

Hello Everyone,

Just a quick update as promised on the National Indoor Championships being held at Northampton & District IBC so far as County Players are concerned.

On Monday, 18th February, 2008, the Quarter Finals of the National 'Golden Charter' Mixed Pairs were played, and Tina Burgess and Paul Broderick, Wellingborough IBC played Barbara Lewis and Stuart Thomas, Barwell IBC, Leicestershire in a very exciting and close match. The County players were never in front until the last, and at the 7 end stage were 3 shots to 11 shots down. However through some excellent bowls by both players the gap was gradually reduced and by taking 9 of the next 13 ends with a count of 12 shots to 4 shots against, they arrived at the last end all square.

Playing the last end the first few bowls from each side were adrift of the target, but with his third bowl Paul drew right to the jack, and although Stuart Thomas drew very close with his last bowl, it just ran a few inches too far and victory was with the Wellingborough duo.

In the semi-final in the afternoon of the 18th Tina and Paul came up against Sue Mart and Duncan Robinson, Nottingham IBC, both having played for England, and this match was a different story altogether. Both Nottingham players were 'on their game' from the start and although the County pair were able to stay in contention to the halfway mark when they were just 1 shot adrift, the second half belonged to the Nottingham duo who over the next 10 ends scored 13 shots to the 3 scored by the local pair, who were finally beaten 9 shots to 20 shots against. Although defeated they had had a very good mixed pairs tournament to reach this semi-final stage, and are to be congratulated.

This morning, as I am sending this message, Jim McKee and international son Neil, Kingsthorpe, are playing in the last 32 of the National Father & Son Championship, at the same venue, Northampton & District IBC.