



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 AT NOTTINGHAM

DAY EIGHT

Saturday, 14 April

MEN'S & WOMEN'S OVER 60 SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIPS VETERANS INTRODUCE A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

A wind of change blew through the Nottingham Indoor Bowls Centre today, when new names were engraved on the National Men's and Women's Over 60 Singles trophies. Only two of this morning's (SAT) eight semi finalists had previously won a national title, and they - local hope Pam Cutts and North Wilts ace Alex Jacobs - were eliminated respectively by Taunton Deane's Di Routley and Pat Browne, from The Parks club in North Shields.

Routley did particularly well to recover after trailing Cutts, 3-13 after seven ends, and she powered home scoring 18 shots to the home player's six to win, 21-19. Browne opened up an 11-4 lead over Jacobs, who fought back well before a big finish saw the 68-year-old Geordie home, 21-15.

This afternoon, Routley and Browne faced off in the women's final, while postman Gary Brock, a Cyphers clubmate of the legendary Andy Thomson, and Martin Smith, from Malvern Hills, clashed in the final of the men's event.

In the semi finals, Brock led Clacton's Peter Hagger, 8-7, after eight ends, then pulled away to win at a canter, 21-10, while Malvern's Martin Smith scorched to a 21-2 win over Bromley's Terry Lanchbery, who took up bowls five years ago, after damaging his knees playing Rugby and tennis.

MEN'S FINAL

SMITH HAMMERS OUT VICTORY



Martin Smith (Malvern Hills) receives the National Men's Over 60 Singles trophy from EIBA President Margaret Allen

Martin Smith's smile said it all. The 62-year-old from Coleford in Gloucestershire, had just achieved a former career-best by winning a national title, and he described how he had overcome a serious hip condition that threatened to scupper his bowls career.

After beating 61-year-old postman Gary Brock, from Kent, 21-17, in the final, Smith, who has retired last year from his job at a paper-mill near Cinderford, explained: "My hip was so bad that I had to step out on the 'wrong' foot - and I did that for probably ten years or so."

But, once he had a new hip, he switched back to bowling the orthodox way, and has never looked back. "I knew I was bowling well enough to win this event, but in this sport it's all on the day, and I was just hoping I could be consistent."

Opening with string of five singles, Smith was overhauled by Brock, who led 7-5 after nine, and the two went neck-and-neck until the 20th end when Brock was 17-16 in front. A loose end saw Smith collect a full house to lead, 20-17, and a slightly fortuitous rub gave him the winning shot on the 22nd end of a fascinating contest.

Brock, who has been playing bowls for more than forty years, was disappointed to lose, but was delighted to have reached the final in his first season as a 'veteran'. He has turned out for Kent, but cannot make himself available for the Liberty Trophy side, because he works on Saturday mornings.

WOMEN'S FINAL

GEORDIE BROWNE WINS FOR THE PARKS



at Browne (The Parks) receives the National Women's Over 60 Singles trophy from EIBA President Margaret Allen

Pat Browne, who worked in insurance before she retired, played with consistency and grace to win the National women's Over 60 Singles title, but surprised herself by doing so.

"I can't believe it - but it's rather good isn't it?," the elegant 68-year-old from the Parks club in North Shields said, after beating Taunton Deane's Di Routley, 21-11, in the final.

Taking a 5-0 lead after four ends, Browne led, 9-8, after 13, but took control, scoring 11 shots without reply over the next seven ends to lead, 20-8, and, although Routley replied defiantly with three singles, the result was never in doubt.

"I have reached the final; stages of a number of national championships indoors and out," Browne said. "But I never dreamt of winning a national title."

In this ever-changing world of women's bowls, where the once frumpy dress-code has seen the old-fashioned hats dispensed with, and skirts replaced by trousers or culottes - or, sometimes, outdoors, even shorts - it was a surprise to see Browne parading her skills in a medium length skirt.

"I could imagine myself wearing trousers," she said. "I'm a skirt person, and will continue to wear a skirt while playing bowls!" Her decision regarding the dress code reflects her individuality and resolve, and probably throws some light on her ability to play so well.

WOMEN'S OVER 60 SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Semi finals:

Di Routley (Taunton Deane) bt Pam Cutts (Nottingham) 21-19;

Pat Browne (The Parks) bt Alex Jacobs (North Wilts) 21-15.

Final: Browne bt Routley 21-11.

MEN'S OVER 60 SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP

Semi finals:

Gary D Brock (Cyphers) bt Peter Hagger (Clacton) 21-10;

Martin Smith (Malvern Hills) bt Terry Lanchbery (Bromley) 21-2.

Final: Smith bt Brock 21-17.

15/16 April - Family Pairs

Ajay & Rob Morphett (Egerton Park) v Neil & Martyn Jackson (Essex County)
Joe & Paul Justin (Carterton) v David & Ian Drew (Carnmoggas)
Rod & Jonathan West (Boston) v Lewis & Wendy King (Swale)
Ryan & Mark Atkins (Malvern Hills) v Charles & James Bruder (Wey Valley)
Mervyn & Sam King (Gallow) v Nick & Matthew Orrey (Grantham)
Rod & Jamie Claydon (Riverain) v Shaun & Ian McIntosh (South Shields)
Rob & Ed Elmore (City of Ely) v Adrian & Jack Bird (Scarborough)
Ben & Mick Sharpe (Kingsthorpe) v Peter M & Peter D Ward (Atherley)

14/15 April - Men's Inter-county championship (Liberty Trophy)

Semi finals (Saturday, 14 April) - Wiltshire v Kent; Norfolk v Lincolnshire)

Final (Sunday, 15 April)

LIBERTY SEMI FINALS DAY AT NOTTINGHAM

LINCS AND KENT SET UP MOUTH-WATERING FINAL CLASH



A tense moment from the Liberty Trophy semi final between Norfolk and Lincolnshire

After the semi finals of the national men's inter-county championship were snowed off in March, they were re-arranged for Nottingham, and were eventually played today (SAT) in readiness for tomorrow's final. Norfolk took on Lincolnshire in what could be described as a local derby, while Wiltshire's hopeful Moonrakers faced the might of Kent, complete with England captain Andy Thomson.

NATIONAL MEN'S INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (LIBERTY TROPHY)

SEMI FINAL ONE - NORFOLK v LINCOLNSHIRE

Lincolnshire bt Norfolk 124-118 - Rink scores (Lincs names first):

*Kevin Rands, Richard Ashton, Danny Brown, Billy Jackson (all Lincn) 22,
Aaron Johnson (Norfolk), Dan Seabourne (Gallow), Richard Summers (Norfolk), Sam King (Gallow) 16;
Adrian Field (Boston), Alan Watts (Lincoln), Kevin Ekins, Jordan Philpott (both Spalding) 15,
Jake Leslie, Matt Flatman, Tom Segolo, Wayne Willgress (all Norfolk) 27;
Steve Harris (Stamford), Terry Berridge (Grantham), Ashley Caress, Graham Smith (both Spalding) 34,
Adam Watts, Max Turner, Peter Wilkinson, Philip Barr (all County Arts) 12;
Scott Dunham (Spalding), Ron Flowers (Boston), Simon Law (Stamford), Martin Spencer (Spalding) 9
Lee Holden (Diss), Danny Ramsbottom (Acle), James Segolo (Norfolk), George Tubby (Acle) 31;
Matt Whyers (Spalding), Richard Vinter (Boston), Martin Pulling (Grantham), Matt Orrey (Spalding) 32,
Dan Cawthorne, Mark Riches (both Gallow), Ian Wones (Acle), Mervyn King (Gallow) 15;
Ian Clark (Boston), Rod West (Boston), Andy Dunham (Spalding), Jonathan West (Boston) 12,
Dean Rudling (Gallow), Aaron Stimson (Diss), Bernie Perrett (Norfolk), Steve Winter (Lynnsport) 17.*

Lincolnshire defeated Norfolk, 124-118, but this really was a game-and-a-half in which it was always impossible to predict who was going to win! Rarely if ever did more than six shots separate the two counties, who seemed intent on knockout large lumps out of each other.

Three rinks - the Lincolnshire rinks skipped by England stars Graham Smith and Matt Orrey, and the Norfolk rink skipped by George Tubby - topped the thirty mark, while another Norfolk rink comprising four bowlers from the Norfolk bowls club, skipped by Wayne Willgress, won 27-15.

Perhaps it should be mentioned that Willgress was in direct opposition to his father-in-law-to-be Adrian Field (father of Bex Field), from Boston, who was playing lead for Jordan Philpott.

Two big counts swayed the balance of power, a six from the Willgress rink giving Norfolk a distinct advantage mid-game, and a magnificent seven from Matt Orrey's men against Mervyn King's quartet turning a 117-112 lead for Norfolk into a 119-117 lead for Lincolnshire Imps.

Lincolnshire can expect another battle royal tomorrow (SUN), when they face an in-form, star-studded Kent side in the final.

SEMI FINAL TWO - WILTSHIRE v KENT

Kent bt Wiltshire 125-60 - Rink scores (Kent names first):

Peter Harris (Angel), Jamie Eriera (Cyphers), Pat Briscoe (Betteshanger), Duncan Hanmore (Angel) 16, Steve Snook, Darren Anteney (both N Wilts), Nick Revell (Five Rivers), Andy Moore (Christie Miller) 5; Joseph Vandeppeer, David Ferguson (both Oyster), Paul Barnicott, Perry Martin (both Swale) 31, Kevin Embling, Denis Holborow, Graham Hatherall, Ian Jefferies (all Westlecot) 7; Sean Coyle (Swale), Steve Marrett (Datford SL), Michael Cheeseman (Cyphers), Ian Honnor (Swale) 29, Barry Sictorness, Chris Cheesley, Mel Biggs, Mike Titcombe (all Westlecot) 6; Chris Morris (Swale), Luke Eriera (Cyphers), Marc McCaughan, Gordon Charlton (both Folkestone) 18, Jordan Moody (Five Rivers), Tom Pittuck, Craig Hatherall, Phil Gregory (all Westlecot) 12; Arthur McCaughan (Folkestone), Andrew Rodger (Swale), Taylor Monk (Cyphers), Mark Johnson (Swale) 17, Ashley Plumb, Jamie Reynolds, Fraser Boynton, Tom Warner (all Five Rivers) 17; Mick Fisher, David Holmes (both Folkestone), Roger Kendrick (Swale), Andy Thomson (Cyphers) 14, Tom Newman (Christie Miller), Terry Walton, Dave Godwin, Neil Smith (all Westlecot) 13.

Wiltshire, under Neil Smith's inspirational leadership, have been quietly - sometimes, to be honest, not so quietly - building a reputation for themselves indoors and out, and arrived in Nottingham confident that they could match the famed fire-power of Kent. After all, they had beaten Devon on their route to the semi finals.

But things did not go according to plan for the Moonrakers, who had the stuffing knocked out of them over the first few ends, and never recovered, losing 125-60 - though the damage was done mainly on two rinks, where Kent's Perry Martin and Ian Honnor went on the rampage.

Martin, well supported by Joseph Vandeppeer, David Ferguson and Paul Barnicott, steered his rink into a 24-2 lead by the 12th end, and returned a 31-7 scorecard after 19, at which stage Wiltshire had thrown in the towel.

On the next rink, Honnor, whose wife Sian recently won a bronze medal in the women's triples at the Commonwealth Games, skipped Sean Coyle, Steve Marrett and Mike Cheeseman to a 29-6 victory, so the combined 60-13 advantage on those two rinks was lethal to Wiltshire's hopes.

The other four rinks saw competitive bowls being played, Kent winning 16-5 on Duncan Hanmore's rink, 18-12 on Gordon Charlton's rink, and 14-13 on the rink skipped by the evergreen Andy Thomson. Tom Warner's Wilts rink did well to earn a tie with the Kent rink skipped by Mark Johnson.

For Wiltshire it was a bad day at the office, and it is certain that Kent can expect a tougher time of it when they face Lincolnshire in the final tomorrow (SUN).
