

Hello Everyone,

I have just returned from Northampton IBC where the Wellingborough IBC Rink of Tina Burgess, Margaret Johnson, Neil Rees, and Paul Broderick, have been playing in the last 16 of the National Mixed Fours against a Carterton Rink of Andy McIntyre, Rachel Coombs, Jeanette Latter, and Robbie Clanfield.

Although losing the first end by one shot, the Wellingborough Four picked up 9 shots to cruise ahead 9 - 1 at 5 ends, but the Oxfordshire quartet hit back quickly by picking up a single and then a 5 on the 7th end when their skip ran firmly at the head and scattered the bowls to yield the surprising big tally of shots when he was a few shots adrift.

The Broderick rink was, however, playing well, and this 6 shots loss was soon recouped over the next 4 ends to give them an 8 shot advantage again at 11 ends. Over the last 9 ends of the match Clanfield's team won 6 of them but only a 7 shot tally, with Broderick picking up 9 shots in his winning 3 ends to hold a match winning 10 shots advantage after 20 ends.

On the 17th end as a result of some excellent draw bowling by the Oxon four when Paul Broderick bowled his last bowl he was 6 shots down, and he calmly drew second bowl to avert a potential problem, for had the Oxon rink picked up those 6 with a possible additional 1 from the skip's last bowl, there would only have been 3 shots between the rinks with 4 ends to play.

Well done to the Wellingborough Four. They now play the Mid Suffolk IBC, Stowmarket, rink of Stuart Fuller, Ann Hawkins, Mary Saunders, and Bob King, who defeated Betteshanger IBC, Deal, by 22 shots to 20 after being down 15 - 20 after 19 ends.

Their game is due at 9.30 a.m. on Friday, 22nd February, 2008.