

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE BOWLS NEWS REPORTS

Bowls Northamptonshire

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24TH MARCH, 2019.

BOWLS REPORT

1. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MEN 'FRIENDLY' versus DESBOROUGH IBC – SELECTION

The men of Northamptonshire Indoor Bowling Association will visit Desborough Indoor BC on Wednesday, 10th April, 2019, for a friendly match against the Club members, at 2.0 p.m., and the following players have been selected:

- Rink 1.** Eddy Short, Desborough IBC/Larry Lawrence, Kettering Lodge BC/Dougie Ainsworth & John Haines, both Desborough IBC
- Rink 2.** Gordon Morris, Northampton & District IBA/Alan Diver, Bob Tingle & Normsn Gibb, all Desborough IBC
- Rink 3.** Andy Purcell, Desborough IBC/Richard Upton, Brackley & District BC/Brian Diver, Desborough IBC/Dave Stewart, Rushden Town BC
- Rink 4.** Don Scott, Brackley & District BC/Brian Langton, Kettering Lodge BC/Colin Barnes, Northampton and District IBA
- Rink 5.** Roger Summers, Bob Brogden, both Northampton & District IBA/Geoff Harris, Rushden Town BC/John Chester, Desborough IBC
- Rink 6.** Peter Kitchener, Rushden Town BC/Mike Weatherill, Desborough IBC/Geoff Hunt, Wellingborough BC/Terry James, Rushden Town BC
- Reserves:** Rod Douglass, Kettering Lodge BC/Terry Chapman, Dave Lovell, Malcolm White, all Rushden Town BC

2. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE WOMEN 'FRIENDLY' versus CAMBRIDGESHIRE – RESULT

The ladies of the Northamptonshire Women's Indoor Bowling Association entertained their counterparts from Cambridgeshire to a friendly match at Wellingborough IBC on Monday, 18th March, 2019, and a very close contest ensued. The rink wins were equally shared, but the County won by 8 shots overall. The highest scoring for the County were the rinks skipped by Jan Hunt and Chris Cooper, which both won by 8 shots, with the 3rd, skipped by Pam Page, winning by 4 shots.

The Final score was Northamptonshire 101 shots – Cambridgeshire 93 shots.

Rink details as follows, Cambs skips only:

- Rink 1.** Wen Hill, Jo Johns, Phyll Parry & Jan Hunt 23 shots – Wendy Clare 15 shots
- Rink 2.** Marlene Armitage, Esther Romain, Sue Collins & Pam Page 18 shots – Val Hughes 14 shots
- Rink 3.** Joyce George, Helen Milner, Glenys Emery & Chris Cooper 18 shots – Jenny Honey 10 shots
- Rink 4.** Julie Spreadbury, Val Scott, Dawn Owen & Audrey Height 13 shots – Ann How 18 shots
- Rink 5.** Barbara Parsons, Sue Prior, Margaret Cave & Joan Watts 14 shots – June Malling 18 shots
- Rink 6.** Lynn Upton, Maxeen Belski, Sian Hughes-Jones & Wilma Walker 15 shots – Sally Token 18 shots

3. BOWLS NORTHAMPTONSHIRE – GREENS MAINTENANCE SEMINAR

The **Jackson Grundy sponsored Bowls Northamptonshire** Greens Inspectorate Secretary, Alan Ashby, has arranged for a ‘Greens Maintenance’ seminar to be held on **Wednesday, 8th April, 2019**, at his Club, Northampton West End BC, commencing at 9.0 a.m., and he is inviting all Affiliated Clubs to send a representative, in particular any members who have some responsibility for the green maintenance at their Club.

There will be an input to the seminar by Bowls England; Turfmaster; & Dennis Isis; and there will be a ‘Question Time’ period too.

The intention is to educate as well as to demonstrate, good practices in achieving the best possible surfaces for bowling on.

4. COUNTY COMPETITIONS – OF INTEREST THROUGHOUT COUNTY

COUNTY FINALS

COUNTY FINALS

COUNTY FINALS

LADIES

LADIES

LADIES

SINGLES - played at Desborough IBC on Saturday, 23rd March, 2019.

Rebecca Wigfield, Desborough IBC beat Billie Swift, Northampton & District IBA 21-19 shots.

What a terrific game of singles this turned out to be, where the final result was in doubt until the last bowl of the last of the 27 ends of play. The match was very even, being tied on several occasions, including in the early stages at 3 shots each and 6 shots each, and then Billie had a decent run of winning ends to take a lead at 11-6, but Rebecca hit back to get within 1 shot at 11-12 down after 16 ends.

Billie picked up a double on the next end to ease back in front, but Rebecca levelled the match at 14 shots each after 20 ends, and then with a pick up of 3 shots went in front 17-14 shots. Billie was not about to give in, however, and she won the next 2 ends to tie the match at 17 each, and then went in front on the next end in collecting a double to see the finishing post at 19-17. Rebecca is a very determined and successful bowler, and she got the better of some brilliant bowls on the 25th end of play, and after picking up a double to ease back in front at 20-19, she set a match lie for herself and Billie was not able to stop her from taking the title.

INDER 25 SINGLES – played at Desborough IBC on Sunday, 24th March, 2019.

Billie Swift, Northampton & District IBA beat Shannon Swift, also of Northampton & District IBA 21-18 shots

This was a very good singles match, closely fought between the Swift sisters, and running to 27 ends of play. Billie got off the mark first with 3 singles, but Shannon kept pace with her elder sister and took the lead 5-4 when picking up a count of 3 shots on the 7th end. Billie, however, reinstated her lead with interest when leading 10-5 shots after 10 ends, and then after dropping a double on the next end, she went further ahead with a winning run of 3 ends and 5 shots, and when she was 18-10 up she could see the winning post.

Shannon had other ideas though, and although Billie was almost over the line at 20-11 shots, Shannon showed her mettle with some excellent bowling to reduce her deficit to just 2 shots, before Billie finally got her winning shot.

PAIRS – played at Desborough IBC on Saturday, 23rd March, 2019

Shannon Swift & Billie Swift, Northampton & District IBA beat Joyce George & Pam Reynolds, Wellingborough BC 16-15 shots, after an extra end.

This was a very good example of pairs bowling, and one that the winner of which could not be predicted as it was drawing to its end. Wellingborough started off in fine fashion in collecting a count of 4 on the first end and after conceding 2 single counts to their sibling opponents, they had a run of 5 winning ends to lead 9-2, and after 11 ends of play they were still in a healthy position at 11-6. Shannon and Billie, however, got their game together very well over the next 3 ends, and in picking up 7 shots to none conceded, they took a 13-11 lead, and after conceding a single on the 15th end, they went further ahead 15-12 with 2 ends left to play.

County Women's President Joyce and Pam are both very experienced and, with some superb draw bowling, they collected 3 shots on those last ends to tie the match after the scheduled 18 ends, which required the playing of an 'extra end' to determine the winners. As that end was played Joyce and Pam held a match lie from the start of it, with Joyce's excellent draw bowls, but Billie, with her first bowl managed to 'kill the end' but on the jack being re-spotted, Wellingborough still held a match lie. With her 2nd and 3rd bowl, although going close for shot, Billie faced a last bowl with defeat staring her in the face, but she came good with that last bowl of the match to draw very close to the jack for victory.

TRIPLES – played at Desborough IBC on Sunday, 24th March, 2019.

Deborah Bradshaw, Barbara Astle & Lisbeth Milburn, Northampton & District IBA beat Linda Simms, Pat Starsmore & Audrey Height, Kettering Lodge BC 22-15 shots

This match was a very good one, quite lengthy as it was being fought so keenly, with all players bowling very well, and until one very good end for the Northampton trio late on in the game, there was little to choose between them. At 5 ends of play the scores were level at 6 shots each, and level again at 7 each, at 10 each, 11 each and 12 each with 4 ends to play, and it was at this point that disaster struck for Kettering as the Northampton Triple scored a well earned 5 shots pick up to go into the driving seat at 17-12.

Audrey and her ladies did score well on the next end by picking up 3 shots, and they could see at 2 shots adrift a way forward to win the match, but Lisbeth and her ladies played some excellent bowls on the last 2 ends to deny Kettering, and to pick up the title.

FOURS – played at Desborough IBC on Sunday, 24th March, 2019.

Marian O'Looney, Jackie Dale, Anita Hickman & Sue Lane, Northampton & District IBA beat Jean Burgess, Marlene Armitage, Sue Collins & Tina Broderick, Wellingborough BC 16-11 shots

In this contest Wellingborough started well with a double on the first end, but Northampton scored better over the next 5 ends to get 8-3 shots in front, and after 10 ends of play they were further ahead at 12-5. Tina and her ladies collected a 3 on the next end to reduce their deficit to 4 shots with 7 ends to play. Those 7 ends were very tight indeed, and just a single shot was scored on all of them, with Sue Lane and her ladies winning 4 of them for their 5 shots victory.

GENTLEMEN

GENTLEMEN

GENTLEMEN

SINGLES – played at Desborough IBC on Saturday, 23rd March, 2019.

Connor Cinato, Kingsthorpe BC beat John Haines, Desborough IBC 21-15 shots

This contest was being played out at the same time as the Women's Singles, and so absorbing were both in the expertise of all players, it was difficult for the spectators to know which was the best to concentrate on. Connor had won the previous evening the County Under 25 Singles, and County Men's President John was playing the first of 3 finals that he had qualified for.

Despite the age gap of around 40 years, John is a very fit man who has played much sport over the years, and he has won many trophies in bowls, and although Connor is just 22 years of age, his achievements in bowls at Club, County, National and International level are much to be admired.

This match brought out the best in both players, with Connor starting a bit better than John in taking a 5-1 lead after 4 ends of play, but the next 4 ends were all John in the scoring as he put on 8 shots to take a 9-5 lead. The next 4 ends went Connor's way by 4-1 for him to level the score at 10 shots each, and over the next 6 ends there was nothing to choose between them, as they both played some brilliant bowls, and the scores were still level at 14 shots each. An exchange of single shots put them both on 15 shots, but with some superbly played bowls by Connor over what turned out to be the last 3 ends, he collected the 6 shots that he needed for the County title.

UNDER 25 SINGLES – played at Desborough IBC on Friday, 22nd March, 2019.

Connor Cinato, Kingsthorpe BC beat Will Walker, Wellingborough BC 21-15 shots

In this match Connor had just returned from winning the British Isles Under 25 crown, and been on International Duty with England, but Will was not overawed by this for after 4 ends of play he was 4-3 up and after 3 more ends he was still ahead, albeit by just 1 at 8-7. At this point, however, Connor had a 'purple patch' of scoring in collecting 9 shots without reply to lead 16-8, and after conceding a single he went further ahead to 19-9 shots with the finishing post in sight. Will was not yet ready to throw in the towel, and he won the next 3 ends of play to reduce his deficit to 4 shots at 15-19 down, but the next end Connor took the 2 shots he needed for yet another title.

FOURS – played at Desborough IBC on Saturday, 23rd March, 2019.

Iain Walker, Cameron Knox, Richard Mann & John Haines, Desborough IBC beat Fred Bosworth, Simon Coles, David Jones & John Leggett, Northampton & District IBA 26-18 shots

After picking up a double on the first end, the local rink stayed there for the next 5 ends as the Northampton men scored well for a 7-2 lead, and after dropping a double on the next end, John Leggett and his men scored a 3 on the next end to keep a decent lead at 10-4 shots. County Men's President John and his men reined in that lead over the next 3 ends to be just 8-10 adrift, but a good pick up of 4 shots on the 12th end kept Northampton on front 14-8.

At this point, the Desborough rink enjoyed a 3 ends scoring spree in which they picked up 10 shots, including a huge 5, to take the lead for the first time since the 2nd end of the match, at 18-14 shots, and after conceding a single, they collected 6 shots on the next 2 ends to be handily placed at 24-15 with 3 ends to play. Northampton's John and his men did collect a 3 on the 19th end, but when Desborough collected a 2 on the 20th end, the champions were the home players.

TIPLER TROPHY – played at Desborough IBC on Sunday, 24th March, 2019.

Dougie Cooper, George Warren, Peter Mellor & John Haines, Desborough IBC beat Paul Coley, Nigel Hawkins, Walt Winsor & Mick Cooper, Wellingborough BC 19-12 shots

In this competition for men aged over 60 years, playing for the trophy in the name of a former well known County bowler, Ernie Tipler, County Men's President John Haines was playing in his 3rd County Final of the weekend! Some achievement and he is to be congratulated not only for his stamina, but also for his continued excellent bowling.

In this match the Desborough men started well in collecting 4 shots to none conceded in the first 3 ends, and although Wellingborough outscored Desborough 6-4 shots over the next 6 ends to be just a couple of shots adrift at 6-8 down, that was as close as they could get, although John and his men had to fight hard to keep ahead, having just a 12-9 lead after 14 ends, but they outscored Mick and his men 7-3 shots over the last 7 ends for a good win.

UNBADGED SINGLES – played at Desborough IBC on Saturday, 13rd March, 2019.

John Greaves, Wellingborough BC beat Peter Wellburn, Kingsthorpe BC 21-8 shots.

In this match both players were very experienced, and mature in years, but neither had their County Badge, which qualified them for this particular competition. John scored very well in the opening 4 ends, taking 8 shots, including a maximum 4 on the 3rd end, to lead 8-0, but Peter hit back by collecting 5 shots on the next 2 ends to reduce his deficit to 3 shots.

However, John is a very determined and able player, and after 11 ends of play he had got to 16-6 and the finishing post was just around the corner, and after an exchange of 2 single counts each, John collected the 3 he needed for victory after 16 ends of play.

COUNTY LEAGUE

The Men’s County League competition concluded with all matches played between the 7 participating County Clubs, with the result that Wellingborough BC was the winner, and in some style too.

Wellingborough BC won all 6 matches, 5 of them with maximum points, with just 1 rink in the very last of their matches losing, for a total of 35 points accrued, with Desborough IBC in second place with 22.5 points, and Northampton & District in 3rd place with 19 points.

The following is the Final Table:

Club	Matches Played	Won	Winning Rinks	Shots Difference	Points
Wellingborough	6	6	23	+287	35
Desborough	6	5	12.5	+82	22.5
Northampton	6	4	11	+28	19
Kettering	6	2	11	-55	15
Brackley	6	2	10	-69	14
Rushden	6	1	9.5	-119	11.5
Daventry	6	1	6	-157	8

MEN’S PAIRS & TRIPLES – Still to be played, with the Pairs arranged for the 3rd April, 2019, at Desborough IBC, and the Triples still to be arranged.

N.B.Y.D.S. COMPETITIONS

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UNDER 18 PAIRS – played at Desborough IBC on Friday, 22nd March, 2019.

Alana Thomas-Handley & Holly Buckby, Desborough IBC beat Thomas Manderson & Shannon Swift, Northampton & District IBA 16-10 shots

This contest was a fairly even one for most of its length, with the Northampton pair just ahead 5-3 after 6 ends and 7-6 up after 11 ends of play, and then in getting a 10-6 lead with 5 ends to play, the ‘wheels came off’ for them, for they were kept on that score to the end of the match, as Alana and Holly collected 10 shots for a very good win.

UNDER 15 SINGLES – played at Desborough IBC on Saturday, 23rd March, 2019.

Thomas Manderson, Northampton & District IBA beat Josh Sanders, Wellingborough BC 21-4 shots

In this match, Josh was playing in his first competition for the NBYDS, and on the day he was up against Thomas who has already picked up trophies, and has proved himself to be a very good young bowler, and on the day Josh was completely out bowled for the majority of the 10 ends that the match lasted. However, with the encouragement of his ‘bowling family’ and the coaching which he is receiving at Wellingborough, I am sure that Josh will progress well and become the bowler that Thomas, a couple of years his senior, has become

15-18 SINGLES – played at Desborough IBC on Sunday, 24th March, 2019.

Holly Buckby, Desborough IBC beat James Reed, Rushden Town BC 21-14 shots.

This match was Holly’s second final of the weekend, and she was hoping to add to the success of her win in the Under 18 Pairs, but James, a fairly new bowler, showed why he had reached the Final, by winning the first 3 ends to take a lead, and after Holly drew level, he scored well over the next 6 ends to lead 10-6. At this point, However, Holly bowled some excellent woods, firstly picking up a maximum 4 shots, and following it with a 3 and a 2, to lead 15-10 shots after 14 ends of play. James was playing well and he reduced the deficit to just 2 shots at 13-15 down, but with 3 very close ends where she picked up singles, Holly was able to reinstate a 5 shots lead after 19 ends of play, and after dropping a single on the next end, she collected the 3 shots she needed for victory and her second win of the weekend.

5. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE MEN 'FRIENDLY' versus NORTHAMPTON & DISTRICT IBA

The men of **Northamptonshire Indoor Bowling Association** took on their counterparts from Northampton & District IBA in a friendly match on Wednesday, 20th March, 2019, and in a close tussle in which rink wins were equally shared, the Club team won by 12 shots. The highest scoring rink for the County was that skipped by Terry James, which posted a 12 shots win, and the highest for Northampton & District was shared by that skipped by Jonathan Brown, and the one skipped by Mick Hall, both winning by 15 shots.

The Final score was Northamptonshire 99 shots – Northampton & District 111 shots. Rink scores as follows, County names first:

Rink 1. Don Scott, James Ragosa, Dougie Ainsworth & Terry James 24 shots – Roger Summers, G Green, Terry Brown & Ian Daverson 12 shots

In this match the Club rink started a little better and had a small 5-4 lead after 5 ends, but then they stayed there for the next 5 ends as the County men added 8 shots for a 12-5 lead. The gap was still 6 shots with Terry and his men being 16-10 up, and after dropping a double on the next end the County men added 8 shots without reply on those last ends, one of which was a tied end.

Rink 2. Ray Spatcher, Peter Byworth, Geoff Harris & George Warren 11 shots – Paul Cooke, A Johnson, Bob Brogden & Mick Hall 26 shots

The County men started very well for after dropping a single on the first end they picked up a single followed by a good count of 4, to lead 5-1 after 3 ends, but the Club men kept the County at that score for 4 ends as they took the lead 8-5, and after conceding a double on the 8th end, Mick Hall and his club men added 7 more to be 15-7 up. Three singles to the Club and 2 singles to the County kept the County 7 shots up, with 4 ends to play. The County collected 1 shot, but the Club men collected two doubles, and a big count of 5 on the last end for their very good victory.

Rink 3. Will Clelland, John Chester, Brian Jones & John Haines 9 shots – A Pardoe, John Dimmock, Colin Barnes & Reg Jones 18 shots

This match was a pretty low scoring affair in the first half, with just 5 shots to each rink after 9 ends of play, and a 1 shot lead for the County at 7-6 after 11 ends. John and his men were then kept on that 7 for 8 ends, whilst the Club added 12 shots for a good lead at 18-7. The County could just win the last 2 ends by single shots, but it was still a very good win for the Club rink.

Rink 4. Bryon Mills, Brian Diver, Bob Tingle & Norman Gibb 19 shots – Dave Cox, Peter Gilkes, Derek Rowson & Bob Jones 13 shots

The first half of this match was very evenly contested, with the score 3shots each after 5 ends, 5 each after 9 ends and 7 each after 11 ends, and then the Club got a small lead at 12-9 with one third left to play, and that third went very well for the County as they added 10 shots to their total, and conceded just 1 more shot to the Club.

Rink 5. Malcolm White, Alan Watts, Dave Stewart & Malcolm Mattinson 10 shots – Harvey Fruish, Phil Reeve, David Williamson & Jonathan Brown 25 shots

In this contest the scores were level at 3 each but in winning the next 4 ends the Club took a 9-3 shots lead, although the County men fought back to just 2 shots adrift after 13 ends. They were stuck on 9 for 4 ends as Jonathan and his men added 6 shots for a 17-9 lead, and after picking up a single on the 18th end, Malc and his men dropped 8 shots on the last 3 ends for a decent win for the Club.

Rink 6. Peter Kitchener, Richard Upton, Geoff Hunt & Mick Worthington 26 shots – Alan Baulch, Gordon Morris, Tony Warren & Tony Weston 17 shots

The County scored well to take a lead of 8-1 after 6 ends, but then the Club men firstly won the next 4 ends to tie things up at 8 each, and then on the 11th end picked up a big count of 4 to take the lead. The County men struck back, however, and tied things up at 15 shots each with 6 ends to play, and they picked up 11 shots to just 2 conceded on those last ends for a decent County win.

6. CAVALIERS BOWLING ASSOCIATION versus NORTHANTS RETIRED POLICE BA

The Cavaliers Bowling Association will play the Northamptonshire Retired Police BA, in a trophy match on Wednesday, 27th March, 2019, at Wellingborough BC, commencing at 2.0 p.m. and the following players have been selected:

- Rink 1.** Barry Melville, Brian Collin, Colin Barnes & Dave Acox
- Rink 2.** John Cooper, Mick Galloway, Richard Dyball & Ted Patrick
- Rink 3.** Brian Jones, Colin Incles, Brian Hayes & Dick Howell
- Rink 4.** John Murkett, Richard Tyack, Peter Kneeshaw & Roger Summers
- Rink 5.** Graham Cashmore, Peter Byworth, Dennis Sansome & Harvey Fruish
- Rink 6.** Chris Gray, Chris Cooper, John Chester & Bob Tingle

The Cavaliers BA combines enjoying the sport of bowls with raising monies for charities, and over the years it has been able to donate many thousands of £'s for various good causes. This is the match at which the monies raised during the period are presented, and this year's charity is 'The Angel Foundation' which is a Christian based charity which does a wide range of good things for those in need, including education/training, prevention or relief of poverty, overseas aid/famine relief, and general charitable purposes.

The Cavaliers will be presenting a cheque for £1000.00p to the charity at the match.

7. NATIONAL COMPETITIONS – OF INTEREST COUNTY WIDE

LADIES

LADIES

LADIES

OVER 60 PAIRS

Area 7 Final – Played at St Neots & District IBC on Saturday, 16th March, 2019.

Tina Broderick & partner, Wellingborough BC lost to Ann How & partner, Cambridge Chesterton IBC 6-17 shots

GENTLEMEN

GENTLEMEN

GENTLEMEN

FOURS

National Finals: Played at Nottingham IBC on Thursday, 21st March, 2019.

1st Round (Last 16 in the Country)

Iain Walker, Cameron Knox, Richard Mann & John Haines, Desborough IBC lost to Danny Brown, Dean Stevenson, Kevin Rands & Billy Jackson, Lincoln IBC 14-15 shots.(After an extra end)

A very tight match in which Desborough started the better and posted a 7-1 lead after 5 ends, and were still in front 10-4 after 10 ends, but Lincoln pulled them back to just 1 shot ahead of them at 13-12 after 15 ends, and at 18 ends the scores were level 14 shots each, with an extra end required to conclude the match. Lincoln, skipped by long serving England International Billy Jackson, managed to pick up a single on that end for the narrowest of victories.

Interestingly the Lincoln Rink went on to win the title, beating Westlecot IBC 15-14 in the Quarter Finals, Spalding 22-15 in the Semi-Finals, but lost to Exonia IBC, Exeter Devon, 16-19 shots in the Final

TRIPLES

National Finals: - Played at Nottingham IBC on Sunday, 24th March, 2019.

1st Round: -last 16 in the country

David Walker, Ben Sharpe & Jamie Walker, Kingsthorpe BC lost to Chris Daniels triple, Bournemouth IBC 5-18 shots.

This was not the County men's day for after being level at 2 shots each after 3 ends, they went behind 2-7 after 5 ends, and 4-11 after 10 ends, and when Bournemouth reached 18 shots with just 1 more added to the County men's total, Jamie and his men conceded the win to Chris Daniels and his men.

8. DISABILITY BOWLS ENGLAND EVENT IN COUNTY

Desborough IBC is hosting an event for **Disability Bowls England** on Saturday, 30th March, 2019, starting at 10.0 a.m., with registration for the players at 9.30 a.m.

It is an '**Inter Club Triples**' competition, and the DBE has arranged for 5 venues to host one of them, which includes Ashford IBC, Kent; Loddon Vale IBC, Basingstoke; York & District IBC, Yotkshire; and Mid Devon IBC, Tiverton; in addition to the County Club.

There will be 8 Triples, with all 3 players in each belonging to the same Club, and each player will have a disability, which can be of any nature. Two Groups will be organised with 4 Triples in each playing a 'round robin' of 3 matches of 8 ends or 1.25 hours, to establish 2 winners to contest the Final. The sessions will be 10.0 a.m.-11.15am; 11.30 a.m.-12.45 p.m.; 1.30 p.m. – 2.45 p.m. with the Final 3.0 p.m. – 4.15 p.m.

9. OPEN SINGLES CIRCUIT AT WELLINGBOROUGH BC

As published in one of my Reports in January, **Wellingborough BC** is once again hosting an 'Open Singles Circuit' weekend as in previous years, and it is scheduled for the weekend of **Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th April, 2019**, commencing at 10.0 a.m. on the Saturday and 9.0 a.m. on the Sunday. **The Final is scheduled for 6.0 p.m. on the Sunday.**

This is a nationwide series of events, indoor, with many of the top UK bowlers entering, attracted by the prize money of £1000 to the Winner, £400 to the Runner-up, £200 to the Semi-Finalists and £100 to the quarter Finalists. The Wellingborough event has a number of top bowlers visiting, plus several County players, including Tina and Paul Broderick, Jamie Walker and David Love.

The **Open Singles Circuit** is a circuit of club owned and run open singles events throughout the UK, where the results from all of the events earn the players ranking points which contribute to the OSC Rankings List. The rankings list is reset at the start of each new season to reward each player's current form.

Local sponsorship and the player's entry fees form the prize fund for each local event. At the end of each season the top ranked players on the OSC Rankings List qualify for the Grand Final event, which is fully funded by OSC and updated live over the internet for bowls fans all over the world.

Spectators are very welcome, and they can be assured of some top class bowling.

10. COACHING COURSES

Please find list below of the upcoming **Coach Bowls** courses including coaching, safeguarding, working with disabled & play bowls activator module for courses in our County or adjoining Counties.

Level 1 Coaching:

Rushden Town BC, Northamptonshire: 28th April, 2019, and 9th June, 2019. (A flyer has been circulated to Clubs)

Charnwood BC, Leicestershire: 27th April, 2019 & 1st June, 2019.
(Attendance is necessary on each day)

Level 2 Coaching:

Charnwood BC, Leicestershire: 28th April, 11th May, 2nd June, 22nd June & 17th August, 2019.
Harpenden BC, Hertfordshire: 26th October, 1st December, 21st December, 2019, 12th January, 22nd February, 2020.
(Attendance is necessary on each day)

Adult Safeguarding

Geddington & Newton BC, Northamptonshire: 11th May, 2019, 9.0 a.m. – 12 noon. (A flyer has been circulated to Clubs)

Goodwood BC, Leicestershire: 5th October, 2019, 10.0 a.m. – 1.0 p.m.
Avon Valley IBC, Warwickshire: 18th May, 2019, 10.0 a.m. – 1.0 p.m.

Safeguarding in Bowls – Time to Listen

Goodwood BC, Leicestershire: 26th October, 2019, 10.0 a.m. – 2.0 p.m.

Working with Disabled People

Melton Mowbray BC, Leicestershire: 7th July, 2019, 10.0 a.m. – 2.0 p.m.

Further information on any of these Courses can be found at <http://www.coachbowls.org>, including how to book onto the courses.

11. NATIONAL BOWLS NEWS

BOWLS ENGLAND NEWS

Tony Allcock, Chief Executive of Bowls England writes to ask for assistance in promoting the Bowls Development Alliance's **Club Development Programme** to clubs within the county. The programme offers Bowls England affiliated clubs a unique opportunity to sustain their current membership numbers and recruit new members into the sport.

Since its creation, the Club Development Programme has proven to be a huge success, bringing about positive difference to those clubs that have taken part in it. To date the outdoor clubs that have completed the programme successfully have managed to recruit on average 12 new members per year. A member of the BDA team provides 'one-to-one' assistance to clubs that sign up, and assistance is provided across a number of areas including recruitment, volunteer training, marketing and funding. Up to £500 is offered to clubs who fully engage with the programme. Full guidance notes and case studies may be viewed on the BDA website at: www.playbowls.org/clubs/club-development-programme

To be eligible to apply, clubs need to:

Be affiliated to Bowls England; Have seen a net membership decline of three per cent or more over the past two years; Be proactive and agree to take on tasks set out in a Development Plan; Demonstrate capacity for membership growth **Bowls England** is fully supportive of the Club Development Programme and strongly recommends clubs that meet the above criteria to take up the opportunity to work with the BDA. BE would therefore appreciate this assistance in communicating this opportunity to our clubs.

See further information under Bowls Development Alliance below.

BOWLS DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE NEWS

Funding Available to Assist Club Development

Is your club losing members? Do you need support to recruit new members and retain current members?

The Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) is inviting clubs affiliated to Bowls England to join its Club Development Programme – with funding of up to £500 available to each club that signs up.

The programme offers support and guidance to help clubs to sustain and grow their membership, support volunteers, upskilling their volunteers and coaches, providing new opportunities for those with a disability to play the sport, promoting the club effectively and attracting funding for facility development if required.

Support offered will vary depending on each club's needs and present circumstances, but the overall package includes:

- identifying the main challenges the club is facing and look at how to overcome them
- sharing case studies and examples of best practice from clubs around the country
- offering clubs a variety of templates, forms and other materials they can use either instantly or after bespoke modifications
- linking clubs with influential local groups and organisations that they can benefit from
- dedicated support from a member of the BDA team

For more information, visit the BDA website: <http://playbowls.org/clubs/club-development-programme>

Alternatively, telephone George Babalev (Club Development Co-ordinator) on 07826 929604 to discuss if the programme is right for your club.

12. COUNTY CLUB NEWS – OF INTEREST ACROSS COUNTY

INDOOR CLUBS

INDOOR CLUBS

INDOOR CLUBS

DAVENTRY IBC

Match Report:

Daventry Eagles lost away on the 21st March, 2019, to **Kettering Lodge BC** by 48-69 shots.

The Eagles travelled to Kettering Lodge BC for a friendly club game, and their players took a while to adjust to the rinks but all remained positive and at half time most rinks scores were quite even, However Kettering Lodge just took a good lead and Daventry couldn't catch them. Captain John Sach presented the highest winning rink to his team Janet Collins, Debs Sach and himself. Rink details as follows:

Rink 1: Grahame Akers, Shirley Shucksmith and Judy Hicks 8 shots - Kettering 22 shots

Rink 2: John Shanahan, Margaret Stevens and Alan Davies 12 shots - Kettering 14 shots

Rink 3: Janet Collins, Debs Sach and John Sach 15 shots - Kettering 11 shots

Rink 4: Sylvia Hatfield, Jennie Mercer and Peter Mercer 13 shots – Kettering 22 shots

Fixtures:

28.3.19. Club plays its Founders Cup competition at 2.0 pm

30/31.3.19. Club hosts the English Short Matt BA Mixed Fours & Over 55's Finals

3.4.19. Club hosts a match between Northamptonshire Men and Middlesex Men at 2.0 p.m.

DESBOROUGH IBC

“Pro-Am “ Gala

The first “Pro-Am” Gala took place at Desborough Indoor Bowling Club on Sunday 17th March, 2019, amongst its disability members. Partners were drawn randomly on the day and each pair played two games of 1-hour duration with an hour rest between. The cup had been donated by the family of **Dave Cotterill**, and was presented to the eventual winners, who were **Martin Cornwell and Andy Purcell**, by Dave’s daughter, Louise. The day went well, with green fees being covered via a donation. Desborough’s President, Mr John Westwood opened proceedings. Helpers were on the green to assist with directing play and measuring and giving assistance with wheelchairs. At the end of the day proceedings were closed by Desborough’s lady President, Dawn Owen. Sue White thanked everyone who played, the helpers, the kitchen and bar staff who remained open all day, the score-keepers, Carol Coe and Graham Carley for making it such a successful event.

KETTERING LODGE BC (Indoor Section)

Fixtures:

28.3.19. Club plays Northampton & District IBA at home at 2.15 p.m.

NORTHAMPTON & DISTRICT IBC

Fixtures:

3.4.19. Club plays Rushden Town BC at home at 2.0 p.m.

WELLINGBOROUGH BC (Indoor Section)

Fixtures:

27.3.19. Club hosts a match between Northamptonshire Retired Police BA & the Cavaliers BA at 2.0 p.m.

OUTDOOR CLUBS

OUTDOOR CLUBS

OUTDOOR CLUBS

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE RETIRED POLICE BA

Fixture:

27.3.19. Club plays the Cavaliers BA at Wellingborough BC at 2.0 p.m.

John G Church, MBE

Northamptonshire Bowls Press Officer