 

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

Hope you’re comfy, with 15 Comps to review or preview this could take a while!

**Day 6 Review**

Men’s Junior Pairs

After their great performance on Monday Robbie Carter Jnr (Poplar) and Ollie Shearing (North Greenwich) arrived for their 0930 2nd rd game in good spirits. Spirits heightened even further by the news that Ollie’s stolen woods had been recovered through the power of social media.

Their opponents on E1 were Luke Jameson and Matthew Bishop from Northumberland. The game started cautiously with the Middlesex lads 3-2 up after 4 ends but they won the next 3 ends to move 9-2 in front. At 10 ends they were 5 in front and that was still the position with 12 ends played. They scored 3 over the next 2 ends to have an 8 shot lead with 4 ends to play. Over the next 2 ends Northumberland pulled 4 back so with 2 to go there was 4 in it. Northumberland got another shot back so Middlesex were defending 3 going down the last end. Middlesex got into the position they needed and Northumberland went looking for results, they did not get them and Middlesex scored 3. Robbie and Ollie were through to the quarter finals 18-12. Fantastic.

Elsewhere the Buntings from Hert’s went out 11-22, the Tindall’s from Somerset progressed 21-11 and the Kent favourites won 24-13. Biggest winners were Ryan Brannan and Callum Hodgson from Cumbria who routed their Yorkshire opposition 29-4.

In the quarter finals Robbie and Ollie would face Mack May and Adam Barker from Cambridgeshire on C6. The Cambridge lads had enjoyed a 24-12 first round win before sneaking through round two 21-20. In 2018 Adam was the runner up in both the family Pairs and the Junior Pairs.

The tie got off to the worst start for the lads when they lost 6 on the first end. However, if you need to drop a count do it early with time to recover. They steadied themselves after the early blow but at 5 ends they trailed 4-11. 10 ends gone it was 6-14. Hard as they tried and as well as they played Robbie and ollie could not narrow the gap. 10 down with 2 to play they scored a 3 to take the game down the last end on which they scored a single to go down 12-18, the 6 shots from the first end!! Great effort from the lads though over 2 days and the experience will stand them in good stead for when the singles start.

In the other quarters Oli Collins and Liam White from Somerset beat Fynn Kyser and Bradley Freer from Leicestershire 19-10, Joseph Vanderpeer and Isaac Jenner from Kent beat Jamie and Joseph Tindall 23-15 and the Cumbrian lads got through against Dylan Railton and William Nye from Durham 17-16 in stark contrast to their earlier stroll.

Ladies Triples

The triples quarter finals did not disappoint. Pam Garden’s Surrey trio beat Allyson Flint from Hampshire 21-11 and even more comfortably Rebecca Smith’s Essex trio beat Cumbria’s Victoria Forster 24-8. The mighty Devon trio skipped by Harriett Steven’s beat Anne Bernard’s Isle of Wight Ladies 21-13 in a game that started early due to competition clashes. In the big tie Katherine Rednall’s Norfolk trio led early against Lorraine Kuhler’s Oxfordshire trio but Oxford recovered to progress 23-18 in a great game.

So onto the Semi’s. The big clash saw Donna Grant, Katherine Hawes-watts and Lorraine Kuhler from Oxford City and County face Sophie Tolchard, Nicole Rogers and Harriett Stevens from King’s Devon.

We profiled Oxford’s players on day 2 and if you thought their achievements were impressive this is Devon’s. Sophie Tolchard – Singles winner 2015 and 18, 2 woods 2019, Pairs 2016 and 22, Triples 2011, 16 and 21, Fours 2018, Junior Singles 2013, 15,16, Mixed Fours 2008, 2012, 2015 and family pairs with Sam in 2019. She is of course a Junior and Senior International and will be going to the world championships later this month. Nicole Rogers is a Junior International and runner up in the Junior Pairs 2012. Harriett Stevens is a Junior and Senior International and winner of the fours 2019, triples 21, pairs 22, Junior Pairs 2016 and Junior Singles 2019. Quite some list!!

Their semi ebbed and flowed as befitted a semi of such stature but eventually the Devon girls got home 20-18.

The second semi saw Hayley Kenny, Michelle Carlin and Rebecca Smith of Clockhouse, Essex face Rachel Gingell, Kelly Jenkins and Pam Garden of Egham Surrey.

The Essex Ladies won the fours in 2021. Halyey won the Junior Pairs in 2019 and Rebecca was a Junior International and has won the mixed pairs 2005, Champion of Champions 2008 and Junior Singles 2005. Kelly Jenkins was a Junior International and was runner up in the mixed fours 2005. Pam was a Senior International in 1995 following a stellar year in 1994 when she won the triples and was runner up in the Champion of Champions. In 2005 she won the National fours.

Again this tie moved back and forth but Surrey were always ahead and despite Essex pulling right back into the game Surrey got over the line 18-15

Men’s Pairs

There were two tremendous Pairs Semi Finals today that both went down to the wire. Steve Gunnell and Ed Morris of Essex edged out Dan Box and Andy Walters 14-13 whilst Nick Wardle and Joe Dawson of Leicestershire beat Aaron Johnson and Ian Catchpole of Norfolk 16-13.

In the final you couldn’t have wished to see a better game of quality bowls. Leicestershire took an early lead but Essex fought back to lead by 4. Leicestershire were not giving up though and fought back to level and take the final to an extra end. The tension must have been palpable but Nick Wardle and Joe Dawson got the shot and took the title 16-15. Nice for the Bowls England President, Deepak Tanna, from Leicestershire, to be able to present a title to players from his own County in his Presidential year.

Ladies Junior Pairs

There were some big wins in the last 16 of the Ladies Junior Pairs. Jemma Tuohy and Yasmina Hasan from Surrey won 29-5, Molly Feetham and Ruby Hill from Lincolnshire won 26-6 and Lily Mae Adams and Emily Kendrik from Warwickshire won 21-11. The big shock was Devon’s Ella Crouch and Nicole Rogers going out 5-19 but Nicole did have the triples to think about.

Into the quarters and Jemma and Yasmina were not messing about as they next thumped Hannah Watson and Amica Fordy from Yorkshire 23-5. Molly and Ruby got through by the skin of their teeth in a nail biting encounter with Billie Swift and Abby Woodward of Northants 13-12. The shock came with Georgina Fuszard and Zoe Pratley of Oxfordshire beating Chloe Brett and Rebecca Moorbey of Hunts 16-15. In the late game, again due to clashes, Lily Mae and Emily beat Izzie White and Maddie Burgess of Worcestershire 20-13

Men’s Champion of Champions

The big last 16 clash was between Harry Goodwin of Kent and Mark Royal of Suffolk, on the day Harry proved to strong winning 21-10. Buckinghamshire’s Tom McGuiness stormed through 21-4 but Stuart Evans from Devon lost 9-21. Yorkshire’s Vinnie O’Neil had to concede his tie and Wiltshire’s Tom Warner got a walkover into the quarters.

In those quarters Tom got a taste of his own medicine beaten 3-21 by Graham Ashby of Warwickshire. Phil Harvey from Northumberland beat Robert Dodds from Surrey 21-13. Tom Warner did not benefit from the session off as he lost 12-21 to Frazer Ham from Somerset. Finally Harry Goodwin got a shock when he was beaten 19-21 by Stuart Lowe of Essex.

Ladies Champion of Champions

In the last 16 Ella Baker of Suffolk got through 21-20 against Stacey Nalbandian of Taunton Deane, Somerset. Anne Bernard showed no ill effects from her triples defeat to thump Rebecca Wigfield 21-4. Yasmina Hasan, going great guns in the Junior Pairs, lost 18-21 to Jorja Jackson of Hunts, Izzie White of Worcestershire won 21-4 and Rhianna Russell of Herts 21-3

In the quarter finals Annalisa Durham from Carters Park, Lincolnshire beat Ella 21-13. Anne beat Jorja 21-19, Wendy King of Appleyard, Kent used all her masses of experience to beat youngster Izzie 21-12 and finally Donna Rock of Sherborne, Dorset overcame Rhianna 21-20 in a tight tight finish.

Ladies Pairs

Middlesex are not involved until tomorrow, see below. In the early games that took place tonight Denise Crews and Denise Butchers of Plessey, Isle of Wight narrowly lost 13-16. The shock result saw Hert’s Devon Cooper and Rachel Tremlett beaten 13-21 by Marie Whittle and Eva Dayes of South Cave Yorkshire. Past Bowls England President Hazel Marke and her partner Margaret Hodden from Hampshire coasted through 25-6.

**Day 7 Preview**

Ladies Pairs

Middlesex Ladies start their campaigns at 0930. Middx “A” are Sandra Wright and Pam Waller from Winchmore Hill. They start on C4 and play Anne Patten and Terrie Wombell of Dukeries, Nottinghamshire. Anne has also qualified in the Senior Pairs whilst Terrie was runner up in the National Triples in 2017.

Middx “B” are Elaine Putnam and Kerry Payne from Ashford. They open on C5, so it will be nice and easy for Middlesex fans to follow the action with the games being next to each other. They play Gill Bryceson and Sue Bird from Swanage in Dorset. Elaine and Kerry have already, of course, enjoyed one success at Leamington by winning their 1st rd fours game.

Both Pairs play again at 1330 if successful

Men’s Triples

At the unsociable time of 1730hrs the Men’s triples gets underway. Middlesex “A’ are Keith Cooper, Geoff Lawrence and Nick Edwards from Bounds Green. They start on E4 against Paul Maloney, Neil Walls and Mel Griffin from North Down, Devon.

Middlesex “B” are Dave Smith, Tim Beeden and Nick Waker of Broomfield BC. They face Joshua Finch, Rhys Morgan and Danny Cawthorne of Wootton Park, Norfolk on D5. Joshua played in the Junior Pairs.

Victory will see a fast turn round for the lads as they play again 0930 Thursday.

Men’s Junior Pairs

So at 0930 we have the Semi’s. Oli Collins and Liam White from Somerset will face Mack May and Adam Barker whilst in Semi 2 Joseph Vanderpeer and Isaac Jenner of Kent will face Ryan Brannan and Callum Hodgson of Cumbria.

Ollie Collins was a runner up in the Sutton Winson plate in 2019 and this year was part of the Under 18 International series. Joseph Vanderpeer and Isaac Jenner were both part of this season’s under 25 squad and in 2019 Joseph won the 2019 Sutton Winson Singles title. 6 of the 8 quarter finalists appeared in the White Rose last four earlier in the Championships and 4 of them will go on to feature in the Junior Singles.

The final will be at 1330hrs

Ladies Junior Pairs

More Semi Final action for 0930hrs. In the first Jemma Tuohy and Yasmina Hasan face Lily Mae Adams and Emily Kernick. In the second Molly Feetham and Ruby Hill play Georgina Fuszard and Zoe Pratley.

Jemma and Yasmina are of course on the hunt for their 2nd title of these Championships having won the fours. Lily Mae was part of the Under 18 International squad whilst Emily was in the under 25’s. Ruby Hill is an established under 25 international and was 2017 runner up in the Sutton Winson singles.

Men’s Champion of Champions

Semi final time at 0930hrs. In the first Phil Harvey from St Georges Dragon BC, Northumberland will take on Stuart Lowe from Springhouse BC, Essex. Phil has also qualified in the Triples and Fours this year.

In the second, Fraser Ham of Clevedon, Somerset will take on Graham Ashby of Nuneaton, Warwickshire. Fraser is in for a busy time having also qualified in the 2 woods, triples and fours. Graham is the defending Senior Pairs Champion and was runner up in the 2022 Senior Singles. He has also qualified in this year’s Senior Singles and Pairs, main pairs where he made the last 8 and family pairs where he made the last 16.

The final is scheduled for 1430hrs, green to be confirmed.

Ladies Champion of Champions

In the semis at 0930 Annalisa Dunham will play Anne Bernard and Wendy King will play Donna Rock.

Annalisa is both a Junior and Senior International. She won the Junior Pairs in 2008, the Junior Singles in 2011 and the main fours last year, this year she is in Singles, triples and fours. Anne won the Senior Singles in 2022 and this year is hopefully in comfortable accommodation as he is in Senior Pairs, Senior Fours, Main fours, triples and 2 woods.

Wendy is a Senior International and was runner up in the singles in 2003, the pairs in 2005 and fours 2018. She did win the triples in 2011 and the 2 woods in 2009. Her list of honours Indoors however is astronomical. This year Wendy may be better known as Lewis’s mum! Donna has also qualified in fours

Ladies Triples

The streamed final at 0930 will be between Devon and Surrey.

Mixed Pairs

Middlesex are represented in the mixed pairs by Paul Wilshire and Karen Ryan of West Ealing. Karen has already had a good week with a couple of games in the Ladies triples and she is back on Friday in the Senior Pairs. At 1330hrs on E3 they face Chris Moore and Sue Cooke of Wiltshire. Sue was runner up in the National Pairs 2017

As I am up at the triples tomorrow evening Day 7’s update may not arrive till day 8!!