 

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

**Day 5 Review**

After the successes of Sunday anticipation was high for the mornings games.

Men’s Pairs

Norman Worley and Glen Adams from Paddington started their 2nd round tie at 0930 on A6 against Elliott Guthrie and Jack Emmerson of Newark Northern BC, Nottinghamshire.

Early reports said the lads were 2-5 down at 6 ends. 3-14 at 9 suggested things were going against them and when news game through of 6-20 at 13 hopes were slim. The lads though had recovered from a bad position in the 1st round so they knew they had it in them to turn things round. A four on the 14th end got them back to 10 behind with 4 to play. Two further singles meant it was 12-20 with 2 to play. A tough task but not insurmountable. Sadly, a Nott’s single on end 17 closed the match out 12-21. Nott’s would now go on to play Nick Wardle and Joe Dawson of Leicestershire who put out Perry Martin 17-14.

Elsewhere Dan Box and Andy Walters of Worcestershire cruised through 22-6 and they next faced Berkshire’s Simon Jones and Robert Newman who recovered from an early deficit to win 19-10. Phil Hackett and Jamie Walker from Devon squeezed through 18-17 and they will now face Steve Gunnell and Ed Morris of Essex who won 14-12. The final quarter final will see Graham and Scott Ashby from Warwickshire face Aaron Johnson and Ian Catchpole from the Norfolk BC.

In those quarters the Worcestershire pairing put paid to Berkshire’s dreams 20-12. Leicestershire, who are part of the four Ladygate play next Saturday, beat Notts 21-8 to knock out Norman and Glen’s conquerors. The Ashby’s of Warwickshire went down 10-20 to Norfolk and in the final Quarter Essex knocked out Devon 19-16 in the tightest of the 4 matches

Ladies Triples

Karen Ryan, Megan Hunt and Sue Butcher had enjoyed a big Sunday win in the 1st rd. They now faced Christine Mitchell, Julie Jones and Alison Fail from Purton, Wiltshire in round 2. They opened up well and led 7-2 at 4 ends. According to top facebook contributor “Wingnut” Wheeler they led 12-4 at 8 Ednas, so clearly the celebrating had started early where he was!

The game then started to turn. The Ladies led 13-12 at 12 ends but then lost a 5 to trail 13-17. Two ends later they were suddenly 9 behind with 3 to play but they picked up a superb 6, game on! Things got even better on the 17th end when Sue played a great shot to score three. 22 all going down the last end. As the woods were played and the end developed West Ealing held the one that would take them through. Sue played 2 good blocking bowls and it all came down to Alison’s last bowl. Having considered the options she played just over weight into the head and agonisingly, for Middlesex anyway, she got the result she needed and Wiltshire were through 23-22. Gutting for the West Ealing Ladies and probably also for most of those watching the live face book feed of the last end, well done Kathryn, maybe you can take over the Bowls England streaming service!

Elsewhere the quirks of the new “open” draw meant Northants “A” had to play Northants “B”. Rebecca Wigfields “A” won through 18-13 knocking out Broomfield’s conquerors in the process. Also playing each other were the two Oxfordshire trio’s, this time Lorraine Kuhler’s “B” won 18-12 and they will now face the Wiltshire Ladies.

Although there were some close finishes only one tie went to an extra end with Hampshire “A” beating Somerset “B”. Rebecca Smith’s Essex trio won 27-4, Cheryl Salisbury’s Cambridgeshire trio 24-3 and the Devon girls beat the host clubs trio 22-7.

In the 3rd rd Rebecca Smith and her Essex side won through 19-14. Katherine Rednall knocked out Chloe Brett’s Hunts triple. Lorraine Kuhler’s Oxfordshire team and the Devon Ladies also progressed. Rebecca Wigfield and her teamamtes are out though, beaten by Pam Garden’s Surrey trio.

Junior Men’s Pairs

So at 1330 it was time for the youngsters to strut their stuff and show us how it should be done. Youth has no fear as they say. On C5 Robbie Carter Jnr (Poplar) and Ollie Shearing (North Greenwich) faced Daniel Stanley and Harry Mycock of Lincolnshire.

The lads got off to a flying start and led 12-2 at 8 ends. Four against on the next end tightened things but they held their nerve and kept it under control. A 14th end five put them in full command at 19-7 but again they lost 3 on the next end.

End 16 saw them get back the 3 to lead 22-10 and the Lincolnshire youngster’s had had enough and shook hands. Great result for Robbie and Ollie and onto round 2 tomorrow where they will play Northumberland.

Elsewhere Toby and Jack Bunting from Herts got through 20-19, Joseph Vanderpeer and Isaac Jenner of Kent won 26-12 and are strongly fancied, Jamie and Joseph Tindall from Surrey got through 24-14 but Ryan and Carlos Lali are out beaten 12-19 by Hampshire.

Junior Ladies Pairs

Sadly Middlesex have no representation in this comp but there is still some amazing talent on show.

Today in the prelim’s Rhianna Russell from Hert’s who has a big feature in the event programme got knocked out! Ella Crouch and Nicole Rogers stormed through so now Nicole has triples and Junior Pairs at the same time in the morning!

**Day 6 preview**

In a day packed with action our youngsters take centre stage for the County

Men’s Junior Pairs

At 0930 on rink E1, Robbie and Ollie take on Luke Jameson and Matthew Bishop from Northumberland. They won their first round tie 18-15 against Dorset. Victory would see them into the quarter finals at 1430.

Men’s Pairs

It’s Semi final time

Semi 1, at 0930 on A6 features Dan Box and Andy Walter of Welford On Avon BC, Worcestershire. v Steve Gunnell and Ed Morris of Essex County BC. Dan is a former Junior International, Andy is both a Junior and Senior International and has won the singles in 2013 and the mixed pairs with his wife Amy in both 2016 and 2017. Steve Gunnell was part of the triples winners in 2021. Ed is one of the sports current superstars. Singles winner in 2019 and 2022, 2 woods in 2018, Pairs in 2013 and of course Triples in 2021. He also has a mixed pairs title from 2021 and will be off to the World Championships shortly

Semi 2 on A5 features Aaron Johnson and Ian Catchpole of Norfolk BC against Nick Wardle and Joe Dawson of Kingscroft, Leicestershire. Ian was a Junior International and won the triples in 2010 when still in Suffolk.

The final will be at 1330 on a rink to be confirmed.

Ladies Triples

We are down to the last 8 and there are some mighty tussles in the quarters.

On A2 at 0930, Rebecca Wilgress, Christine and Katherine Rednall from Norfolk will take on Donna Grant, Katherine Hawes-Watts and Lorraine Kuhler from Oxford. On A4 Sophie Tolchard, Nicole Rogers and Harriet Stevens of Kings, Devon play Leen Hampshire, Sandra Aldridge and Anne Bernard of Ryde Marina, Isle of Wight.

On A1 Hayley Kenny, Michelle Carlin and Rebecca Smith from Clockhouse, Essex take on Rachel Forster, Carole Bannister and Victoria Forster from Workington Cumbria and finally on A3 Donna Taylor, Sue Dyson and Allyson Flint from Cove, Hampshire take on Rachel Gingell, Kelly Jenkins and Pam Garden from Egham Surrey. The Semis are due to take place at 1330 with the final, strangely at 0930 on the Wednesday!

Men’s Champion of Champions

The round of 16 is played over 2 sessions with the winners playing in the quarter finals at 1500.

In the 0930 session the big clash sees Harry Goodwin of Appleyard, Kent play Mark Royal of Borough of Eye, Suffolk. Also in that session is Stuart Evans of Shaldon, Devon who is prolific at Seniors level and he takes on Phil Harvey from my new favourite club name St Georges Dragon, Northumberland.

In the midday session Tom McGuiness is arguably the star turn as he takes on Bryan Cherry from Milton Park, Hampshire. Also in that session is Yorkshire’s Vinnie O’Neil and he plays Tom Warner from Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Ladies Champion of Champions

Their last 16 is also spread over the same two sessions. At 0930 Yasmina Hasan, the newly crowned fours Champion is due to play Jorja Jackson from Brampton, Huntingdonshire but she also has Junior Pairs at that time. Wendy King, mother of new Men’s Single’s Champion Lewis, starts her bid against Liz Smerdon of Crediton, Devon.

At 12 noon you have Carole Campion of Banbury, Oxford facing Donna Rock of Sherborne, Dorset and Anne Bernard of Ryde Marina, Isle of wight playing Rebecca Wigfield of Desborough, Northants, though this tie could be delayed as Anne is still going in the triples

Ladies Junior Pairs

Some quality ties in this comp with some superb bowlers who despite their young age have talent and experience beyond their time. Just some of the names featuring. Jemma Tuohy and Yasmina Hasan of Surrey the newly crowned fours champions, Ella Crouch and Nicole Rogers of Devon, Chloe Brett and Rebecca Moorbey of Hunts, Leah Bamford and Natalie Harrison of Kent plus Billie Swift and Abby Woodward of Northants. I could go on but I’d end up just listing the whole draw!!

Ladies Pairs

The first batch of round 1 ties are being played at 1700hrs tomorrow evening but neither of the Middlesex Pairs are involved. In action, though are scheduled to be Carol Gaskins and Donna Grant plus Katherine Hawes-Watts and Lorraine Kuhler, all from Oxford City and County, 3 of whom are still going in the triples, Ruby Hill and Chelsea Spencer of Burton House, Lincolnshire and Devon Cooper and Rachel Tremlett of Royston BC, Herts

So on the Ladies side we have clashes on top of clashes tomorrow, will Counties be forced to field subs in the Junior Pairs or will some players be faced with multiple fixtures tomorrow in various Comps, we shall see!

More tomorrow evening