 

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

**Day 7 Review**

Ladies Pairs

So the start of a long and hopefully successful road for the Middlesex Ladies in the Pairs Championship.

Middlesex “A” Elaine Putnum and Kerry Payne from Ashford started off on C5 against Gill Bryceson and Sue Bird from Swanage, Dorset. The Ashford ladies started cautiously and trailed 0-3 after 2 ends. Then they got going, 7-4 up by 5 ends they were 5 up at 8, 11-6. Dorset launched a fight back and by 14 ends it was all square at 13 all. Elaine and Kerry secured a good 4 and were 17-14 up after 16 ends. On the 17th end they were 4 down in the head when Kerry ditched the Jack, you could hear the Ashford roar back here in my office! That took the stuffing out of Dorset and they closed the game out victorious 19-15.

On the next rink, C4, Middlesex “B” were also starting out. Having both pairs next to each other made for a great atmosphere from the Supporters although the location of the rinks and the direction of play actually made it quite difficult to watch!

Sandra Wright and Pam Waller from Winchmore Hill started out against Anne Patten and Terrie Wombell of the Dukeries, Nottinghamshire. Again a slow start meant an early 6 shot deficit but the Ladies steadied themselves and fought back to trail 6-9 at 8 ends. By 10 ends Sandra and Pam were back level at 10-10 but then Nott’s kicked for home and got themselves a 5 shot lead at 13 ends. With 2 to play Nott’s led 17-13 but a stunning finish from the Winchmore Ladies saw them score 6 unanswered shots to win and go through 19-17.

Elsewhere in round 1 there was a massacre on E6 as Katie Sturtridge and Michelle Moore from Cornwall beat a Bucks pair 41-4. Emily Ferguson and Paige Dennis from Kent won through 31-8 and Carrie Williamson and Elaine Amery from Somerset won 27-8. Highest profile fallers were arguably Sian Hughes-Jones and Rebecca Wigfield of Northant’s but they were beaten by Hawes-Watts and Kuhler from Oxford.

In round 2 Elaine and Kerry were placed on D1 to face Moira Ellis and Clare Fletcher of Bolton BC, Lancashire. The Castrians had got through their 1st rd tie 23-12. Moira had also qualified in the triples when she was hammered 1st rd and Clare in the 2 woods

Updates from the site were limited with games going on all over but news came through that at 6 ends Elaine and Kerry had built up a nice 10-2 lead. At 14 ends they were 14-5 in front and they maintained that momentum to almost cruise through into the 3rd rd 20-13.

Sandra and Pam faced Carolyn Hart and Linda Murray of Sherborne, Dorset. The Dorset ladies had had the morning off as they played their 1st rd tie on Tuesday evening beating the Isle of Wight 16-13 in a tight game. Carolyn had also qualified in the fours where they had lost 1st rd to the eventual runners up.

This was a tight affair with Winchmore 4-3 up after 5 ends. 9 ends in they still led 8-6 but by 11 ends that had turned and Dorset were in front 8-10. A nice double and it was all square at 12 ends and then it all went quiet. Arriving at Leamington, hoping to see the last couple of ends I found the great news that Sandra and Pam had kicked on from that double and closed the game out 17-14.

Great stuff for the County both pairs into the 3rd rd.

Elsewhere in round 2 Helen Slimm and Kirsty Richards of Warwickshre lost 16-18 to Val Newton and Gay Allen from the Isle of Wight. Kacee Sultman and Jess Weir from Forest Hall, Northumberland stormed through 32-5 and there were big wins for Emily Ferguson and Paige Dennis plus Katherine Hawes Watts and Lorraine Kuhler. Past Bowls England President Hazel Marke went out.

Mixed Pairs

Paul Wilshire and Karen Ryan from West Ealing had had a fantastic run in the Competition to date making the National stages. In their last 16 tie they faced Chris Moore and Sue Cooke from Wiltshire on E3.

They made a confident start and led 11-6 at 8 ends but slowly Wiltshire started to real them in and it looked to be going down to a tight finish. 12-14 down at 14 ends they lost a 4 which looked to have done for them. Wiltshire picked up another single but Paul and Karen hit back with a great 5 on the penultimate end to trail by 2 playing the last. Sadly it was not to be and Wiltshire got a single and took the tie 17-20. Great effort from the West Ealing Pair who stated “they would be back”!

Elsewhere in the mixed last 16 Rebecca and Wayne Wilgress progressed 18-11, Maddie and Grant Burgess thumped the Gaskins from Bucks 22-5 and the new Pairs Champion Joe Dawson, with his partner Jamie Lea Marshall progressed 18-10. The Big upset was on E4 where past Champions Elaine Score and Ed Morris from Essex lost 11-14 to Pauline Tuckey and Peter Stinchcombe from Gloucestershire.

Men’s Triples

After such a great day for the Ladies the pressure was on the men to deliver as the started out on their triples paths and having driven up to watch the games I can say without doubt the games delivered.

There is a long post and video on the Bowls Middlesex Facebook page if you want the details.

Middx A, Keith Cooper, Geoff Lawrence and Nick Edwards from Bounds Green started slowly as they adjusted to the tricky lines of E green. 1-4 down at 5 ends they had fought their way into the lead 6-5 at 9 ends. 2 singles from their Devon Opponents from North Down BC had them 6-7 down but then they picked up 2 counts to lead 13-7 at 13 ends. On the next end Bounds Green were 3 down in the head but Nick played a blinder to draw shot. Devon closed the gap to 4 with 2 ends to go but on the 17th End Nick again drew the shot and they went into the last end 6 up. Down in the head Bounds Green drew shot and forced the Devon skip to fire. He hit the jack but only with sufficient force to bounce it up the green, not off and Bounds Green were through 16-11.

If that was fun Broomfield on D5 put their supporters through the mill. You could say that Dave Smith, Tim Beedon and Nik Waker got off to a slow start against their opposition from Wootton Park, Norfolk. 0-11 before they scored a shot on the 6th end. Broomfield then changed the jack length and started to pick off the singles. Back to 6-11 at 10 ends they scored a big 3 and it was game on. By 14 ends it was 12-12 and having lost an 11 shot lead the pressure seemed to be getting to the Norfolk front end who had lost their early dominance as Dave and Tim started to shine. Broomfield scored a single, then Norfolk countered with 2 of their own. Last end one down the Norfolk lead puts a bowl 6 inches in front of the jack. Broomfield are struggling to move it when the Norfolk skip decides to go for the kill and play the Broomfield 2nd bowl out. He only succeeds in turning the wood in and it’s all square, extra time please! Broomfield win the toss and put Norfolk in, the killer bowl comes with Tim’s first wood as he runs the jack into the ditch. Sitting 18 inches from the jack it seems impossible for Norfolk to draw shot as there is a good yard run off into the ditch and so it proves, Broomfield win in dramatic style 15-14.

Breathless stuff but well worth the trip up.

In other 1st rd ties some big names exit. Jamie Chestney’s Devon triple go down 17-19, BJ Byles and Berskhire lose 12-25 as does Robert Newman and his trio 19-22. Through though are Nick Brett’s Hunts trio who beat Tom McGuiness, Ed Morris of Essex, Harry Goodwin of Kent and a Lancashire trio who looked to have a combined age of 22

Men’s Champion of Champions

In this mornings Semi’s Phil Harvey of St Georges Dragon BC, Northumberland beat Stuart Lowe from Springhouse, Essex 21-14. Graham Ashby of Nuneaton, Warwickshire continued his fine form by beating Fraser Ham from Clevedon, Somerset 21-9. Graham has only conceded 23 shots across his 3 games in the Competition so far.

In the final Stuart continued his fine to form to take the title for Warwickshire winning 21-13 over Phil Harvey

Ladies Triples

There was no fairytale ending in the Ladies Triples for the Egham BC trio of Rachell Gingell, Kelly Jenkins and Pam Garden from Surrey. Having played superbly to make the final they were behind from the off and always chasing against the all powerful Devon trio of Sophie Tolchard, Nicole Rogers and Harriett Stevens from Kings. The final scoreline of 8-20 was probably harsh on Surrey but there can be no arguments about Devon deserving to be Champions.

Ladies Champion of Champions

The Semi’s saw Annalisa Dunham from Carter’s Park, Lincolnshire finally end the run of Anne Bernard from Ryde Marina, Isle of Wight 21-12. The other Semi saw something of a shock as Donna Rock from Sherborne, Dorset beat the vastly experienced Wendy King from Appleyard, Kent 21-14.

In the final it was a bit one sided as Annalisa showed her International experience and comfort on the big stage to cruise home 21-5.

Men’s Junior Pairs

This mornings Semi’s saw Middlesex’s conquerors Mack May and Adam Barker from Cambridgeshire take on Oli Collins and Liam White from Somerset. It was a tight game throughout but in the end the run of the Cambridgeshire lads came to an end 11-14. The second Semi saw the favourites from Kent Joseph Vanderpeer and Isaac Jenner toppled by the tightest of margins 14-15. There opponents Ryan Brannan and Callum Hodgson progress to the final.

The final started with a bang, Oli and Liam picking up a 6 on end 1 and a 7 on end 2. Perhaps nerves got to the Cumbrian Pair, perhaps the Somerset lads had the games of their young lives. Either way it never got any less one sided and at 14 ends it was all over 29-7 to Somerset.

Ladies junior Pairs

The high scoring run of Surrey’s Jemma Tuohy and Yasmina Hasan ended at the Semi final stage as they were beaten 11-20 by Lily-Mae Adams and Emily Kernick of Warwickshire. The second Semi went all the way with Molly Feetham and Ruby Hill of Lincolnshire pipping Georgina Fuszard and Zoe Pratley 16-15.

The final has been held over until 1300 on Thursday

Day 8 Preview

Middlesex Supporters are going to need swivel chairs and comfy shoes today!

Ladies Pairs

After such a great day yesterday it’s a shame that the two Middlesex Pairs now face each other in the 3nrd round.

Winchmore Hill’s Sandra Wright and Pam Waller will be looking for finals day revenge over Ashford’s Elaine Putnam and Kerry Payne on a game that has been annoyingly moved to B1. The good news Middlesex are guaranteed a quarter finalist.

Elsewhere in round 3 the big tie again involves Oxford City and County’s Katherine Hawes-Watts and Lorraine Kuhler as they take on Paige Dennis and Emily Ferguson of Appleyard, Kent. Katie Sturtridge and Michelle Moore of Stenalees, Cornwall take on Helen Carson and Kris Owen of Swabridgeworth, Herts.

Men’s Triples

While the Ladies are on B Green the Men are on C.

Dave, Tim and Nick from Broomfield take on Dylan Martin, Mark Yelland and Steve Horwood from Garston BC, Herts on C3. Dylan has also qualified in the 2 woods and Steve the Fours

Keith, Geoff and Nick from Bounds Green take on Chris Elliott, David Culmer and Shaun Wallis of Portslade BC, Sussex. The Sussex lads beat Bedfordshire 20-16 in round 1

Mixed Pairs

This competition is played to it’s conclusion today which means a potentially busy day for those involved.

The quarter final draw at 0930 sees Alan Morton and Erika White of Kent play Jamie Lee Marshhall and Joseph Dawon of Leicestershire; Maddie and Grant Burgess of Worcestershire play Linda Rose and ryan Price of Cumbria; Chris Moore and Sue Cooke from Wiltshire play Pauline Tuckey and Peter Stinchcombe of Gloucestershire and Janet Eames and Tony Lee from Nottinghamshire play Reebecca and Wayne Wilgree of Norfolk

The Semis are due off at 1300 with the final at 1600.

Mixed Fours

The last 16 of the National mixed fours starts at 1400hrs and there should be some great games.

On D5 Chloe Brett, Rebecca Moorbey, Lewis Baker and Nicky Brett of Hunts play Emily Ferguson, Josh Pounds, Lewis King and Wendy King of Appleyard, Kent. Rebecca Wilgress, Jackie Devitt, Ian Catchpole and Wayne Wilgress from Norfolk play on D3. The defending champions from Surrey face Lincolnshire on D1 and Katherine Hawes Watts and Lorraine Kuhler and joined by Andrew Docherty and Howard Watts as the Oxfordshire quartet also take on Surrey.

Now for those who have read this far it should be noted that many of those involved in the mixed fours are also in the Ladies Pairs, mixed Pairs and Men’s triples so there could be fixture amendments all over the shop!!

Winners go forward to the quarter finals on Friday morning.

Ladies Junior Pairs

The delayed final will be on A3 at 1300 and will see Lily Mae Adams and Emily Kernick of Warwickshire play Molly Feetham and Ruby Hill of Lincolnshire