 

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

**Day 13 Review**

Ladies Singles

Today saw the conclusion of the Ladies Singles event for 2023. At 0930 on A5 we had our own Cathy Taylor from Cambridge Park taking on Rebecca Moorbey from Brampton BC, Huntingdonshire, the defending Champion.

Many would argue that this was a free hit for Cathy but when you get to the later stages everyone has their eyes on the ultimate prize.

Cathy made a steady but confident start and led 4-3 early doors. She maintained that lead until Rebecca hauled her back in at 9-9. Rebecca started to pile on the pressure and as well as Cathy was playing Rebecca’s accuracy was showing through on the score board. Quickly Cathy found herself 11-14 behind and then it was 13-19. A great next end saw Cathy pick up 3 and control of the jack but Rebecca took the shot to lie game at 16-20. Cathy took back another single and was lying shot on the next end but Rebecca played through the head, got the jack movement she needed and was through 17-21. A great effort by Cathy and results to be proud of especially yesterday’s beating of Annalisa Dunham.

In the other quarters Stef Branfield of Clevedon, Somerset saw off Pa Walker of Birstall, Leicestershire 21-18; Margaret Holden of Alton Social, Hampshire beat Elaine Score of Essex County 21-17 and Jayne Christie of Potton, Bedfordshire recovered from a slow start to charge past Tina Broderick of Wellingborough, Northants 21-12.

So the Semi finals. Rebecca faced Jayne in the first. Jayne has been a Senior International and in 2002 she was runner up in the Singles, this season she had also qualified in the Pairs and Fours losing first round in both! This was a tight affair but Jayne just held Rebecca at arm’s length throughout and eventually made it into the final 21-18.

The 2nd Semi between Stef and Margaret was a heavy weight clash between two highly medalled campaigners. Stef has been both a Junior and Senior International. She won the Singles title in 2021 alongside the 2 woods title and was runner up in the Champion of Champions. In 2010 she won the Junior Pairs. This season she has qualified in the 2 woods, triples and fours. Margaret is also a former International. In 2017 she won the Senior Pairs and in 2018 the Senior fours. She has also been runner up in both events (2018 Pairs and 2021 Fours) and was runner up in the main pairs in 2018. This season she has qualified in the Senior Singles, Main Pairs, triples and Senior Fours.

Having given them both the big write up this was a fairly one sided affair with Stef getting away early and staying in front to win 21-7.

So the final and the conclusion of a great event. 2021 Champion Stef against 2002 Runner up Jayne. It was a quality battle on A1, streamed live for everyone to watch but in the end the current international had the edge and picked up her 2nd National Singles title 21-16.

Men’s Fours

So, the final. Would the title be won by Ashford’s conquerors Steve Hill, Harry Mycock, Dominic McVittie and Martin Spencer from Royal Mail Cart, Lincolnshire or Ladygate’s Conquerors Nick Wardle, Jonathan Green, Chris Moore and Joe Dawson. The game was very tight to start but slowly Lincolnshire began to edge away and they held that advantage until the finish to take the title 18-13 and end the chances of Leicestershire adding the fours to the pairs.

Ladies Senior Fours

Having battled so valiantly in the Singles Cathy returned to join her club mates Tina Cooper, Angie Cumine and Ann Halliday for their delayed 1st rd tie against Carole Baker, Joyce Webster, Brenda Whitehead and Jackie Devitt of Norfolk BC. The match would be on D4, next to the Middlesex Men so a good atmosphere was generated amongst the travelling supporters.

The momentum generated by Cathy’s success had clearly rubbed off on the whole team and they got out to a 10-2 lead at 5 ends. They had no intention of letting up and looked for an early finish, by 11 ends they were 17-5 up. A single and a double to Norfolk narrowed the gap to 9 but there were only 5 ends to go. Singles were traded over the next 2 ends to lead 18-9 before Norfolk scored a double and a single on the 16th and 17th ends. This was clearly not enough as it gave Middlesex a 6 shot lead going into the final end. The tightness of the heads Middlesex were building was not giving Norfolk the opportunity to score what they needed and so it proved on end 18 as another Norfolk single ended proceedings 18-13 in Middlesex’s favour.

In other 1st rd round games Littleport, Cambridgeshire went through 24-12 over Frampton on Severn, Gloucestershire, Potton, Bedfordshire hammered the patient Springhouse, Essex 25-6 and Alton Social, Hampshire went through 20-2 over Caversham, Berkshire.

Most of the 2nd rd games were played this afternoon but those that involved players still in the Singles are being held over till Wednesday morning. In those played Littleport went out 16-17 to Brimfield, Herefordshire, Anne Bernard’s Isle of Wight beat Poole Park, Dorset and Liskeard, Cornwall beat Market Bosworth, Leicestershire 18-15.

Men’s Senior Fours

Middlesex were represented by Kevin Dwyer, Brian Shepperd, Steve Skinner and Dave Clements of Ladygate BC. Their first round opponents on B3 were Phil Sturman, Dave Wilde, Neil Clarke and Mark Sandoz from Gilt Edge, Worcestershire. Ladygate made a great start and were 6-0 ahead quickly. By 8 ends they were 13-4 in front but Worcestershire were fighting back. 13-7 after 9, became 13-9 after 10. Ladygate got some momentum back and playing well held their four shot advantage at 14 ends, 19-15. 2 Singles to Ladygate and a double to Worcestershire meant Middlesex went into the last end 4 up. Then play got suspended as a spectator was taken ill by A green but when play resumed the break had not distracted the Ladygate four and they got the single to win the game 22-17. Great Effort.

Elsewhere in round 1 Joe festa and Phil Russell, the Senior Pairs Champions exited 1st rd. Gordon Charlton’s Sandwich side cruised into round 2, 22-9 and Camberley, Surrey won through against Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire.

So 2nd round at 1330 on D5. Middlesex would face Trevor Bateson, Normam Coad, Steve Rowse and Neil Stephens of Stenalee’s Cornwall. Norman won the Senior Singles title in 2017. They had knocked Gerrards Cross out 1st rd 17-13.

Cornwall made a strong start and Middlesex trailed 4-11 at 6 ends. The gap was out to 9 at 11 ends with Middlesex 6-15 down. Ladygate picked up a 4, then dropped a 6 and at 13 ends it was 10-21 and looking an uphill task. 2 ends later and 2 singles to Cornwall it was all over with Middlesex shaking hands at 10-23. A fine effort and a morning win they could look back on with pride.

Elsewhere in round 2 White Rock of Sussex beat Wellingborough 19-7, Plessey, Isle of Wight thumped Howard Watt’s Headington, Oxfordshire four but Gordon Charlton is out beaten 12-17 by Peter Ward’s Ringwood, Hampshire.

Men’s Junior Singles

Ok, Whilst the Seniors toddled off to find their slippers and a cup of Horlicks (I’ll regret that!!) it was time for the Juniors to come out to play. We already knew that Middlesex “A” Robbie Carter was through to round 2 as he had a walkover. What of Middlesex “B” Ollie Shearing of North Greenwich.

Well Ollie was drawn to play Josh Phillips of Redland Green, Gloucestershire on D4 which Cambridge Park had kindly spent the afternoon warming up for him.

Ollie started a little tentatively and found himself 2-9 down. He pulled a couple back, before Josh got another single. 3 shots each over 5 ends saw Ollie 7-13 down. Ollie was playing good bowls and was certainly not out of it and he pulled back to 11-13. Two singles to Josh before a double to Ollie and we were 13-15 going into the later stages. A Double then 2 singles seemed to swing the tie firmly to Josh who was scoring with his last bowl when Ollie was dominating heads. Would the pattern change with victory in site. Well it appeared so, 3 to Ollie was followed by a double 19 all. Who’s nerve would hold, well Ollies did, a further double and he was through 21-19. Dramatic stuff for the supporters who had stayed to watch.

Elsewhere in round 1 Dan Ellicott of Warwickshire, the defending champion got through 21-17, Oli Collins of Somerset won 21-12, Mack May from Cambridgeshire won 21-11, Isaac Jenner of Kent won 21-19 and Harry Mycock from the new fours champions went through 21-6.

Some 2nd rd ties, not those involving Middlesex, were also played this evening, fixtures really are all over the shop at times. In those Harry Mycock put out Isaac Jenner 21-12 and Lewis Rimmer of Heaton Hall, Lancs put out Sam Andrews of Baldock 21-16.

**Day 14 Preview**

Ladies Senior Fours

Ok, like the men’s event the ladies were only due to be playing their quarter finals at 1530 but three 2nd rd ties have to be completed before the quarter final line up is known.

The first sees Singles Semi Finalist Margaret Holden and her Hampshire team mates take on tring, Hertfordshire. The 2nd see’s beaten finalist Jayne Christie and her Potton teammates take on Bishop Monkton, Yorkshire and the 3rd is the one we are interested in.

On C3 at 0930 Cambridge Park take on Ann Andrews, Cheryl Walker, Nicki Kemble Young and Susan Griffiths from Supermarine, Wiltshire. They had a walkover in round 2 with Derbyshire unable to contest their tie. Nicki had also qualified in the main singles but she had been swamped 5-21 in the 1st rd.

Victory would see Cambridge Park have a quarter final against Herefordshire at 1530 on C6

Men’s Senior Fours

It’s quarter final time in the Senior Fours and the line up is as follows:-

Gus Whitwell, John Tyreman, Alan Crossman and Karl Tyreman (Brotton BC, Yorkshire) v Mike Cox, Ian Ball, John Crews and Martin Butchers (Plessey, Isle of Wight); Mike Stray, David Lewis, Roy Elkington, David Brammer (Branston, Lincolnshire) v Mark Brocklebank, Steve Van Wyk, Derrick Fulker, Peter Ward (Ringwood, Hampshire); Charles Wright, Graham Lavender, Alec Martin, Shaun Godfrey (White Rock, Sussex) v Robbie Ferguson, Brian Whittingham, Kevin Carter, Neil Smith (Westlecot, Wiltshire); Gary Clark, Martin Sampson, Simon Greenwood, David McCallum (Camberley, Surrey) v Trevor Bateson, Norman Coad, Steve Rowse, Neil Stephens (Stenalees, Cornwall).

It's a nice easy day for the Senior Fours as the quarters don’t start till 1530hrs and the Semi’s are Thursday!

Men’s Junior Singles

So two 2nd rd ties to preview.

Robbie Carter Jnr takes on Brad Cox of Knowle Bc, Somerset at 1230 on B4. Brad had won his first round tie against Harvey Whitmack of Olney, Bucks 21-14,

Ollie takes on Kieran Jaycock of Broadway BC, Buckinghamshire on A2 at the same time. Kieran got through his 1st rd tie 21-8 against Josh Hodgkinson of Church Worsop, Nottinghamshire.

3rd rd ties for both players are scheduled for 1600.

Ladies Junior Singles

Middlesex are not represented in this event which is a great shame. That said it promises to be some contest. Some of the players involved include Olivia Starr (Somerset), Rhianna Russell (Herts), Ruby Hill (Lincolnshire), Millie Tuck (Dorset), Rebecca Moorbey (Hunts), Chloe Brett (Hunts), Imogen Jenner (Kent), Katie Sturtridge (Cornwall), Billie Swift (Leicestershire), Yasmina Hasan (Surrey), Maddie Burgess (Worcestershire) and Emily Kernick (Warwickshire). No doubt the winner though will be someone not mentioned but equally worthy

More tomorrow