



**English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd**

The National Governing Body for Indoor Level Green Bowls in England

**PRESS RELEASE ISSUED ON BEHALF OF THE ENGLISH INDOOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION**

## **NATIONAL INDOOR BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS**

### **DAY TEN**

**Monday, 16 April**

### **FAMILY PAIRS**

### **KINGS REIGN SUPREME**

The Bible tells us of the Three Kings, but today there were actually Four Kings in the final of the National Family Pairs championship, which drew the curtain down on the National Indoor Bowls Championships at the Nottingham club in Beechdale Road. It was a fantastic finish to ten superb days.

Two Kings - Wendy and her son Lewis from the Swale club in Sittingbourne - were defending the title they won at the same venue last year, while the other two Kings - Mervyn and his son Sam, from the Gallow club in Fakenham - were hoping to dethrone the champions, and capture the spoils.

No doubt about it - Wendy and Mervyn are legendary figures in English bowls. Mervyn has appeared in four world indoor singles finals, and was crowned world champion in 2006; Wendy has won a record number of England titles, on carpet and on grass, indoors and out.

It says something that both were happy to let their offspring take up the reins, and play skip in this event. And both Lewis and Sam showed they are chips off the old block! It was a brilliant final



*The Four Kings who appeared in the final - with EIBA President Margaret Allen  
L to R - winners Sam and Mervyn King (Gallow) - runners up Wendy and Lewis King (Swale)*

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## **KINGS TURN ON A MAJESTIC FINAL PERFORMANCE**

### **as Mervyn & Sam win on an extra end**

In an astonishing final witnessed by a disappointingly small crowd in Nottingham, Mervyn and Sam King, from the Gallow club in Fakenham, defeated the defending champion Wendy and Lewis King, from the Swale club in Sittingbourne - on a tense extra end.

"It was a game of two halves," said the EIBA's Director of Competitions, Carl Higgins. And it most certainly was. The holders, from Kent, took a sensational 14-0 lead after 10 ends, and the game was surely as good as over! But, over the remaining eight ends, the Norfolk duo hit back to score 15 unbelievable shots to their opponents' one to level the scores at 15-15.

Spectators were anticipating that Sam and Mervyn might throw in the towel when they trailed 0-14, but they grabbed a lifeline with a count of five shots on the 11th end, and skilfully worked their way back into the game with a 1-2-2-3-1-1 sequence, dropping a single on the 14th end.

Swale were leading 15-10 after 15 ends, and holding three shots. If it had stayed that way, Gallow would probably have conceded, but Sam King played a brilliant trail with his last bowl to turn three down into three up, leaving the score at 15-13 - anyone's game!

"That was an important turning point," admitted Swale's 26-year-old skip Lewis King. "To a neutral observer, that must have been a great game, but from our point of view, as the holders, it was a bitterly disappointing game to lose after scoring the first fourteen shots!"

The leads both played well throughout - and especially on the extra end. Wendy King delivered three touchers, but Sam King fired the jack into the ditch, and his 'toucher' sat about a foot from the jack in a virtually unbeatable position.

"It really was a brilliant career highlight for me when I got into the English junior side, but this beats that," said Sam King, who will be 29 next Sunday. "To win a national title is great, but to do it with my dad is really something else!"

Wendy King echoed Sam's thoughts: "I can't put into words what it means to me, playing in a national final with my son Lewis," she said. "Last year we won the title, this year we are runners up - that can't be bad." Then, her voice giving out, she added: "Lewis's Gran and Granddad would have been so proud!"

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Earlier, both semi finals finished prematurely, the losers, in both cases accepting they had no hope of catching the Kings, and throwing in the towel after fifteen ends - with a possible three ends left to play.

David and Ian Drew, from Cornwall's Carnmoggas club, were all square with Wendy and Lewis King at 3-3, after five ends, after which they managed only one double - on the eighth ends, as the Swale duo piled up the shots to win, 17-5.

In the other semi final, Ben and Mick Sharpe, from Kingsthorpe (Northampton), actually led Mervyn and Sam King, 6-3, after five ends, but the Norfolk duo stamped their authority, and were simply more consistent - though it was a surprise when the Sharpes surrendered at 19-12 with three ends still to play.

## **EIBA FAMILY PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **Last sixteen:**

*Neil & Martyn Jackson (Essex County) bt Ajay & Rob Morphett (Egerton Park) 17-14;*

*David & Ian Drew (Carmmoggas) bt Joe & Paul Justin (Carterton) 16-14;*

*Wendy & Lewis King (Swale) bt Rod & Jonathan West (Boston) 18-16;*

*Nadine & Ryan Atkins (Malvern Hills) bt Charles & James Bruder (Wey Valley) 20-18;*

*Mervyn & Sam King (Gallow) bt Nick & Matthew Orrey (Grantham) 20-3;*

*Rod & Jamie Claydon (Riverain) bt Shaun & Ian McIntosh (South Shields) 22-21;*

*Rob & Ed Elmore (City of Ely) bt Adrian & Jack Bird (Scarborough) 23-14;*

*Ben & Mick Sharpe (Kingsthorpe) bt Peter M & Peter D Ward (Atherley) 16-14.*

### **Quarter finals:**

*David & Ian Drew bt Neil & Martyn Jackson 15-4; Wendy & Lewis King bt Nadine & Ryan Atkins 22-10;*

*Mervyn King & Sam King bt Debbie & Jamie Claydon 22-7; Ben & Mick Sharpe bt Rob & Ed Elmore 20-14.*

### **Semi finals:**

*Wendy & Lewis King bt David & Ian Drew 17-5; Mervyn King & Sam King bt Ben & Mick Sharpe 19-12.*

**Final:** *Mervyn & Sam King bt Wendy & Lewis King 16-15 (after extra end).*

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## **INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS...**

The semi finals and finals of the Denny Cup and Yetton Trophy will be played at Rugby next weekend.

Saturday, 21 April - Men's Denny Cup - Victory v Cumbria; Moonfleet 2000 v Norfolk.

Sunday, 22 April - Women's Yetton Trophy - Torquay United v Norfolk; York v Egham.