 

10th August to 27th August 2023 – Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

**Day 14 Review**

Ladies Senior Fours

Middlesex’s Senior Four, Tina Cooper, Angie Cumine, Cathy Taylor and Ann Halliday from Cambridge Park, were one of three sides playing catch up this morning with their delayed 2nd rd tie.

On C3 at 0930 they took on Ann Andrews, Cheryl Walker, Nicki Kemble Young and Susan Griffiths from Supermarine, Wiltshire. The ladies started well and led 6-2 at 5 ends. At 11 ends they had stretched their lead to 7 and were handily placed 11-4 in front. Wiltshire then started to fight back and by 15 ends the game was back in the balance with Middlesex 13-11 up.

A single to Wiltshire on the 16th end really put the pressure on but Middlesex showed their experience and calmed any nerves they may have had by scoring a double on the 17th end. That gave them 3 to defend going down the last end. When Cathy drew a close shot with her 2nd bowl Wiltshire had nothing left but to go chasing what they needed. Their skip missed twice and with Middlesex claiming a double they were through to the quarters 17-12.

In the other two delayed games the successful singles players both progressed. Margaret Holden’s Alton Social four strolled through 27-5 against Tring whilst Jayne Christie’s Potton four won 21-13.

So onto the quarter final on C6. Middlesex would face Brimfield, Herefordshire in the form of Helen Skinner, Sharon Mew, Jan Williams and Lynne Allen. They had got to this stage with two top quality wins, 20-14 over Egham and 17-16 over Littleport.

The game started tightly and at 3 ends it was 3-3. At 7 ends the Cambridge Park quartet had got their noses in front by 3 shots, an advantage they held until the half way point. Disaster struck on the 11th end as Herefordshire picked up a 6 to lead 10-12 and they pressed home that momentum to lead 12-16 at 15 ends. A single each and Middlesex were going down the last end needing a count. Middlesex won the end but not with enough and Herefordshire were into the Semi’s 14-17. A great effort by the Ladies especially as Cathy had been playing non stop for about 3 days!

In the other quarters Lesley Holmes, Di Wilson-Rogers, Barbara Heath and Lin Mountain from Dunholme St Giles, Lincolnshire beat Potton, Bedfordshire 21-12; Leen Hampshire, Carole Wolton, Sandra Aldridge and Anne Bernard from Ryde Marina, Isle of Wight beat Clare Fletcher, Carol Saunders, Christine Travis and Eleanor Benive from Bolton, Lancs 15-13 in a tight game and Lesley Johnson, Alice Atwell, Hazel Marke and Margaret Holden from Alton Social, Hampshire had their 2nd big win of the day beating Jean Whetter, Rose James, Jenny Marchant and Fran Turner of Liskeard, Cornwall 24-8.

Men’s Senior Fours

No held over games from Tuesday in the Men’s section it was get in, play your quarter final at 1530 and get out!

Middlesex’s Conquerors Cornwall could not keep their run going as they were beaten 11-14 by Gary Clark, Martin Sampson, Simon Greenwood and David MCCallum from Camberley, Surrey. In the other ties Robbie Ferguson, Brian Whittingham, Kevin Carter and Neil Smith from Westlecot, Wiltshire beat Charles Wright, Graham Lavender, Alec Martin and Shaun Godfrey from White Rock, Sussex; Mike Stray, David Lewis, Roy Elkington, David Brammer from Branston, Lincolnshire beat Mark Brocklebank, Steve Van Wyk, Derrick Fulker and Peter Ward from Ringwood, Hampshire 21-19 and Mike Cox, Ian Ball, John Crews and Martin Butchers from Plessey, Isle of Wight beat Gus Whitwell, John Tyreman, Alan Cross man and Karl Tyreman from Brotton, Yorkshire 18-6.

Men’s Junior Singles

It you are of a nervous disposition I recommend skipping this bit and going on to the 2 wood previews below!!

Robbie Carter from Poplar was on B4 for his 2nd rd tie at 1230 playing Brad Cox from Knowle, Somerset, Robbie started in good fashion and led 3-2 and then 7-6 before Brad levelled at 9 all. Robbie nudged back in front at 11-10 but then Brad got the bit between his teeth and moved 12-16 ahead. At 12-19 Robbie was looking in trouble but he focused himself and 3 ends later it was 19-19, game on. A single each meant the tie went down to a final end shoot out and Robbie won out 21-20. Nerves of steel.

Ollie Shearing from North Greenwich was on A2 against Kieran Jaycock from Broadway, Buckinghamshire. Much like in the first round Ollie made a slow start. 0-3 became 2-8 but then Ollie started to feel his way back into the game and find his range. Back to 6-10 and then 9-11 Ollie finally drew level at 12 all. Ollie then fell behind as Kieran turned up the heat, 14-17 and Ollie was one end from going out. Ollie likes the dramatic it seems and when he got it back to 18-19 the fun really started.

Having drawn a side toucher with his first bowl Kieran was looking for a 2nd to take the game. Ollie though played a timing bowl across the head and took the shot clean off. Kieran bounced back though and drew shot, 18-20. Next end Ollie drew shot, Kieran was just behind with his first 2 bowls. Ollie rested Kieran’s bowl to lie 2 and with his last bowl Kieran was heavy giving Ollie 2 feet to draw in and win the tie. Ollie didn’t need 6 inches as he drew the number one shot and took the game 21-20.

Elsewhere in round 2 Dan Ellicott, the defending Champion won though 21-15, Oli Collins from Ilminster, Somerset won 21-7 but Carlos Lali from Berkshire was dumped 8-21 by Callum Hodgson of Wigton, Cumbria. Mack May from Cambridgeshire won through 21-9 and Tom Holmes of Ross on Wye, Herefordshire won 21-8.

After a break for the Spectators to recover round 3 was on. A5 was where Robbie would take on Kyle Leeks of Cornard BC, Suffolk. Kyle had taken out Harry Tinker of Wadebridge, Cornwall 21-5 and Ben Fairhall of Hove and Kingsway, Sussex 21-19. Robbie got off to a slow start and was behind early doors but this time he was unable to claw it back. 6-16 down, Robbie reduced the arrears to 6 but Kyle was not letting his grip go and he closed the game out 10-21. A great effort from Robbie over 2 days.

Dramatist Ollie, had the perfect stage having drawn Aiden Maries of the Avenue Bc, Warwickhsire on A1, with the game streamed live to a watching audience. Aiden had beaten Alex Wood of Darlington Railway, Northumberland 21-13 and Callum Riddleston of Coutesthorpe, Leicestershire 21-18.

The game was nip and tuck the whole way and the quality of the bowls being played belied the experience of the players and impressed the co commentators, both of whom had won their respective National Junior Singles titles previously. There was never more than 3 shots in it until right at the end. At 16-16 Aiden played an aggressive shot to take out Ollies bowl. He got it all wrong pushing the jack out to the side and going from 1 to 3 down. Ollie missed with the chance to draw 4 but he led 19-16. Cracking bowls on the next end resulted in a double to Aiden 19-18. Was Ollie going to put the supporters through more last end drama, well no. He drew shot with his first bowl and trailed the jack with his 2nd to lie 2. The lie of the woods meant he had framed the jack but Aiden chose to play a timing bowl rather than drive and he was tight both times. Ollie was through 21-18 and his joy was evident as he saluted the crowd.

In other 3rd rd games Tom Holmes beat Lewis Brimble from Knyveton Gardens, Hampshire 21-11. Harry Mycock is out beaten 18-21 by George Hopper of Newdigate, Surrey, Mack May strolled through another game winning 21-4 and the defending Champions defence is over beaten 17-21 by Oli Collins.

Ladies Junior Singles

With no Middlesex involvement it was all about watching the quality of the talented young Ladies. In round 1 the big guns fired warning shots. Emily Kernick from Warwickhisre, victor in the Junior Pairs won 21-3, Yasmina Hasan, from Surrey, new Champion in the fours won 21-4, Maddie Burgess (Worcestershire) won 21-6, Chloe Brett (Hunts) won 21-5, Rebecca Moorbey (Hunts) 21-3, Rhianna Russell (Herts) 21-1 and Ruby Hill (Lincolnshire) 21-3.

Upset of the round probably Katie Sturtridge from Cornwall osing 5-21 to Reba Powell-Birley of Royston, Herts.

Round 2, Emily Kernick progressed but her pairs partner Lily Mae Adam’s went out. Yasmina Hasan beat Maddie Burgess 21-17, Billie Swift of Kingsthorpe, Leicestershire beat Ella Crouch of Torquay, Devon 21-18, Chloe Brett hammered Kent’s Imogen Jenner 21-5 but Rebecca Moorbey bettered that winning 21-3 .

Abby Woodward was probably the other faller but she was beaten by Ruby Hill.

So round 3. Emily Kernick shocked a few people by beating Yasmina Hasan 21-14, Chloe Brett progressed 21-13 over Amica Fordy from Northallerton, Yorkshire, Rebecca Moorbey was pushed a bit harder but she still beat Michaela Smith from Heaton Hall, Lancashire 21-13 and Olivia Starr from Clevedon, Somerset was the Star of the round as she beat Rhianna Russell 21-14.

**Day 15 Preview**

Ladies Senior Fours

We’re down to the last 4. At 1000hrs on B4 Helen Skinner, Sharon Mew, Jan Williams and Lynne Allen from Brimfield, Herefordshire will take on Lesley Holmes, Di Wilson Rogers, Barabara Heath and Lin Mountain of Dunholme St Giles, Lincolnshire and on B5 Eileen Hampshire, Carole Wolton, Sandra Aldridge and Anne Bernard from Ryde Marina, Isle of Wight take on Lesley Johnson, Alice Atwell, Hazel Marke and Margaret Holden of Alton Social, Hampshire.

We’ve already profiled Brimfield prior to them beating Cambridge Park, for Lincolsnhire Di was part of the 2009 triples winners and Lyn the 2003 triples runners up.

For the Isle of Wight, Anne Bernard won the Senior Singles last season and this year Carole has qualified in the singles and fours, Sandra the Triples and Senior Singles, Eileen Senior Pairs, triples and Fours and Anne Champion of Champions, 2 woods and triples and fours. In the triples they lost in the quarters to the eventual champions and in the Champion of Champions Anne lost in the Semi to the winner.

For Hampshire, well Hazel Marke is a former President of Bowls England. The same four were runners up in the Senior Fours 2021, without Alice the other 3 won the Senior fours in 2018. Lesley and Margaret were Senior Pairs winners in 2017 before Hazel and Margaret were main pairs runners up in 2018. Margaret was capped as a Senior International in 2012.

This season Margaret qualified in the Singles, where she lost to the Champion in the Semi final, Senior Singles, Pairs with Hazel and Triples with Hazel and Lesley.

The final Is scheduled for B2 at 1430.

Men’s Senior Fours

The last 4 for the men as well at 1000hrs. Mike Cox, Ian Ball, John Crews and Martin Butchers from Plessey Isle of Wight will take on Mike Stray, David Lewis, Roy Elkington and David Brammer of Branston, Lincolnshire and Robbie Ferguson, Brian Whittingham, Kevin Carter and Neil Smith of Westlecot, Wiltshire will take on Gary Clark, Martin Sampson, Simon Greenwood and David McCallum of Camberley, Surrey.

For the Islanders Martin Butchers won the mixed Pairs in 2018 and was runner up in the Senior pairs in 2017.

For Wiltshire Neil Smith was runner up in the 2012 triples. This season Kevin has qualified in the 2 woods.

The final is also scheduled for 1430 but rink yet to be allocated

Men’s Junior Singles

Quarter final time at 0930. Oli Collins of Ilminster, Somerset will take on Callum Hodgson of Wigton, Cumbria; Mack May from St Neots, Cambridgeshire will take on Kyle Leeks from Cornard, Suffolk; Lewis Rimmer from Heaton hall, Lancashire will take on George Hopper rom Newdigate, Surrey but there is only one tie that interests us.

Ollie Shearing on North Greenwich takes on Tom Holmes from Ross on Wye, Herefordshire.

Tom has gotten to the quarter finals by beating Morgan Jones of Polly, Nottinghamshire 21-18, David Wilson of Aspartia, Cumbria 21-8 and Lewis Brimble of Knyveton Gardens, Hampshire 21-11. This season Tom also qualified in the pairs and fours making round 2 in both. Tom is the current Captain of the Men’s Junior International side. Tom was runner up in the 2014 Sutton Winson plate before improving on that and winning the Sutton Winson trophy in 2015. In 2017 he was part of the National Fours winners and last year he won the Family Pairs title. Games, though, as they say are not played on paper and Ollie won’t be interested in Tom’s record, it will be mano a mano on the morning, bring it on!

Ladies Junior Singles

Quarter final time at 12 noon. Emily Kernick will play Kat Bowman from Birstall, Leicestershire; Joanna Watt from Polgrove, Sussex will play Katie Jones from Polly, Nottinghamshire; Chloe Brett will play Rebecca Moorbey in a game that surely needs to be streamed on A1 and finally Ruby Hill will play Olivia Starr.

Ladies 2 woods

Ah, the two woods. The competition where it takes longer to research and preview the ties than it does to play them!

Middlesex “B” Hannah Hollis from Bush Hill Park gets things underway at 1015 on D4 with a tie against Lynne Papworth from Littleport, Cambridgeshire. Hannah, of course is also in the Senior Singles on Saturday. Victory for Hannah will see her play again at 1130 and hopefully again at 1515.

Middlesex “A” is Dawn Slaughter from Cambridge Park. Dawn is lucky enough to have got a bye to round 2 at 1130. On the downside this means her potential opposition will have gained experience of the green but this won’t concern Dawn as she focuses on her own game.

The tie, on C3 will be against either Pat Thornton of Notts or Lynn Orlando of Berskhire. Pat also qualified in the Senior fours losing first round. Lynn has had a busy championships qualifying in the Senior Pairs and making the quarters, the triples and the Main Fours where she was runner up.

Victory will see Dawn play again at 1515.

Men’s 2 Woods

Middlesex “A” is Ashley Tanner from Ashford. On E1 at 1130 he takes on Will Walker from Northampton West End BC. Will was runner up in the family pairs with Superstar Jamie Walker in 2019.

Victory will see Ashley have further games at 1400 and hopefully 1630.

Tom Smith of Paddington is Middlesex “B”. At 1245 on D2 he takes on James Amery from Taunton Vivary, Somerset. James was part of the 2015 National Pairs Champions. This season he qualified in the pairs where he was beaten by Norman Worley and Glen Adams, also of Paddington and the fours where he lost 3rd rd. Will it be a Paddington double or will James get revenge?

Tom also plays again at 1400 and 1630 if successful.

More tomorrow

