

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BOWLS NEWS REPORTS

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4th October, 2009.

PRESS REPORT

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HON VI CE-PRESIDENTS versus KINGSTHORPE 1.10.09. - RESULT

The gentlemen of the County Hon Vice-Presidents played their first Indoor match of the season against Kingsthorpe IBC at the opponents' green, and after a very close and competitive match, with the sides sharing rink wins, the victory went the way of Kingsthorpe by just 1 shot, which was due to the last bowl of the match on 1 rink. VP's were in a winning position but that last bowl for Kingsthorpe collected 3 shots to snatch victory. The final score was Northants VP's 114 shots – Kingsthorpe IBC 115 shots. Rink scores as follows:

Rink 1. VP'S Jim Diver Peter Stewart Mick Pullen Geoff Harris 21 shots	Kingsthorpe Dave Law Mick White Derek Gardener Don Crowson 16 shots	Rink 2. VP'S Graham Cashmore Geoff Care Clyde Hulbert Dave Williamson 23 shots	Kingsthorpe Tony May Mike Dakin Bill Stratford Ron Everson-Watts 17 shots
Rink 3. VP'S Barry Adair Peter Byworth Bob Tingle Ken Legan 13 shots	Kingsthorpe Ray Parker Derek Simpson Brian Bandey Lee Everett 23 shots	Rink 4. VP'S Ollie Pearson Dennis Franklin John Watson Tony Buckmaster 23 shots	Kingsthorpe Graham Allsopp Tom Benstead Mark Cook Alan Spencer 20 shots
Rink 5. VP'S Peter Woodhams Ken Friend Mike McKeown Roy Cave 17 shots	Kingsthorpe Dave Thurley Tony Harrison Nigel Hanwell Brian Kaye 20 shots	Rink 6. VP'S Ray Timson Roly Smith Bryan Audis Dick Howell 17 shots	Kingsthorpe John Roy Ted Holley Geoff Vincent Tony Lane 19 shots

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE INDOOR OVER 60'S versus EMERGING PLAYERS – TRIAL MATCH

Team Manager John Haines has announced the teams to play in a Trial Match on Saturday, 10th October, 2009, at Desborough IBC, for the County's Over 60's who will play against a team he has called 'Emerging Players'. Play to commence at 10.0 a.m. and he has arranged for 5 additional Over 60's players to play half the match. His 'Emerging Team' is a mixture of youth and vast experience with several Under 25's showing their potential, including Curtis Johnson of Wellingborough, Jack Tobin, Matt Cattell, Nathan Betts, of Rushden, Shaun Marriott, Kingsthorpe, Scott Adams, Northampton, and Carl Wigfield of Desborough, as well as some very experienced County players, including Sam Wade, Phil Reeve, Iain Walker, from Kingsthorpe and Ray Castle, Tony O'Leary and John Freeman of Northampton & District IBC.

Teams as follows:

Northamptonshire Over 60's

Rink 1.

Andy Redfern, Rushden
Martin Keech, Rushden
Dave Masters, Northampton
Walt Winsor, Wellingborough

Rink 2.

Pete Maloy, Northampton
Bob Care, Kingsthorpe
Colin Jones, Kingsthorpe
Jim McKee, Kingsthorpe

Rink 3.

Alan Spencer, Kingsthorpe
Malc Mattinson, Rushden
Maurice Allen, Wellingborough
Mick Sharpe, Kingsthorpe

Rink 4.

Mick Corbyn, Rushden
Dougie Mitchell, Daventry
John Baggat, Kingsthorpe
Roger Tansley, Kingsthorpe

Rink 5.

Tony Dicks, Daventry
Mick Richardson, Daventry
Ron Chambers, Desborough
Mick Worthington, Daventry

Rink 6.

Jim Diver, Desborough
Norman Gibb, Desborough
George Warren, Desborough
Carl Haines, Desborough

Following to play second half:

Bernard Spreadbury, Daventry
Reg Jones, Northampton
Richard Somerton, Brackley

Richard Horrell, Wellingborough
Roger Summers, Northampton

'Emerging Players'

Rink 1.

Curtis Johnson, Wellingborough
Jack Tobin, Rushden
John Freeman, Northampton
Malcolm Paul, Desborough

Rink 2.

Rob Vowles, Desborough
Graham Maddams, Wellingborough
Martin Cinato, Desborough
Sam Wade, Kingsthorpe

Rink 3.

Matt Cattell, Rushden
Graham Southgate, Desborough
Ray Castle, Northampton
Ollie Kirkwood, Northampton

Rink 4.

Tony O'Leary, Northampton
Nathan Betts, Rushden
Jason Bryan, Kingsthorpe
Iain Walker, Kingsthorpe

Rink 5.

Carl Wigfield, Desborough
Shaun Marriott, Kingsthorpe
Martin Gearey, Kingsthorpe
Phil Reeve, Northampton

Rink 6.

Matt Cattell, Rushden
Graham Southgate, Desborough
Tony Warren, Northampton
Bill Brune, Desborough

COUNTY PLAYER PLAYS FOR ENGLAND SENIORS – MICK SHARPE OF KINGSTHORPE

Mick Sharpe, Kingsthorpe, represented England in the British Isles Indoor Bowls Council (B.I.I.B.C.) International Seniors Double Rink Tournament, which was played at Bodelwyddan Castle Hotel, North Wales on the 26th/27th September, 2009.

He played at 3rd Bowl to skip Graham Standley, with Mike London at Lead and Tony Horobin at 2nd Bowl, in this event involving the four British Isles countries. He was on a winning rink twice and losing once, as England were runners-up to Ireland in the Championship, who took the title by virtue of beating England by just 2 shots in the match between the two.

Mick Sharpe's rink beat Ireland's S Elliman 22-10; beat Scotland's W Rankin 25-10; and lost to Wales' D Wilkins 8-20.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PLAYER SELECTED FOR NATIONAL UNDER 25 TRIAL

One of Northamptonshire's finest young bowlers has been selected to play in England's Under 25 International Trial to be played at Gedling IBC, Nottingham, on Sunday, 22nd November, 2009.

Jamie Walker, aged 17 years, plays indoor at Wellingborough IBC, and he will be hoping to go one step further after playing in his first Trial last year, at Kingsthorpe IBC.

He has been selected at 2nd Bowl in a rink skipped by Stuart Holland of Preston IBC, Brighton, with Liam Botten of Haverhill IBC and Adam Clark, Isle of Wight IBC making up the rink.

The Trial will for the selectors to determine the team to play in the British Isles Indoor Under 25 series at Ballymoney IBC, Belfast, on the 9th and 10th January, 2010.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BOWLING ASSOCIATION PRESENTATION LUNCH

President Mike King, Wellingborough, hosted the Annual Presentation Lunch on Sunday, 4th October, 2009, held at the Freemasons' Hall and Conference Centre, St. Georges Avenue, Northampton. Guest of Honour was Alistair Hollis, Development Officer for Bowls England, who is well known to many in the County as he is a Leicestershire man who has played Middleton Cup for his County against us on many occasions.

Fellow guests included the President of the Midland Counties Bowling Association, Glynne Tabreham; President of Northamptonshire Women's County Bowling Association, Margaret Cave; Patron of Northamptonshire Hon Vice Presidents' Association, Harry Bell; and officers from adjoining Counties.

After an excellent luncheon, Alistair Hollis in responding to the toast to Bowls England proposed by County Senior Vice-President Tracy Nunn, referred to a number of initiatives being implemented by Bowls England. He also paid tribute to the bowlers of the County who played in the National Championships and made particular mention of Dominic Graham and Richard Lemon who had reached the Quarter Finals of their respective events, and of the team of Under 18's from the County who played at Worthing during those championships.

Alistair Hollis then made a surprise presentation of a Bowls England medal and certificate of merit to Stuart Laxton, Oundle BC, who had been nominated for his dedication to bowls at his Club in various capacities, and in particular his care of the green for over 27 years. Mr Hollis informed the company present that 9 such awards were being made around the Country this year, and that Mr Laxton was the first in this new initiative to be presented with one.

Trophies were then presented to winners and runners-up of all the year's competitions, at the conclusion of which, as is the tradition, the winner of the County Singles Championship made a short speech on behalf of all the competitors. This year's Champion was the youngest ever, Jamie Walker, of Northampton West End BC, who does not turn 18 until December this year and he confidently discharged this responsibility in thanking all those responsible for the running of the Association and the Competitions.

(Please find attached photographs of President Mike King and Alistair Hollis at the luncheon table; Alistair Hollis presenting the Award of Merit to Stuart Laxton; and Jamie Walker making his speech on behalf of all competitors)

CLUB CHAMPIONS AROUND THE COUNTY

The following County Clubs have concluded their competitions at the end of the Outdoor Season with the following winner(s) and runner(s)-up achieving success:

ABINGTON BC. (Men's plus 1 mixed only)

	Winner(s)	Runner(s)-up
Singles:	John Freeman	Terry Brown
Pairs:	Peter Kneeshaw/Mick Taylor	Dave Fage/Jonathan brown
Triples:	Tony O'Leary/Terry Brown/ John Freeman	Scott Osbourne/Don Smith/Mick Taylor
Singles H/Cap:	Alan Mann	Peter Milburn
2 Wood Singles:	Scott Osbourne	David Fage
Novice Singles:	Roy Osbourne	Adam Brown
Veterans' Singles:	Alan Coleman	Ray Smith
Champion of Champions:	Jonathan Brown	Alan Ward
Mixed Pairs:	Brenda Soanes/David Fage	Reg Jones/Joy Elsdon

KETTERING LODGE BC

	Winner(s)	Runner(s)-up
Ladies Singles:	Pat Starsmore	Margaret Silsby
Ladies H/Cap Singles:	Emma Gray	Margaret Silsby
Ladies 2 Wood Singles:	Margaret Cooper	Margaret Silsby
Ladies Points Singles:	Margaret Bosworth	Marjorie Wright
Ladies Pairs:	Emma Gray/Sue Bagshaw	Linda Smith/Margaret Silsby
Ladies Aussie Pairs:	Linda Smith/Sue Briggs	Margaret Cooper/Val Simms
Ladies Novice Singles:	Emma Gray	Sue Gamble
Mixed Pairs:	Sue Briggs/Dave Smith	Margaret Haig/Sam Gamble
Mixed Aussie Pairs:	Sam Gamble/Peter Wood	Margaret Cooper/Geoff Thomas
Mixed Triples:	Betty Hammond/Paul Harris/Ann Breslin	Emma Gray/Alan Simms/Adrian Harris
Men's Singles:	Paul Harris	Adrian Harris
Men's Singles H/Cap:	Sam Gamble	Adrian Harris
Men's 2 Wood Singles:	Peter Wood	Rob Gamble
Men's Pairs:	Sam Gamble/Andy Cooper	Steve Robinson/Michael Dalton-Stirling
Men's Tony Loasby Trophy:	Alan Simms	Brian Bosworth
Men's Tyro Cup:	Rob Gamble	Michael Pratt

(Attached please find photograph of Ladies Champion Pat Starsmore and men's Champion Paul Harris)

KINGSTHORPE BC

	Winner(s)	Runner(s)-up
Ladies Singles:	Hilary Sharpe	Di Brumwell
Ladies Pairs:	Judy York/Sally Row	Trudy Beard/Grace Butler
Ladies Triples:	Judy York/Celia Morris/ Jan Everson-Watts	Vera Benstead/Yvonne McKee/Di Brumwell
Mixed Pairs:	Celia Morris/Jim McKee	Jan & Ron Everson-Watts
Open H/Cap Singles:	Iain Walker	Sharon Tansley
Mixed 'Foran' Fours:	Mick Donohue/Malcolm Row/Roger Caswell/Peter Morris	Sally Row/John Harrison/Bryan Kaye/Ron Everson-Watts
Mixed 'Sheppard' Trophy:	Cynthia Cherry/Colin Jones	Ann Harrison/Eric York
Mens' Singles:	Jim McKee (Note: this is the first time Jim McKee has won the Club Singles in nearly 40 years of competing)	Iain Walker

Mens' Pairs:	Mick Sharpe/Peter Morris	Ron Everson-Watts/Keith Tindall
Mens' Triples:	Eric York/Peter Morris/ Iain Walker	Barry Cox/Bill Stratford/Alan Spencer

WOOTTON GRANGE BC

	Winner(s)	Runner(s)-up
Singles:	Glenn Munns	Keith Botterill
Pairs:	Chris Ward/Pete Botterill	Paul Green/John Hamilton

OBITUARY

It is with much regret and sadness that the death of a very well known County Bowler is announced. Albert Wisken, of Desborough Town BC died on Friday, 2nd October, 2009, after a long illness bravely borne.

Albert was a very accomplished bowler who had played and won at the highest level. He had played in the National Championships at Worthing in the Fours in 2003, having won the County Championship that year; He went twice to Worthing in the Pairs, 1995 and 2001, having been runner-up in the County; he also went to Worthing in the Triples in 1988 as County Runner-up, but his biggest achievement was to win the National Club Double Rink Championship with his Club Desborough Town, not once but twice, in 1997 and 2000, again at Worthing

He also featured in other County competitions, including winning the Vice Presidents Swan Charity Triples in 1995, Runner-up in the County Executive Triples in 1998, and being a member of the County League winning team in 2008.

NATIONAL INDOOR COMPETITIONS

The new Indoor Season has started around the County and National Competitions provide some intriguing prospects throughout all the disciplines.

The Mixed Pairs has already seen its first match result with Will Hill, Desborough, beating Dave Smith, Kettering, with the prospect of playing Paul Broderick, Wellingborough, in the next round, whilst last year's qualifier Chris Maden, Kingsthorpe meets Alan Ramscar of Northampton.

Last year's Mixed Fours qualifiers for the National Championships, Chris Bland and Co. from Northampton meet up with Graham Southgate of Desborough, but the tie of the early round appears to be the all Kingsthorpe match between Iain Walker's four and that of Jim McKee.

The qualifiers from last year's Over 60 Fours, Mick Worthington's four from Daventry meet fellow Daventry players headed by Dougie Mitchell, so a very competitive match is in prospect there.

Last year's qualifiers in the Ladies Unbadged Pairs, Delia Panther and Margaret Silsby, Kettering Lodge, have a visit to Kingsthorpe, to play Sally Row and partner.

The Men's Singles sees last season's qualifier Neil McKee, Kingsthorpe drawn at home against Wellingborough's Michael Chester, and the Men's Pairs Qualifiers last time out McKee and Andrew Manton have a home tie against fellow Kingsthorpe player Paul Maynard and his partner. The first result through in the men's singles sees Paul Broderick, Wellingborough given a walk-over by Simon Walker, Brackley.

In the Triples the Corbyn brothers with Neil Rees, Wellingborough are drawn at home against Peter Ward's Triple from Desborough, and this could be the tie of the round.

Two very experienced and accomplished teams meet in the Fours, with Mick Sharpe's rink, Kingsthorpe at home to that of Mick Cooper, Wellingborough.

National Indoor Men's Under 25's Singles – Area Qualifying Event.

This is being hosted by Wellingborough IBC on one day this year, Saturday, 10th October, 2009, commencing at 10.0 a.m.

15 Young players have entered from the County, including Northampton & District IBC; Wellingborough IBC; Rushden IBC; Desborough IBC; and Kettering Lodge IBC. The draw throws up some potentially very tight and high-class encounters, with Jamie Walker the County Outdoor Champion meeting Matthew Pownall, County Champion of Champions winner; and Dominic Graham, Northampton & District IBC, last season's indoor Singles Champion against Matthew Wordingham, Rushden IBC, last year's Under 25 Indoor Singles Champion.

One can be guaranteed of seeing some high class bowling and supporters are very welcome.

BOWLS ENGLAND NEWS

Bowls England has introduced a new service to help affiliated Club and Counties to find out more information on local, regional, national and even European funding opportunities.

Every year there are hundreds of millions of pounds available in grants, loans and awards, to help sporting associations and clubs, including bowls clubs, to buy equipment, improve facilities, etc. but because of the complicated nature of grant funding Clubs and Counties might be missing out on opportunities to get finance this way.

Bowls England has introduced a 'one stop funding shop' as a service to help Clubs and Counties in getting the latest information on the many funding avenues. Bowls England will use a specialist computer system to generate a comprehensive for Clubs and Counties outlining all the funds they might be eligible for.

Any Club or County interested should contact Alistair Hollis, Development Officer, on 07765050408 or email alistair.hollis@bowlsengland.com

CLUB NEWS AROUND THE COUNTY

NORTH AREA – MOSTLY OF INTEREST TO READERS OF THE EVENING TELEGRAPH

DESBOROUGH IBC

Fixtures:

- 7.10.09. Club plays host to a match between Northants & Hunts Masonic BA and Northampton Branch of The National Association of Retired Police Officers, at 2.0 p.m.
- 8.10.09. Countesthorpe BC visits for a mixed match at 2.0 p.m.
- 10.10.09. The Club hosts a County Trial Match between Over 60's and an Emerging Team at 9.30 a.m.
- 10.10.09. Rothwell Manor Park BC visits for a mixed match at 2.0 p.m.
- 11.10.09. The Famous Grouse Competition starts with the first qualifying round at 9.30 a.m.
- 11.10.09. Mears Ashby BL Bowls Ass and Rothwell Conservatives BC visits for a mixed match
- 12.10.09. Desborough Town BC and Little Bowden BC visit for a ladies match at 2.0 p.m.

WELLINGBOROUGH IBC

Fixtures:

- 10.10.09. The Club hosts the Area 10 National Under 25 Singles all day from 10.0 a.m.
- 12.10.09. Lady Members hold a mixed drive at 2.0 p.m.
- 14.10.09. The Club hosts a County match between Northamptonshire and Essex at 2.0 p.m.

SOUTH AREA – MOSTLY OF INTEREST TO READERS OF THE CHRONICLE & ECHO.

KINGSTHORPE BC.

Captain's Day:

48 Bowlers showed their support for the Club Captains, Eric York (Thursday Capt) and Andy Hunter (Sat Capt) by playing in the 'Captains' Day' match, on Sunday, 27th September, 2009.

Amongst the number was a former member and Past County President Mel Hunter (Andy Hunter's father) who had travelled down from his home in Scotland to take part, plus two visitors from Warwickshire, Trevor Wells and Brian Carr.

A light-hearted match was followed by a meal and presentations. Three teams tied on + 16 shots, but the overall winning rink on number of ends won was Pat Donohoe/Geoff Steel/Mel Hunter/Alan Spencer. Second place went to Jane Faulkner/Jenny Cooper/Grace Butler/Colin Carter, and they were closely followed in 3rd place by Eric York/Dick Inwood/Brian Carr/Trevor Wells.

Both Captains thanked the players for their support and the 'Captain's Prize' for the best aggregate over the season's Saturday matches went to Sam Wade.

At the conclusion of the evening Club Stalwart Dick Inwood made a presentation to Andy Hunter for his hard work over the last two seasons.

Fixtures:

- 7.10.09. Bedford BC visits for a ladies match at 2.0 p.m.
- 8.10.09. Members visit Northampton & District IBC for a men's match at 2.15 p.m.
- 10.10.09. Daventry IBC visits for a mixed match at 2.15p.m.
- 11.10.09. Banbury Cross IBC visits for a mixed match at 2.15 p.m.
- 14.10.09. Kettering Lodge BC visits for a ladies match at 2.0 p.m.



John G. Church, MBE – Northamptonshire Bowls Press Officer