 

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

**Day 15 Review**

Ladies Senior Fours

The Semi finals were both close affairs with Dunholme St Giles BC, Lincolnshire edging out Middlesex’s conquerors Brimfield, Herefordshire 16-13 and even tighter Ryde Marina, Isle of Wight beating Alton Social, Hampshire 18-17 after an extra end.

The Islanders had reached the final with winning margins of 3, 5, 2, and 1. In the final though they played dominantly enough to win 17-7. So your Senior Four Champions for 2023 Eileen Hampshire, Carole Wolton, Sandra Aldridge and Anne Bernard from Ryde Marina BC.

Men’s Senior Fours

In the first Semi final Branston, Lincolnshire beat Plessey, Isle of Wight 20-16. In the 2nd Camberley, Surrey sneaked past Westlecot, Wiltshire 15-14 in a nerve shredding tight game.

The final itself was a total mismatch with Branston getting themselves into a right pickle and collapsing to a 5-33 defeat after 15 ends. Your 2023 Senior Fours Champions Gary Clark, Martin Sampson, Simon Greenwood and David McCallum from Camberley, Surrey.

Men’s Junior Singles

Quarter final time and a David v Goliath match up for our own Ollie Shearing as he took on Tom Holmes from Ross on Wye, Herefordshire, the current Captain of the Under 25 International team.

Early on Ollie led 4-3 and he was sticking with his vastly more experienced opponent. 7 all became 9 all. Tom then started to show why he is where he is Internationally and began to put Ollie under all sorts of pressure. Ollie though, was bowling well and making a great impression in front of the gathered crowds. Next update it was 10-15, then 10-17 to Tom. At 12-19 it was the ideal time for Ollie to launch one of his trademark fight backs. Indeed the Portal refreshed to show Ollie 18-19 behind. Could he stun Tom.

Well, actually, the Portal was not right and a live feed showed it was 14-20. Tom lay game with a side toucher but with his last bowl Ollie knocked it off to take another single. On the next end Ollie was again game down with one bowl to come and again he drew the shot resting Tom’s Bowl. This time though Tom showed his class as he rested Ollie’s bowl off to sit within a couple of inches of the jack and claim the single he needed to win 15-21.

It was a great effort from Ollie and if you’re going to lose you can only do so fighting and Tom will certainly know he was in a game. Good time to show what you are capable of when playing England’s Captain!

In the other quarter finals there was a great game on A3 with the lead constantly changing hands between Oli Collins (Ilminster, Somerset) and Callum Hodgson (Wigton, Cumbria). Eventually Oli, who is part of the current England Under 18 set up, got home 21-19. On A4 Mack May (St Neot’s, Cambridgeshire) beat Robbie Carter’s conqueror Kyle Leeks (Cornard, Suffolk) 21-10 and finally those watching the live stream were treated to a classic as Lewis Rimmer from Heaton Hall, Lancashire lost to George Hopper from Newdigate, Surrey 20-21.

Semi final time and Ollie’s performance was put into some context as Tom beat George 21-11 to progress to the final. Oli was even more ruthless dispatching the much fancied Mack 21-7.

Onto the final, would Tom underline his Captaincy status and take home the crown or would young rising star Oli scupper his dreams. Well Tom quickly moved 10-0 ahead but Oli recovered to make it 6-11 and it looked like a tight game would develop. Tom though put the hammer down and eventually won 21-11 to take the title back to Herefordshire.

Ladies Junior Singles

The ladies quarter finals went with form. Emily Kernick from Sherwood Park, Warwickshire beat Kat Bowman from Birstall, Leicestershire 21-13. Joanna Watt from Polegrove, Sussex beat Katie Jones from Polly, Nottinghamshire 21-10; Rebecca Moorbey from Brampton, Lincolnshire was shown as beating club colleague Chloe Brett 17-16 so not sure if they ran out of time, something else happened or the Portal has just not been updated. Finally Olivia Starr from Clevedon, Somerset beat Ruby Hill from Burton House, Lincolnshire.

Olivia is another member of the current under 25 squad and was runner up in the 2022 Junior Singles to Rebecca. Having also qualified this year in the Main singles, triples and fours she was primed for revenge. Sadly for Olivia, Rebecca wasn’t entertaining such thoughts and it was Rebecca who progressed to the final 21-12. The other Semi was equally one sided with Junior International Joanna unable to restrain a rampant Emily who progressed 21-11.

So, the final. Would Emily pick up the Junior Singles to go with the pairs or would Rebecca make it back to back Junior Singles titles. Well Emily romped out to an 11-0 lead and she never looked like letting it slip as she comfortably beat Rebecca 21-9 to lift the crown and take it the short distance to Sherwood Park in Warwickshire.

Men’s 2 Woods

Tom Smith from Paddington was handed a tricky first round tie on D2 against James Amery from Taunton Vivary, Somerset. The first update we got said that Tom was 5-13 down at 13 ends but Tom does not give up easily and he started to fight back. He had got back to within a couple of shots at 19 but still needed to win both the last ends to progress. Sadly for Middlesex and Tom, James got the shot he needed on end 20 to progress 11-14.

75 minutes earlier on E1 Ashley Tanner from Ashford had got his campaign under way with a tie against Northampton West End’s Will Walker. The first update we got from that tie was that Ashley had won 17-7!

Elsewhere in round 1 Harry Godwin of Appleyard, Kent and Andy Knapper of Tilehrst, Berkshire both won to set up a head to head in round 2. Darren Griffith from Shanklin, Isle of Wight won 17-4, Paul Fuller now of Herts BC lost 13-18 and Nathan Kitchen of Cheltenham, Gloucestershire beat Michael Cheeseman of Bromley, Kent.

Round 2 saw Ashley face Ian Henwood from Headington, Oxford. Ian had got through his opening game 13-12 against Alex Dytham of Branscombe Park, Dorset. Ashley opened up a nice early lead of 6-1 and maintained the 5 shot lead at 9 ends, 9-4. 10-6 up at 11 ends Ashley won the net 3 to open an 8 shot advantage with 7 ends to go. In the end only 3 more were needed as Ashley won 16-7.

Round 2 saw Harry Godwin topple Andy Knapper 16-9, Darren Griffith’s progressed on an extra end, James Amery won again 18-5, Peter Ward from Ringwood, Hampshire was rolling back the years beating Colin Southwood from St Neot’s Cambridgeshire 17-6 and Jonathan Green from Kingscroft, Leicestershire a beaten fours finalist got through 16-13.

Round 3 and Ashley faced rising England star Harry Godwin. Harry was runner up in the Junior Singles 2021, Junior Pairs winner 2018 and 2021 and lost in the final in 2021 to our own Alfie Hill and Glen Adams. Last year he had his best success to date when he won the Champion of Champions crown.

At 5 ends Ashley had started well and it was level 4-4. Ashley then nudged ahead and maintained a slender lead until Harry pulled level at 12 all after 18 ends. That left, effectively a 3 end shoot out. Harry got the shot on the first end and then held 2 and game on the next. Ashley put his wood up but he was under the line and Harry progressed 12-15. A great effort from Ashley, not just in pushing Godwin so close but in winning his earlier 2 games.

Round 3 brought the end for Darren Griffith, beaten 12-13 by Mark Bishop from Egham, Surrey. James Amery bade farewell also losing 13-16 to Peter Ward but Mark Nullmeyers of Romford, Essex is through winning 19-7 to end the day with an aggregate of 56-25, not a bad day!

Ladies 2 Woods

Hannah Hollis from Bush Hill Park was first up for Middlesex on D4 at 1015. Hannah was an indirect victim of the Ollie show going on over on A green and not much info was coming out of her game to start. The first update that came through was at 14 ends and Holly was 7-10 down. Word quickly came through that Holly was matching her opponent Lynne Papworth from Littleport, Cambridgeshire but she was not winning any of the tightly contested measures. On the 16th end Hannah did win a calliper measure to get within 2 but 2 singles to Lynne saw the gap back out to 9-13 at 18. Hannah got a single on the 19th but Lynne got the single she needed to close the game out 10-14 on the 20th end.

Elsewhere in round one Donna Grant from Oxford City and County lost 13-16, Sian Honnor from Appleyard, Kent cruised through 18-4, Stef Branfield the new singles champion won 16-10. Rebecca Wilgress got through 14-13 on an extra end, and Nicole Rogers beat Maddie Burgess 16-15. Anne Bernard, playing her 2 woods between the Senior fours Semi and final lost 13-16.

Into round 2 and for Middlesex it was the start for Dawn Slaughter from Cambridge Park. Dawn had received a first round bye and had to wait for news of who her opponent would be. She eventually learned it would be Lynn Orlando of Didcot, Berkshire who had earlier in the Championships been runner up in the fours. Dawn took an early lead and was ahead 4-2 at 4 ends. The next update we got was that Dawn was 2 up at 16 ends and that the game was on a knife edge. Indeed it went down to the last end all square at 14 all. Dawn drew about 2 feet away, Lynn was short with her first bowl. Dawn missed with her 2nd bowl and it was all down to the last bowl. Lynn wrecked on her own short wood and Dawn was through 15-14.

Elsewhere in round 2 Katherine Hawes-Watts won 19-5. Rachel Mackriell from Polegrove, Sussex put out Hannah’s conqueror Lynne 15-8. Laura Holden from Clevedon, Somerset won 18-5 but Nicole Rogers got scorched 6-16 by Morgan Merryweather from Island Bohemian, Berkshire.

Round 3 and Dawn was up against Linda Rose from Whitehaven, Cumbria. Linda had enjoyed two good wins to get to the 3rd rd beating Sue Allen of Swinton, Yorkshire 16-14 and Carol Dixon of New Lount, Leicestershire 13-12.

The first update received did not bring good news with Dawn 8-14 down at 16 ends. Soon after it was all over 10-17. Speaking after the game Dawn had said that, like many, she had not got to grips with the differences in pace of D green depending on which direction you were playing. “I knew they were 3 yards different but my brain was not talking to my arm!”

Stef Branfield was the high profile casualty of round 3 as she lost 13-17 to Shannon Maughan of Bletchley, Bucks. Katherine Hawes-Watt beat Rachel Mackriell on an extra end, Willgress beat Cresswell in the battle of the Rebecca’s and Rhianna Russell continued the defence of her title winning 15-13.

**Day 16 Preview**

Ladies 2 woods

So we play to a conclusion. In the quarter finals at 0930hrs Sian Honnor of Appleyard, Kent plays Shannon Maughan of Bletchley Town, Bucks. Katherine Hawes-Watts of Oxford City and County plays Rebecca Wilgress of Norfolk in what should be a great game. Laura Holden of Clevedon, Somerset plays Dawn’s conqueror Linda Rose from Whitehaven, Cumbria and finally young Rhianna Russell from Welwyn & District, Herts plays Susan Forster from Houghton Diary Lane BC, Durham.

The Semis are due off at 11 and the final at 1230

Men’s 2 Woods

The men’s quarter finalists, in theory, have the morning off but some of them are involved in the top club. The first at 1400 sees Harry Godwin, Appleyard, Kent take on Kyle Anderson from Royal Wootton Bassett, Wiltshire. Mark Bishopp of Egham, Surrey faces Mark Ireland of Avenue, Coventry in Warwickhsire. There’s an all Hampshire quarter final as Alan Geary of Boscombe Cliff takes on Peter Ward of Ringwood. Finally Stuart Holland, Spartan & Lakeside, Sussex against Mark Nullmeyers, Romford, Essex

The Semis are at 1530 with the final at 1700hrs.

Men’s Top Club

The Competition to determine the best club side in the Country is played out across 5 elements requiring 11 players per club. Each match consists of 2 woods, Singles, Pairs, Triples and Fours and you get 1 point per element, margin of victory is irrelevant. So, in theory if you have 4 world stars you could win both Singles and the pairs and go through each round 3-2 irrespective of the strength of your triples and fours.

The quarter final draw tomorrow sees at 0930hrs on B Green, Headington (Oxfordshire) play Darlington Railway Athletic (Durham), on C green Appleyard (Kent) face Reading (Berkshire), on D green Shaldon (Devon) face Sandy Conservative (Bedfordshire) and finally on E green Shanklin (Isle of Wight) face Brampton (Huntingdonshire.

Semi finals are Saturday.

Ladies Top Club

The Ladies version is slightly different in that there is no 2 woods so you require only 10 players. More importantly, perhaps, is that margin does matter. If each side wins 2 elements then the winner is decided on aggregate score.

The Ladies play their quarter finals at 1400hrs. On B green Oxford City and County (Oxfordshire) face Appleyard (Kent), on C green Kingscroft (Leicestershire) play Egham (Surrey), on D green Wigton (Cumbria) face Royston (Herts) and on E green Norfolk BC (Norfolk!) play Kings (Devon).

Again Semi Finals are Saturday.

More tomorrow