

Hello everyone,

I have the following update of the National Mixed Fours Championship being held at Northampton IBC.

Today at 6.30 p.m. the Wellingborough IBC rink of Tina Burgess, Margaret Johnson, Neil Rees, and Paul Broderick, played in the semi-final of the Championship against the rink from West Denton IBC, Newcastle, of Norma Craig, William Young, Ann Lennie, and Martin Cooper.

The match started well for the County rink, picking up 2 shots on the first end, and then just dropping behind by 2 shots at the fifth end when dropping a 3 shot count. By the 10th end, however, Broderick's team had picked up a couple of counts of 3 and a single to shade in front by 2 shots at 10 - 8. Two singles later the match was all square at 10 all with 9 ends left to play.

At this point the Wellingborough four started to play some very good bowls and went on a run of 7 ends without reply, picking up 12 shots in the process to put them in what appeared to be an unassailable position with just 2 ends left. Bowls does, however, have its surprises, and on the 20th end the whole of the Geordies' rink members bowled superbly to lay a possible 8 shots with just 1 bowl to come from Paul Broderick, and the head very tightly packed with his opponents' bowls.

He drew a good length but it was only 7th and they therefore dropped a 6 count to make their supporters a little nervous as they played the last end.

As it happened by losing 3 bowls in trying to kill the end and then draw to the edge of the ditch it was not possible for the West Denton team to win and although picking up 2 shots with the jack in the ditch, they were only able to make the final score respectable at 22 shots to Wellingborough and 18 shots to West Denton.

Wellingborough now play in the Final against the Egham IBC, Surrey, rink of Doreen Hankin, Pauline Clarke, Robert Tiller, and Robert Jenkins, to be held at 2.0 p.m. on Saturday, 23rd February, 2008, at Northampton IBC.