of three.

"It was disappointing," Newman said. "We scratched about tonight on what was a tricky rink and just didn't get things right. Jonathan and Mark played very well, and deserved to win."

Well though Goodall played, it was Dawes who made the difference, parading his skills and showing why he is world champion. His control of length was immaculate, and, if the opposition left him with six inches to draw the shot, he invariably did. It was a frustrating evening for the Reading pair.

The final was a close game for the first eight ends, the score at that stage being 9-7 to Blackpool, but the second half become something of a deluge, as Goodall and Dawes compiled a 2-3-1-1-4-2 sequence, punctuated by a solitary single for Knight and Newman.

SPALDING - AGAIN

as Chelsea emulates her dad and grandfather

If it's been a great season for Dawes, it has also been a good one for Chelsea Tomlin, a 24-year-old cardiology nurse at the Pilgrim Hospital in Boston, who was runner up in the national women's under 25 singles, won the national mixed fours title, captained England to the British Under 25 team title, and has now won the national women's indoor pairs title.

In doing this - with her clubmate, 18-year-old sensation Ruby Hill - she followed in the footsteps of her dad Martin and grandfather Mick, who won the national men's indoor pairs title out of the Boston club exactly 29 years ago - five years before she was born.

The success was the Spalding club's third of these championships, Graham Smith having won the men's two bowl singles at the beginning of the sport's flagship jamboree last Friday, and Matt Whyers, Smith, Martin Spencer and Matt Orrey winning the men's fours last Sunday.

Spencer, incidentally, is Tomlin's partner on and off the green, and the two are waiting to move in to a new-build home in Spalding. He was the national indoor singles champion in 2016.

Hill and Tomlin were both in the England teams that won the British junior and senior team titles this winter - and their ages add up to just 42 years - considerably younger than either of their distinguished opponents in the final - defending champions Sandy Hazell and Wendy King, from the Swale club in Sittingbourne.

Hill, who is doing her A levels in business, geography and psychology, and hopes to take up a business apprenticeship, looks as calm as a cucumber on the green, but admitted afterwards that she hadn't properly taken in what she and Tomlin had achieved.

The Spalding duo's prospects looked bleak when Swale led, 11-5, after 11 ends. "We just kept plugging away, and it all came right in the end," said Tomlin. "We started playing more aggressively, and things went our way in the second half."

Indeed, their success owes much to the drawing skills of Hill, and the knack that Tomlin has in playing conversion shots. They were still 13-9 adrift with only four ends left to play, but they picked up a treble, a single and a double to lead 15-13 as the last end got underway.

Brilliant play from King set up a lie of two shots for Swale, but Tomlin sent the jack into the open, and drew the winning shot with her very last bowl for a memorable 16-13 victory that had neutral spectators buzzing. "That's the best game I've ever seen," said one.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SEMI FINALS...

Blackpool Borough dashed the hopes of local supporters when Jonathan Goodall and Mark Dawes edged home, 13-12, against Melton's own Les Gillett and Chris Rodgers in a men's pairs semi final in which the margin only once was as great as three shots.

Dawes is the world champion, after all, so it was not surprising that his skill shone through, but Gillett and Rodgers pushed the Blackpool duo every inch of the way, and did the host club proud.

The home pair scored a treble on the second end, and Blackpool replied with a treble of their own on the very next end - but the other sixteen ends produced 13 singles and only two doubles, and the teams went into the last end all square at 12-12.

Rodgers earned applause when he set up a match lie, but Dawes, who started his bowls career on the crown greens of Lancashire, and still plays for fun at the crown code, promptly turned things around, and it was Blackpool Borough who took the vital single for a 13-12 victory.

In tonight's final, Goodall and Dawes will face the 2015 champions Michael Knight and Rob Newman, after the pair who play at the Whiteknights club in Reading defeated a Somerset pair from the Clarrie Dunbar club, Russell Francis and Graham Shadwell, 23-7 after fifteen ends

Hopes that Blackpool might stay on course for a potential men's and women's double were dashed when Sue Kearsley and Janice Gower, who won the women's title in 2015, conceded when Kearsley was unable to continue because an injury to her shoulder that occurred as she loaded her suitcase into her car boot this morning.

Young Spalding pair Ruby Hill (18) and Chelsea Tomlin (24) were already 17-3 ahead at that stage, and the game ended prematurely with only eight of the eighteen ends being played.

In the other semi final, defending champions and serial title-winners Sandy Hazell and Wendy King, from Swale, swept to a 23-7 win, their opponents from Egham, Kylie Hampton and Helen Tuohy throwing in the towel with five ends still left to play.

The final will be a fascinating encounter between the youthful but brilliant Spalding pair and the vastly experienced Swale duo. Hazell, who won the national indoor singles title in 1996, has nine national titles to her credit, while King has eight. They have won seven of those titles together.

CLASSY COLCHESTER CASH IN

as Polly adds her Vivienne gold medal to the Yetton gold she won in 1999

Colchester in Essex claims to be the oldest town in Britain, and, known as Camulodunum, was the once the capital of Roman Britain. The town's women bowlers reigned supreme in Melton Mowbray today, when they swept to an impressive 82-39 victory over Arun in the Vivienne Trophy final.

The Vivienne was introduced exactly twenty years ago to give competitive experience to emerging players who were on the fringe of first-team honours - or those whose glories were mostly in the past, but who could still relished the heady buzz of a bowls battle.

Essentially an A-team competition over four rinks, like the first-team Yetton Trophy, it was re-jigged last year, and became an event for four triples, so that clubs needed to find only twelve players to participate.

Arun, who play at Bognor Regis, were late arriving at the venue, having been held up by the after-effects of a traffic accident on the M1, and were understandably unsettled. They started slowly, and, by the time they got into the game it was too late - but they battled gamely until the end.

With Arun in deep purple, and Colchester in the usual turquoise trim, the final was a colourful affair, but there was no doubt that the Essex side were worthy winners, returning winning cards on all four rinks, and scoring 82 shots to Arun's 39 overall.

Doreen 'Polly' Josh, who led for Loraine Daden, was in the Colchester that won the premier Yetton Trophy in 1999, and is, quite possibly, the only player to have won both titles.

TODAY'S RESULTS (THURSDAY)...

WOMEN'S PAIRS:-

Semi finals:

Sandy Hazell & Wendy King (Swale) bt Kylie Hampton & Helen Tuohy (Egham) 23-7 (13);

Ruby Hill & Chelsea Tomlin (Spalding) bt Sue Kearsley & Janice Gower (Blackpool NH) 17-3 (8) (Kearsley ret hurt).

Final: Hill & Tomlin bt Hazell & King 16-13.

MEN'S PAIRS:-

Semi finals:

Jonathan Goodall & Mark Dawes (Blackpool NH) bt Les Gillett & Chris Rodgers (Melton Mowbray) 13-12;

Michael Knight & Rob Newman (Whiteknights) bt Russell Francis & Graham Shadwell (Clarrie Dunbar) 23-7.

Final: Goodall & Dawes bt Knight & Newman 22-8.

VIVIENNE TROPHY FINAL:-

Colchester bt Arun 82-39 - Rink scores (Colchester names first):

Doreen Josh, Edna Woods, Loraine Daden 24, Christine Hillier, Mary Fair, Sheila Jones 7;

Jill Hay, Lesley Weeden, Shirley Mills 23, Mary Potter, Pat Terry, Margaret Phillips 9;

Linda Macmillan, Pat Burmby, Shirley Miller 20, Janet Boucher, Lynn Hathaway, Brenda Jones 14;

Marian Bailey, Barbara Cooper, Pauline Osborne 15, Eileen Fitch, Elana Hall, Janet Whitfield 9.

TOMORROW'S PROGRAMME

(Friday, 30 March)

1000hrs - Men's Singles - Last sixteen

1300hrs - Women's Singles - Last sixteen

1700hrs - Men's & Women's Singles - Quarter finals

EIBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

24/25 March - Men's and Women's Fours

25 March - Men's Under 25 inter-county championship final

26/27 March - Men's & Women's Triples

27 March - Men's Over 60 inter-county championship final

28/29 March - Men's & Women's Pairs
29 March - Women's inter-club (Vivienne Trophy) final
30/31 March - Men's & Women's Singles
31 March - Women's inter-county championship (Atherley Trophy) final

EIBA 2018 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS SCHEDULE AND DRAW

30/31 March - Men's & Women's Singles

Men:-

Glen Adams (Herga) v Mikey Titcombe (Westlecot)
Adam White (Chawton Park) v Trevor Roberts (Egerton Park)
Peter Wilkinson (County Arts) v Connor Cinato (Kingsthorpe)
Jordan Philpott (Spalding) v Jack Bird (Scarborough)
John Stewart (Essex County) v Graham Shadwell (Clarrie Dunbar)
Ryan Whitlock (Torquay United) v Rob Elmore (City of Ely)
Paul Hartley (Hartlepool) v Kevin Rands (Lincoln)
Marc McCaughan (Folkestone) v Paul Coleman (Wey Valley)

Women:-

Rebecca Field (Norfolk) v Janet Eames (South Forest)
Janice Gower (Blackpool NH) v Kylie Hampton (Egham)
Kath Hawes (Banbury) v Zoe Eagles (York) or Barbara Lewis (Barwell)
Sarah Gove (Ipswich) v Kirsty Hembrow (Taunton Deane)
Devon Cooper (Riverain) v Elizabeth MacDonald (Bromley)
Teresa King (Clarrie Dunbar) v Rebecca Moorbey (St Neots)
Amy Walters (Welford-on-Avon) v Julie Leake (Dolphin)
Clare Stevens (Adur) v Carrie Southgate (Torquay United)

31 March - Women's inter-county championship (Atherley Trophy) final

Lincolnshire v Dorset or Sussex