

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BOWLS NEWS REPORTS

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7th March, 2010.

PRESS REPORT

1. NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS AT KEMPSTON IBC, BEDS. – COUNTY PLAYERS INVOLVEMENT

The National Championships continued at Kempston BC, Bedford, after the tremendous win by the County's Over 60 Team against Surrey, which was reported on last week, and County interest continued in the Men's Over 60 Singles and Men's Over 60 Pairs, as follows:

MEN'S OVER 60 SINGLES

Mick Sharpe, Kingsthorpe, as reported last week had a bye in the first round due to the very sad death of the man he should have played, and in the second round he came against Alan Cawdell of Glebelands IBC, North Finchley, London, who, after a slow start, he managed to beat 21-18 in his quest to regain the trophy which he won in 2008.

The Quarter Final saw him matched against Bill Bell, of Stanley IBC, Durham, a man who had himself won this championship twice before in 2000, and 2001, and who had beaten another former winner Bill Ward of Avon Valley IBC in the previous round.

A very good tussle ensued with first Bell taking the lead and then Sharpe overtaking him to lead by a couple of shots after 9 ends at 9-7. The next 3 ends saw Sharpe increase his lead to 15-7 at 12 ends, drop 2 shots on the 13th end, then go ahead 19-9 with the winning post in sight. Bell was not yet beaten for he picked up 4 shots without reply to cut the deficit to 6 shots but the next 2 ends saw Mick Sharpe pick up 2 singles to take the match 21-13.

This brought Sharpe up against last year's runner-up Barry Forse of St. Andrews IBC, Weston-Super-Mare, in the Semi-Final and, in a tremendously close encounter in which the lead changed places a couple of times in the early rounds, with both on 8 shots after 10 ends, Forse then went ahead with a run of shots to lead 16 – 10 after 7 ends. With 3 successive winning ends Sharpe pulled back level at 16 ends each after 20 ends. Forse pulled ahead by 3 shots but Sharpe got them back to be level at 19 shots each after 25 ends, and on the 26th end with a shot available to give him match by removing a Forse bowl from the head Sharpe missed by a whisker, and so played what was to be the last end, with Forse winning 21-19 after 27 ends off high class bowls.

(Please see attached a photograph of Mick Sharpe)

MEN'S OVER 60 PAIRS

Pete Maloy & Colin Dalgleish, Northampton & District IBC commenced their challenge in the National Over 60's Pairs Championship with a first round match against Ken Uglow & Barry Forse, St. Andrew's IBC, Weston-Super-Mare, and after a very close affair they just managed to squeeze a win by the smallest of margins 18-17, to go into the second round.

In the second round they were up against a very experienced pair from Stanley IBC, Durham, Brian Harris & David Webb. The Northampton pair immediately went into a substantial 8 shot lead without reply at 5 ends, with both players hitting their form. Their opponents picked up 2 singles, but back came the County duo to collect 5 more shots for a 13-2 lead after 10 ends, and despite the Stanley men picking up two singles and a 3 to reach 7 shots, Maloy & Dalglish were never really threatened and ran out winners at 20-7 when their opponents conceded after 17 ends.

This brought them against John James & Chris Bryan, Havering IBC, Hornchurch, Essex, and in a fairly matched encounter the County pair lost 18-23.

2. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MEN versus WARWICKSHIRE – MIDLAND COUNTIES MATCH

Northamptonshire men played their third Midland Counties Championship Group match against Warwickshire on Sunday, 7th March, 2010, at Northampton & District IBC, with the winners earning a Semi-Final place. Manager John Haines was faced with a number of withdrawals from his selected team due to Kingsthorpe playing their Leonard Denny Memorial Trophy match, and he was able to give a chance to some newer players.

At the outset the County was considered favourite to win as they were unbeaten in the Group, with a total of 26 points compared to Warwickshire's 21 points. The two front runners Worcestershire and Bedfordshire had played their 3 matches with a final points tally of 33 and 30 respectively. So it much depended on how the re-arranged team gelled whether they would be successful.

The County were slow off the blocks losing the first end across the board by 1-9 shots, but they quickly settled down to take the lead by a small margin of 3 shots at the 5 end mark. Over the next few ends Warwickshire seriously threatened the County and at 10 ends they had gone into the lead by 10 shots but this was short-lived for Northamptonshire stuck at their task and by the three quarter stage had regained the lead, by 6 shots and they were never seriously threatened after that running out winners by 19 shots with 5 winning rinks. Rink scores, Warws skips only, as follows:

Rink 1.

Pete Maloy, Northampton
Graham Maddams, Wellingborough
Dominic Graham, Northampton
John Haines, Desborough
16 shots v E Over 23 shots

Rink 2.

Matt Pownall, Desborough
Chris Wright, Northampton
Ray Castle, Northampton
Mick Worthington, Daventry
21 shots v S Smith 14 shots

Rink 3.

Jim Diver, Desborough
Phil Exley, Desborough
Roger Tansley, Kingsthorpe
Andy Smith, Northampton
23 shots – B Lever 19 shots

Rink 4.

Connor Cinato, Desborough
Malcolm Paul, Desborough
Carl Haines, Desborough
Terry James, Rushden
23 shots – A Bailey 17 shots

Rink 5.

Matt Wordingham, Rushden
Brian Sherwood, Rushden
Martin Cinato, Desborough
Dave Flippance, Desborough
20 shots – C Allen 12 shots

Rink 6.

Bob Fuller, Wellingborough
Jack Tobin, Rushden
Colin Jones, Kingsthorpe
Richard Lemon, Northampton
18 shots – H Wilkins 17 shots

Northamptonshire will now play Leicestershire in the Semi-Final on a date and venue yet to be fixed.

3. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE VICE PRESIDENTS versus NORTHAMPTONSHIRE LADIES – RESULT

The men of the Northamptonshire Honorary Vice Presidents' Association faced one of their stiffest and most competitive matches on Monday, 1st March, 2010, at Desborough IBC, when they faced the Ladies of Northamptonshire Women's Indoor BA. This annual fixture is always very close and this year was no exception, each team winning 3 rinks, with the result in doubt right to the end when the rink skipped by Roy Cave collected a count of 6 on the last end to ensure a 2 shots overall victory for the VP's. The final score was Northamptonshire VP's 116 shots Northamptonshire Women's IBA 114 shots. Rink scores as follows:

Rink 1. VP'S Jim Walvin Ollie Pearson John Watson Brian Langton 22 shots	NWIBA Jan Hunt Elaine Urquhart Sue Prior Sue Lomas 13 shots	Rink 2. VP'S Bob Tingle Roly Smith Brian Audis Tracy Nunn 16 shots	NWIBA Margaret Newport Elsie Hatton Eleanor Winters Jean Pownall-Davies 19 shots	Rink 3. VP'S Jim Diver Peter Byworth Tony Essam Roy Cave 30 shots	NWIBA Zoe Eisler Audrey Gardener Irene Scoble Pam Lewis 17 shots
Rink 4. VP'S Brian Jones Dick Howell Mick Pullen Harvey Fruish 22 shots	NWIBA Pat Starsmore Helen Jones Val Blackwell Irene Cross 18 shots	Rink 5. VP'S Tom Black Percy Griffiths Mick McKeown Ken Legan 13 shots	NWIBA Sylvia Plant Margaret Tyler Wilma Walker Brenda Bishop 25 shots	Rink 6. VP'S Graham Cashmore Geoff Talbot Peter Wood Bob Jones 13 shots	NWIBA Eleanor Buchanan Enid Williams Margaret Cave Joan Watts 22 shots

(Rink 4 for the VP's was an interesting combination, calling themselves 'The Heart Throbs' – each member having undergone major heart surgery in recent months, and the match raised monies for the Coronary Units at Northampton & Kettering General Hospitals.)

4. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MEN versus BEDFORDSHIRE – FRIENDLY MATCH – RESULT

In the Annul match for the Courtney Cup between Northamptonshire Indoor BA and Bedfordshire Indoor BA, played at Wellingborough IBC on Wednesday, 3rd March, 2010, for the first three quarters the game was very tight with very few shots separating the two teams and Bedfordshire just having the advantage by 5 shots at 15 ends. The County, however, made a serious and concerted effort over the last 6 ends taking 46 shots from their opponents whilst conceding just 23, which gave the County a win by 18 shots. This was in no small measure to the efforts of Senior V/President Keith came back from a 12-18 deficit to win 24-18. In both cases, these great efforts were achieved over the last 6 ends.

Final score was Northamptonshire 134 shots – Bedfordshire 116 shots. Rink scores, Beds skips only, as follows:

Rink 1. Brian Robbins Dougje Hatton Frank Fair Keith Howlett v B Keech 22 shots 21 shots	Rink 2. Mick Hall Roly Smith Mike Weatherill Geoff Hunt v P Roff 14 shots 27 shots	Rink 3. Jim Diver Trevor Tilley Mick Pullen Richard Somerton v C Cole 17 shots 19 shots
Rink 4. Peter Woodhams Martin Horsham Laurie Harrison Terry James v S Proctor 32 shots 9 shots	Rink 5. Jim Walvin Don Scott Tony Essam Brian Langton v D Tuffnel 25 shots 22 shots	Rink 6. Barry Adair Ted Guiver Tony Warren Geoff Harris v G Black 24 shots 18 shots

5. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MEN FRIENDLY MATCH versus ENGLISH CIVIL SERVICE – SELECTION

The following have been selected to represent the County in a friendly match against the English Civil Service BA to be played at Northampton & District IBC on Wednesday, 17th March, 2010, commencing at 2.0 p.m.

Rink 1. Barry Adair, Desborough Mick York, Desborough Mick Pullen, Rushden Brian Langton, Kettering	Rink 2. John Whiting, Northampton Peter Byworth, Wellingborough Tony Warren, Northampton Keith Howlett, Desborough	Rink 3. Ray Timson, Desborough Dave Williams, Desborough Walter Stoddard, Kingsthorpe Terry James, Rushden
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Rink 4.

Ted Summerton, Northampton
Dave Garland, Kingsthorpe
Mike Weatherill, Desborough
Richard Somerton, Brackley

Rink 5.

Ernie Earp, Northampton
Chris Hawkins, Desborough
John Smith, Kettering
Norman Gibb, Desborough

Rink 6.

Bill Craig, Desborough
Ron Drage, Rushden
Doug Hatton, Brackley
Geoff Hunt, Wellingborough

Rink 7.

Gordon Morris, Northampton
Clyde Hulbert, Desborough
Harvey Fruish, Northampton
Brian Sherwood, Rushden

Rink 8.

Pete Maloy, Northampton
Eric Wareing, Daventry
Laurie Harrison, Northampton
Brian Diver, Desborough

Reserves:

Jim Walvin, Daventry

Peter Woodhams, Rushden

6. BOWLS ENGLAND NEWS

a. President-Elect of Bowls England

At the Annual General Meeting of Bowls England held last Saturday, Stuart Lake, Wellingborough BC, and the 2006 President of Northamptonshire BA, has been honoured by election to the office of Vice-President of Bowls England. He will subsequently hold office

He will follow in the foot-steps of several eminent County Players who held this high office in the days of the English Bowling Association and the English Women's Bowling Association, including Alice Ireland(1965) and Jack Forster(1994) from his own Club, Wellingborough.

b. Male Bowlers of the Year – 2009

Danny May, Cumbria, has been named the Bowls International Young Bowler of the Year. The 24 year old has been rewarded for his strong performances at Junior and Senior level over the past 12 months.

Simon Skelton, Derbyshire, has been named the Cyclo-ssage/Taylor Bowls Bowler of the Year. The 37 year old from Stute BC was rewarded for his achievement in winning the 2009 National Singles title just 12 months after he was Runner-up in the same Championship

7. COUNTY COMPETITIONS

PAIRS

Quarter Final: Mick Malins & Matt Wordingham, Rushden beat Graham Southgate/Bill Brune, Desborough

TRIPLES

Semi-Final: Richard Lemon's triple, Northampton beat Robert Norman's triple, Wellingborough

FOURS

Semi-Final Jim McKee's rink, Kingsthorpe beat Doug Mitchell's rink, Daventry

TIPLER ROSE BOWL

Semi-Final: Doug Mitchell's rink, Daventry beat Ken Fitzhugh's rink, Northampton.

8. MIDLAND COUNTIES COMPETITION

TRIPLES: Steve Norman/Bryan Williams/Robert Norman, Wellingborough, beat a Triple from Worcestershire skipped by Luke Harwood, after an extra end.

9. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE LADIES ON WEEK-END TOUR

President Irene Scoble, Northamptonshire Women's Indoor Bowling Association is taking a touring party to Gillingham, Kent, for her long week-end tour on Friday, 12th March, 2010. The party will be based at the King Charles Hotel, Gillingham, and four matches have been arranged. Full details will appear in my report upon their return.

10. LEONARD DENNY MEMORIAL TROPHY – KINGSTHORE SUCCESS

The last remaining County Club in the Leonard Denny Memorial Trophy competition, **Kingsthorpe IBC**, met St. Neots IBC today, 7th March, 2010, and came away with a very sound win by 13 shots. This competition is for double rinks of men, one away and one at home, and in this match both rinks had a win. Final result Kingsthorpe 42 shots – St Neots 29.

Rink 1 at Kingsthorpe: Andrew Manton skipped the rink, winning 25-13

Rink 2 at St Neots: Jim McKee skipped the rink winning 17-16

Kingsthorpe are now in the Quarter Finals of this event and will play either Barking IBC or Bounds Green IBC.

11. NATIONAL FINALS OF EGHAM TROPHY & VIVIENNE TROPHY IN NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

On Sunday, 7th March, 2010, Desborough IBC, Northants, had the honour of staging the Final of two National Competitions which brought to the Club a vast array of very talented bowlers from four Clubs across the country.

The Vivienne Trophy for ladies was fought in the morning between Egham IBC, Surrey and Riverain IBC, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, and was won comfortably on the day by Egham IBC with all their 4 rinks winning, the final score being Egham 95 shots – Riverain 64 shots.

The Egham Trophy for mixed teams was between the City of Ely IBC, Cambridgeshire and Torquay United IBC, and each team of 16 men and women had no less than 6 International players, some of whom are household names in the world of bowling. On the day Ely were far too strong for Torquay with international star Greg Harlow skipping his rink to a massive 30 shots – 4 shots victory against Junior International James Webber. The final score was City of Ely 89 shots – Torquay United 43 shots. Torquay's only consolation was that Junior International Sam Tolchard had a 1 shot win over the rink skipped by Senior International Nicky Brett.

11. BOWLS NEWS AROUND THE CLUBS

DESBOROUGH IBC

Fixtures:

- 11.3.10. Abington BC and Fleckney BC visit for a men's match
- 13.3.10. Members visit Barwell IBC for a mixed match at 2.0 p.m.
- 15.3.10. Market Harborough BC and Rothwell Manor BC visit for a ladies match at 2.0 p.m.

KETTERING LODGE IBC

Fixtures:

- 11.3.10. Fred Hodge Select team visits for a mixed match at 2.0 p.m.
- 13.3.10. Club hosts a match between McAlpine BC and Ise BC for mixed players.

KINGSTHORPE IBC

Fixtures:

- 10.3.10. Kempston IBC(Formerly Lawson Park) visit for a ladies match at 2.0 p.m.
- 11.3.10. Members visit Bedford Borough IBC for a men's match at 2.30 p.m.
- 13.3.10. Slade BC visits for a mixed match at 2.15 p.m.

NORTHAMPTON & DISTRICT IBC

Fixtures:

- 10.3.10. Club ladies play the Club men at 2.0 p.m.
- 11.3.10. Northamptonshire Police BC visits for a men's match at 2.15 p.m.
- 13.3.10. Rushden Town BC visits for a men's match at 2.15 p.m.
- 14.3.10. Northamptonshire Under 25's visit at 2.15 p.m. (To be confirmed)

RUSHDEN TOWN IBC

Fixture:

- 13.3.10. Members visit Northampton & District IBC for a men's match at 2.15 p.m.

WELLINGBOROUGH IBC

Fixtures:

- 10.3.10. Club hosts the Masonic BA George Gray Trophy match at 10.0 a.m.
- 13.3.10. Whittlesey BC visits for a mixed match at 2.15 p.m.
- 14.3.10. Goodwood BC, Leics. Visits for a mixed match at 2.15 p.m.
- 15.3.10. The Club holds a Mixed drive at 2.0 p.m.



John G. Church, MBE – Northamptonshire Bowls Press Officer