



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 NINE

Sunday, 15 April

LIBERTY TROPHY FINAL AT NOTTINGHAM

LINCOLNSHIRE TAME KENT

This was Kent's ninth Liberty Trophy final, and they were hoping to lift the trophy for the fifth time. Lincolnshire had previously appeared in three finals, but had won the title only once - and that was as long ago as 1981, before most of the current team were born. Kent fielded two current England internationals (Andy Thomson and Perry Martin) while Lincolnshire fielded three (Graham Smith, Martin Spencer and Matt Whyers). Yesterday (SAT), Lincolnshire had come out on top in an exciting semi final battle with Norfolk, while Kent had overwhelmed Wiltshire.



LIBERTY TROPHY WINNERS - LINCOLNSHIRE

LINCS BRIDGE 37-YEAR GAP

A jubilant Lincolnshire side, under player-manager Graham Smith, won the national men's inter-county title and lifted the Liberty Trophy for the first time since 1981 when they defeated Kent, 120-107, in the final in Nottingham today (SUN).

Not one of the Lincolnshire players were in the side 37 years ago - though they say have been ribbed by clubmates back home in Lincoln, Boston and Spalding, who are apparently fond of reminding today's stars that there was something missing from their honours board.

The county's highly respected Past President Richard White said: "I won the county singles in 1981, but I had only just started playing bowls, and I didn't make my Cup debut until the following year. This is a fine achievement on the part of the boys, and I'm proud of them."

Lincolnshire came close to winning the title three years ago, when they lost agonisingly to Northamptonshire in the final, so there were a lot of happy faces when Smith was handed the Liberty Trophy by EIBA President Margaret Allen.

Former international star Billy Jackson, who won the World Bowls Tour World title in 2006, said, "I can't tell you how much that means to me - it's the one thing that was missing from my CV. We came close in 2015, but today makes up for it - though Kent made us fight for it.

The game was close to start with, but the Lincolnshire Imps got on top, and stretched their lead to 21 shots at the threequarter stage, and, although Kent narrowed the gap, Lincs seemed to hold a firm grip at all times.

England regular Smith, who won the national two-wood singles title in Melton last month, played a captain's role, skipping his rink to an influential 30-16 win over a Kent rink skipped by Ian Honnor.

Matt Orrey skipped his rink to a seven-shots win against Mark Johnson, while the rink skipped by Jonathan West defeated a Kent rink skipped by England team captain Andy Thomson by three shots, and Jordan Philpott's quartet edged home by two shots against Perry Martin's rink.

Kent rinks skipped by Duncan Hanmore, who beat Jackson's rink, 18-15, and veteran team manager Gordon Charlton, who returned a 25-15 card against Martin Spencer's men, salvaged some pride for Kent, who started as favourites following their effortless dismissal of Wiltshire yesterday.

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

FINAL - KENT v LINCOLNSHIRE

Lincolnshire bt Kent 120-107 - Rink scores (Lincs names first):

Kevin Rands, Richard Ashton, Danny Brown, Billy Jackson (all Lincoln) 15, Peter Harris (Angel), Jamie Eriera (Cyphers), Pat Briscoe (Betteshanger), Duncan Hanmore (Angel) 18; Adrian Field (Boston), Alan Watts (Lincoln), Kevin Ekins, Jordan Philpott (both Spalding) 15, Joseph Vandeppeer, David Ferguson (both Oyster), Paul Barnicott, Perry Martin (both Swale) 13; Steven Harris (Stamford), Terry Berridge (Grantham), Ashley Caress, Graham Smith (both Spalding) 30, Sean Coyle (Swale), Steve Marrett (Datford SL), Michael Cheeseman (Cyphers), Ian Honnor (Swale) 16; Scott Dunham (Spalding), Ron Flowers (Boston), Simon Law (Stamford), Martin Spencer (Spalding) 15, Chris Morris (Swale), Luke Eriera (Cyphers), Marc McCaughan, Gordon Charlton (both Folkestone) 25; Matt Whyers (Spalding), Richard Vinter (Boston), Martin Pulling (Grantham), Matt Orrey (Spalding) 25, Arthur McCaughan (Folkestone), Andrew Rodger (Swale), Taylor Monk (Cyphers), Mark Johnson (Swale) 18; Ian Clark (Boston), Rod West (Boston), Andy Dunham (Spalding), Jonathan West (Boston) 20, Mick Fisher, David Holmes (both Folkestone), Roger Kendrick (Swale), Andy Thomson (Cyphers) 17.

This programme for the ten days at Nottingham - ends tomorrow (MON)...

7 April - David Cornwell Under 25 inter-club Double Rink final

7/8 April - Men's Over 60 Fours

8 April - Denny Plate and Yetton Plate finals

9/10 April - Men's & Women's Over 50 Triples

11/12 April - Men's & Women's Over 60 Pairs

12/13 April - Men's & Women's Over 60 inter-club Double Rink championship

13/15 April - Men's & Women's Over 60 Singles

14 April - Liberty Trophy Semi finals

15 April - Liberty Trophy Final

15/16 - Open Family Pairs

EIBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (PHASE TWO) SCHEDULE, DRAW & RESULTS

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)

FAMILY PAIRS

SERIOUS FAMILY FUN

This unique event has something for everyone, and reflects the well-known fact that bowls is a family game. Most - though not all - top bowlers say they started playing because their Mums or Dads played bowls, and the standard combination in this event is a Father-and-Son duo.

But there were other family relationships on show in Nottingham this weekend. Two Mother-and-Son partnerships had their sights set on winning the title. Wendy and Lewis King, from the Swale club in Sittingbourne are the defending champions.

Ryan Atkins, a junior international player from Malvern Hills, qualified with his dad Mark, who last week experienced a serious heart attack. In stepped Mum, Nadine, to fill the gap - and the bowls community have wished Mark a speedy recovery.

Coincidentally, Riverain's Rob Claydon, who was leading for his son Jamie, was unfortunately taken ill during their last sixteen encounter with the McKenzie brothers, Shaun and Ian, from South Shields, this morning (SUN), and his place was taken by his wife Debbie for tonight's quarter finals.

There are pairs of brothers, like the Elmores, Rod and Edward, from the City of Ely, and the Bruders, Charles and James, from Guildford's Wey Valley club, competing in this event.

And three players who helped Lincolnshire win the Liberty Trophy this afternoon (SUN), returned to the green after a short break to launch their bids in the Family pairs. Jonathan West and his dad Rod, from Boston were both in the county team, while Lincs skip Matt Orrey lined up with his dad Nick.

Another Lincolnshire skip. Matt Orrey, who plays for Spalding and Grantham, did the same along with his dad, Nick, while the best known duo on display was Mervyn King and his son Sam, from the Gallow club in Fakenham (Norfolk).



Ryan Atkins and his Mum Nadine, who stepped in for husband Mark

KINGS RULE IN FAMILY PAIRS...

Defending champions Wendy and Lewis King, from the high-flying Sittingbourne-based Swale club, and Norfolk heroes Mervyn and Sam King, who play for the Fakenham-based Gallow club, battled through to tomorrow's (MON) semi finals of the National Family Pairs championship in Nottingham today (SUN).

Wendy and Mervyn have been key members of England's international teams indoors and out for decades, but their offspring have inherited their skill-sets to such an extent that Wendy and Mervyn are happy to let Lewis and Sam skip in the Family Pairs.

Wendy and Lewis King booked their place in the quarter finals the hard way, having to fight back from an unpromising 11-16 deficit, before beating father-and-son duo Boston's Rod and Jonathan West, 18-16, then accounted for Nadine and Mark Atkins, 22-10.

Nadine, called on to substitute for husband Mark Atkins, had not played indoors for some eight years, but enjoyed her participation in this event, and, it has to be said, played her corner.

Mervyn and Sam King swept past the Lincolnshire's Orreys, Nick and Matt, 20-3, before outplaying Riverain's mother-and-daughter pairing Debbie and Jamie Claydon, 22-7, establishing themselves as favourites for the title.

Experienced Kingsthorpe father-and-son Mick and Ben Sharpe defeated City of Ely brothers, England international Rob and WIBC World Under 25 champion Edward Elmore, 20-14, and will challenge Mervyn and Sam King tomorrow (MON) for a place in the final.

Cornish duo Ian and David Drew, who play for the Carnmoggas club in a place called Little Polgooth, beat the Justins from Carterton, 16-14, and the Jacksons, from Essex County, 15-4, and will face the defending champions Wendy and Lewis King.

EIBA FAMILY PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP

Last sixteen:

Neil & Martyn Jackson (Essex County) bt Ajay & Rob Morphett (Egerton Park) 17-14;
David & Ian Drew (Carnmoggas) 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 Debbie & 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 (tomorrow - MON - 1000hrs):

David & Ian Drew v Wendy & Lewis King; Mervyn King & Sam King v Ben & Mick Sharpe.

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