

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BOWLS NEWS

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Press Officer:-

John CHURCH, MBE,
2, Tollbar,
RUSHDEN,
NN10 6DP
Tel. 01933 356572
Mob 07790672331
E mail

johnchurchtollbar@tiscali.co.uk

SELECTION FOR TEST MATCH

The English Bowling Association International Selection Committee has announced its Junior Team to play a Test Match against the Jersey Senior World Cup Squad, on the 4th, 5th & 6th May, 2007.

The match is to be played in World Bowls format:- Singles, Pairs, Triples, and Fours, at Bannister Park Bowling Club, Southampton, and the team includes Northamptonshire Junior International, **Richard Lemon (24)** of the **Northampton Express Bowling Club**.

He is joined in the 10 man team, to be managed by John Smerdon, an EBA Selector from Devon, by young players from Cumbria, Devon, Dorset, Lancashire, Surrey, Sussex, and Wiltshire.

He will obviously be hoping to impress in readiness for the full International Junior Trial to be held on the 26th May.

INTERNATIONAL TRIAL TEAMS

The EBA has announced the International Trial Teams for 2007 and these include Northamptonshire players.

Junior International Trial:- To take place at Blaby Bowling Club, Leicester Road, Blaby, Leicestershire, on Saturday, 26th May, 2007. 48 young players, plus 4 reserves, with ages ranging from 14 to 24 years, have been selected, drawn from 25 counties across the country, including two from Northamptonshire, with the team to be managed by John Bell of Cumbria.

The Trial will consist of two 6 rink matches of 15 ends each, commencing at 11.0 a.m. and 2.0 p.m approx.

Richard Lemon (24), Northampton Express Bowling Club, who gained his first International call last year has been selected to play at 3 in a rink skipped by a regular Junior International from Cumbria, Ben Sherwen (24), and joined by John Bell jnr (20) also of Cumbria, at lead, and David Roe (20), Cornwall at No. 2, both current Internationals.

Michael Chester (20), Wellingborough Bowling Club, who will be experiencing his second International Trial, and who is playing at No. 3 in a rink skipped by Matty Bass of Leicestershire, with Louis Ridout, Somerset at Lead, and Michael Bertram, Durham, at No. 2. A relatively inexperienced rink at this level, but a chance to impress the England selectors.

Senior International Trial:- To take place at Blaby Bowling Club, Leicester Road, Blaby, Leicestershire, on Sunday, 27th May, 2007. 40 players, plus 4 reserves, have been selected drawn from 23 counties across the country, including two from Northamptonshire. The team will be managed by John Bell, of Cumbria, and the format will be two 5 rink matches of 15 ends each, commencing at 11.0 a.m. and 2.0 p.m. app.

Neil McKee, Kingsthorpe Bowling Club, who has been a regular International, either Junior or Senior since 1995, has been selected to play at No. 2 in a rink skipped by Graham Shadwell, Wiltshire, a player who came through the junior ranks with Neil, and indeed who beat Neil in the Final of the National Under 18 singles in 1993 at Worthing. The other members of his rink are Mark Dawes, Lancashire, a National Under 25 singles champion at Lead, and the very experienced International, Brett Morley, Nottinghamshire at No. 3.

Paul Broderick, Wellingborough Bowling Club, who received his first International call in 1993, and then had to wait until 2006 for his next, despite winning several National titles in between, has been selected to play at No. 3 in a rink skipped by probably the best known current English International (although he is Scottish!) Andy Thompson, and he is joined by Lee Haywood, Devon, a former Junior International looking for Senior recognition at Lead, and regular Senior International Simon Skelton of Derbyshire at No. 2.

National Indoor Championships at Nottingham

The National Indoor Championships commenced on the 14th April, 2007, at Nottingham Indoor Bowling Club, Bilborough, Nottingham. This is a new venue after many years held at Melton Mowbray.

First up were the Fours at 9.30 a.m. featuring the Northamptonshire qualifiers Andrew Manton, Ben Sharpe, Mick Sharpe and Neil McKee (Skip) from Kingsthorpe, playing a rink from Gallow, Norfolk, skipped by young Jamie Chestney who has qualified in all four disciplines. In this first match at 17 ends the McKee quartet were staring defeat in the face at 14 shots for to 19 shots against but a game is never lost until the last end is played and the Kingsthorpe players obviously hit the turbo button at just the right time for over those last four ends they picked up 14 shots without reply and therefore went on to win 28 shots for to 19 shots against.

In the next round against a Bodmin IBC rink skipped by International Richard Bray, they had a much smoother ride, cruising to a 25 shots for to 8 shots against victory, which put them into the Quarter Finals against Nottingham IBC, whose rink was skipped by another International Simon Skelton. This match was played on Sunday morning 15th April, and after a tremendous game of bowls the score was tied at 21 ends, 19 shots apiece, and in the extra end Nottingham just eased Kingsthorpe out by 1 shot to win 20 shots to Neil McKee's 19 shots.

This was quickly followed by the Triples on Sunday, 15th April, 2007, at 6.30 p.m. when the Northamptonshire Trio of Mark Corbyn, Neil Rees, and Neil Corbyn (skip) from Wellingborough played a triple from Betteshanger, Kent skipped by A. Dunn. After a very close match the Wellingborough trio had to give way to their opponents from Kent losing by just 2 shots, 15 shots for to 17 shots against.

On Wednesday, 18th April, 2007, the Pairs starts at 9.30 a.m. with Richard Mann and Andrew Hunter, Kingsthorpe, having a very tough draw playing against Jamie Chestney and Mervyn King, of Gallow, Norfolk. King especially has performed to the highest level on the World Bowls stage, but is certainly beatable, as Paul Broderick and colleagues proved last year in the Top Two Four competition.

The last discipline will be the Singles commencing at 7.0 p.m. on Thursday, 19th April, 2007, when Paul Broderick, Wellingborough meets up with Calvin Carpenter of Banbury, Oxon.

NBYDS Under 15 Semis and Final 21.4.07.

The Under 15 years age group Finals of the singles competition organised by the Northamptonshire Bowls Youth Development Scheme are to be held at Rushden Indoor Bowling Club, on Saturday, 21st April, 2007, commencing at 9.30 a.m. This is the second of such finals, the under 18 years age group having been played on the 31st March.

The participants are:- Gareth Rees, 14 years, Wellingborough Indoor BC versus Conor Cinato, 11 years of the same Club, and Jasmine Spear, 11 years, Northampton & District Indoor BC versus Ellis Bowman, 13 years, of Desborough Indoor BC.

Charles Wells Tournament

The Charles Wells Open Tournament Finals, which was scheduled to be played at Wellingborough Bowling Club, on the 14th April, 2007, and which was eagerly anticipated by the members of the 12 teams which had qualified, cannot now take place as planned due to the devastating fire at the host Club on Monday 9th April.

The Club's Management, in consultation with the sponsors, Charles Wells Brewers, have decided to hold the Finals on a Saturday in October, or possibly early November, 2007, date to be finalised. All teams have been notified.

Car Boot Sale 22.4.07.

Brenice and George Willmott, Knuston Home Farm, Irchester, both Past Presidents of Northamptonshire Women's County Bowling Association, and the Northamptonshire Bowling Association, are organising a Car Boot Sale on Sunday, 22nd April, 2007, at their farm premises, to raise funds for the young bowlers in the County. Such funds would be put to good use in the provision of financial assistance towards purchase of County team shirts and blouses, jackets, badges, and towards transport costs.

All County Bowls Clubs have been invited to set up a stall, with a view to not only raising funds for the young players, but to raise funds for their own club. Stallholders are, however, not confined to Bowls Clubs, and Bowlers, for any member of the public who wishes to do so may pay the fee of £5.00p to have a pitch. Gates open for 'booters' at 8.0 a.m. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Entry for buyers will be free.

This is a fun way to raise much needed funds, not only for young bowlers, but also for the participating clubs, and for stallholders in general, whose takings may be retained in full. To book a pitch or for further information please contact Brenice or George on 01933 312983 or e mail brenice.willmott@ukonline.co.uk

Darlington Top Ten Result

Two County Indoor Clubs entered the Darlington Top Ten Tournament over the Easter week-end, Desborough IBC and Northampton & District IBC. They were joined by a very strong field of teams from across the country including many international players. The format of the competition is that all players compete in 6 matches against drawn opponents and both clubs experienced mixed fortunes. The teams, with their respective scores, are as follows:

Northampton and District:

Singles – Phil Reeve who won 4 drew 1 and lost 1. His wins included a convincing 21-11 victory over local favourite Andy Kirtland.

Pairs – Robin Adams and Richard Lemon, coming up against stiff opposition managed to draw just 1 match, losing the other 5.

Triples – Rob White, Dominic Graham, and Chris Bland, fared better, with 2 wins and 4 losses. Stuart Cadd was brought in as substitute for Chris Bland in one match.

Fours – Will Parker, Tony O'Leary, Olly Kirkwood, and Andy Smith fared even better, winning three and losing three, two of those by just 1 shot.

Desborough

Singles – Alun Withers who won 3 and lost 3, one of them to Phil Reeve, Northampton.

Pairs – Brian Thomas and Bill Bruine also won 3 and lost 3 matches

Triples – Malcolm Paul, Roy Whitehead, and John Haines had a very successful tournament, winning 4 matches and coming second overall in the Triples.

Fours – Keith Howlett, Malcolm Winckles, Martin Cinato, and Graham Southgate, found it tough going, winning just 1 to 5 losses, one of which was to Northampton's quartet.

In addition to Desborough's Triples result, the Club managed a very creditable 7th place overall.

County Friendly Match v Norfolk

The County played their return match against Norfolk on Wednesday, 11th April, at Desborough IBC, but were unable to avenge the heavy defeat imposed on them at Norwich earlier in the season. Despite having three winning rinks, the County went down by 11 shots, scoring 116 for to 127 against. Rink scores as follows: (Only skips for Norfolk named)

Northamptonshire

R. Vowles, B. Robbins, S. Richardson, B. Jones(skip)	23 shots
T. Jackson, E. Waring, A. McKim, A. Purcell(skip)	21
K. Adams, M. York, K. Howlett, M. Weatherill(skip)	13
L. Smith, T. Gregory, D. Garland, T. James(skip)	15
E. Pinder, M. Tait, G. Harris, G. Warren	27
M. Pullen, D. Thurlow, W. Stoddard, B. Sherwood(skip)	17

Norfolk

K. Morrison	21 shots
R. Brinded	18
R. Mitcham	25
P. Hurrens	22
R. Cutting	16
J. Hardy	25

The last County Indoor friendly match of the season against Middlesex County Bowling Association, which was due to be played at Wellingborough IBC on Wednesday, 18th April, 2007, will now be played at Kingsthorpe IBC, Northampton, commencing at 2.15 p.m. as a result of the fire at Wellingborough IBC.