



English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd

The National Governing Body for Indoor Level Green Bowls in England

CO-OP FUNERALCARE TEST MATCHES 2016

MEN'S TEST MATCH - SCOTLAND bt ENGLAND 6-5

at New Earswick Indoor Bowls Club

20/21 October, 2016

DAY TWO - FRIDAY, 21 OCTOBER

SCOTLAND WIN THE DAVID BRYANT TROPHY

BUT ENGLAND MAKE THE SCORE RESPECTABLE



Rob Paxton (bowling) and Stewart Anderson got the ball rolling with a fascinating singles clash

Scotland had England on the back foot from the start of this Test Match. Winning both triples encounters got the Scots off to a dream start on Thursday morning, and when Paul Foster and Alex Marshall beat Mark Dawes and Jamie Chestney on a tiebreak in the first pairs clash, the writing was on the wall. However, two gritty pairs wins for England on Thursday afternoon meant that the host country players were hanging on by their fingertips - but they were certainly in with a chance on Day Two - Singles Day. Put simply, the Scots needed to win three out of six singles matches to take the David Bryant Trophy, while England had to pick up four wins.

Consecutive wins for Stewart Anderson, Alex Marshall and Ronnie Duncan saw Scotland home with three matches still to play, so the large crowd at the New Earswick indoor bowls club in York settled down to watch three attractive exhibition matches. The pressure was off, but there was still some brilliant entertainment on display from some of the most talented bowlers in the world.

Three consecutive wins for Mark Dawes, Jamie Walker and Mervyn King brought England to within one point of the winners at 6-5. English pride was salvaged - but there was no doubt that Scotland deserved their victory, and everyone went home happy. This series of Test Matches, after all, mark the return of bowls to ITV for the first time since the Granada Superbowl was axed in the 1980's.

SINGLES

Game 1 - Rob Paxton lost to Stewart Anderson 6-10, 2-6

Stewart Anderson was in top form, Rob Paxton, watched by his wife Louise and three-weeks old son Caleb, played a brilliant bowl to make three shots on the fifth end of the first set, and, when Anderson missed with his reply, calmly added a fourth for a full house to take a 6-5 lead. It was short-ved, however, because the former world indoor singles champion from Blantyre responded with a full house of his own on the very next end, and closed the game out effectively. Indeed, Paxton was allowed to score on only three of the 13 ends as Anderson got home, 10-6, 6-2.

Game 2 - Nick Brett lost to Alex Marshall 4-5, 6-8

This was a clash between the reigning world indoor singles champion and WBT world number one (Brett) and the six-time world indoor singles champion and WBT world number two (Marshall). A great match was expected, and it really was a contest worth seeing. After Marshall felt a muscular twinge in his hip on the trial ends, he looked vulnerable. But, although he winced a grimaced his way through the match, his class shone through, and he played some superb bowls, often under pressure. Brett, too, played brilliantly, without, perhaps, showing his very best form. Marshall broke a 4-4 deadlock to win the first set, 5-4, and pressed on from 4-4 in the second set to win it 8-6.

Game 3 - Jamie Chestney lost to Ronnie Duncan 8-4, 3-5, 0-1

It fell to Exonia's Jamie Chestney to man the barricades, with Scotland needing only one more win - and, for a while, it looked as if he was going to do enough to beat Midlothian's Ronnie Duncan, who has been picked to play for Scotland in the world outdoor championships in New Zealand next month. Chestney won the first set easily enough, 8-4, but failed to close it out in the second set, as Duncan scored three singles to start with, and forced Chestney into a tiebreak. Chestney's attacking bowls were generally on target, but often failed to get the desired results, and his accurate strike to save the match on the tiebreak sent the jack rolling to a Scottish bowl.

Game 4 - Mark Dawes bt Paul Foster 5-4, 8-0

The pressure was off, because the fate of the Test Match had been decided. Scotland, who led, 6-2, were out of reach and could not be caught. But this was a high quality game, with Mark Dawes just edging the first set, after the scores were tied at 4-4 after six ends. At that stage, Paul Foster was playing well, but Dawes grew in confidence in the second set, and dominated the scorecard, building up an 8-0 lead with singles and doubles.

Game 5 - Jamie Walker bt Colin Walker 5-5, 9-8

The two Walkers had met in this Test Match in 2014 and 2015, and here they were again in a fascinating head-to-head in 2016. England's Jamie Walker had won the two previous encounters, but found himself 1-5 adrift of Scotland's Colin Walker after five ends, before he tied the set, 5-5, with a single and an out-of-the blue treble. In a high-scoring second set, Jamie scored trebles on the second and fourth ends, but dropped three shots on the fifth, and trailed 6-8 with one end to play. Incredibly, he claimed yet another treble on the seventh end to win the match, 5-5, 9-8.

Game 6 - Mervyn King bt Scott Kennedy 5-4, 3-3

Some would have called this a dead rubber, but both players had something to prove, and gave 100% for their respective countries - even though the sets were curtailed to five ends. Mervyn King had beaten Alex Marshall in the final game last year to give the title to England, while Scott Kennedy was keen to prove he had been a good choice to replace Darren Burnett, who suffered a family bereavement, and had to withdraw. King scored a treble on the second end, and won the first set, 5-4, and was content to tie the second, 3-3. Game Over - Test Over - Six-Five - Everyone was happy!

THURSDAY'S RESULTS...

TRIPLES...

Mervyn King, Rob Paxton, Nick Brett (Eng) lost to Ronnie Duncan, Scott Kennedy, Colin Walker (Scot) 6-1, 4-7, 0-1;

Mark Dawes, Jamie Walker, Jamie Chestney (Eng) lost to Stewart Anderson, Paul Foster, Alex Marshall (Scot) 3-7, 3-7.

PAIRS...

Mark Dawes & Jamie Chestney (Eng) lost to Paul Foster & Alex Marshall (Sco) 6-7, 7-5, 0-1;

Rob Paxton & Nick Brett (Eng) bt Ronnie Duncan & Colin Walker (Sco) 8-3, 3-7, 1-0;

Mervyn King & Jamie Walker (Eng) bt Scott Kennedy & Stewart Anderson (Sco) 6-4, 7-1.



THE WINNERS – SCOTLAND



THE RUNNERS UP - ENGLAND

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