

JUST CHAMPION

GARY ELLIS and MAUREEN PERKINS were crowned Champion of Champions as one of the highlights of the bowling calendar, regarded by many as the season finale, was played out at the famous Waterloo Hotel, Blackpool.



GARY ELLIS, winner of the John Smiths Classic at Cleckheaton, added to his 2004 success, where strangely enough he qualified on that occasion by winning the same competition, with victory over three-time champion, Graeme Wilson and current Fleetwood Bowling Festival winner.

Wilson held the edge over Ellis in the title stakes prior to the start of play, 3 titles to 1, but the gap is now closed to just one title separating the fine ambassadors of our great game as Ellis won a great final 21-15 in front of a bumper crowd on a gloriously sunny day.

MAUREEN PERKINS love of the Blackpool air continued as she won a thrilling final against Wendy Allen, 21-16, where the rain hardly stopped all day.

Maureen qualified by winning the Ladies Talbot Trophy played at the nearby Talbot Hotel the previous month and on her way to victory she ended the title hopes of two former winners.

247.tv were on hand to cover proceedings and whilst it was the men who got the lion share of air time when the programme was screened on Sky Sports the excellent production must have given our game a huge lift as the viewing figures of this, the Senior Individual Merit and the Senior County Championship final, were encouraging.

Next season's Champion of Champions will revert back to their more traditional date of the final weekend of September.

The dates for your diary are: Men - Saturday 29th September; Ladies - Sunday 30th September.

ELLIS CLOSES THE GAP IN CHAMPS TITLES

With 247.TV recording proceedings for broadcast on SKY TV it was fitting that the game's top two bowlers, Gary Ellis and Graeme Wilson, should meet in the final of this season's BCGBA Champion of Champions on the hottest October day of the year!

Both players had contrasting opening games, Wilson, easing past the Welsh champion Nicky Jones 21-6 while Ellis beat his Greater Manchester county colleague, and Merit winner, Gareth Gwilliam, 21-15 in which Ellis's first eight scoring ends were all two's.

The second round saw almost the same scores posted but in complete reverse. It was Ellis who handed in a 21-4 card with Derbyshire Merit winner, Nick Jellyman, not getting on the scorecard until Ellis was on 11. Wilson ended his Taylor Bowls protégé, Jack Hargreaves, winner of the June Isle of Man Festival, title hopes in a 21-15 score line. Hargreaves seeing his early 7-2 advantage turn into a 15-7 deficit as Wilson went on a thirteen break and eventual victory, though the Greater Manchester youngster fought back to 15-18.

Ellis faced his toughest test in the quarter-finals where South Yorkshire Merit winner, Richard Jackson, matched him end by end to a final 21-19 score line. With Ellis needing one for game he suddenly lost his length as Jackson's four-break brought the score to 20-19 only to then throw the jack off at the crucial next end with Ellis taking full advantage on the new mark.

Wilson was up against Scott Fisher, winner of the South Leeds Classic and part of the Yorkshire County Championship winning side at the beginning of September. Wilson was quickest off the mark to race into an early 7 nil lead with Fisher unable to recover those seven shots as Wilson won 21-14.

The first semi-final paired Ellis with the Hillcrest Complete Packaging Services champion, Wayne Ditchfield. Wayne had put in some solid performances throughout the day seeing off Glyn Cookson (21-20), Martin Gilpin (21-15) and Ross Dunkley (21-9). Ellis always held the upper hand but Wayne caught him on several occasions but couldn't avoid a 21-15 defeat.

Wilson's opponent was Paul Gamsby, five-time Warwick & Worcester Merit winner. Gamsby had earlier beaten Chris Goodhand and Steve Curbishley 21-14 and reached the semi-final with a convincing 21-9 success over the Isle of Man champion, John Kennish. But he had no answer to Wilson's long game and ended up on the wrong end of a 21-8 reversal.



The large crowd eagerly awaited the final and they were not to be disappointed.

Ellis opened with three consecutive two's as he got on his favoured East Stand edge and after several exchanges of the jack progressed to an impressive 15-8 lead.

But back came Wilson and at 12-15 down and counting a double Ellis struck and took both of Wilson's bowls off the green to go 16-12 in front.

This turned the game but still you could not write off Wilson. Singles were the order

of the day in six of the final seven ends but with Ellis outscoring his Yorkshire opponent the trophy was heading back to Whitefield for a second time.

BCGBA President, Barry Jennings, ended his year in office by making the presentations.

*** Gary and Graeme met the following day in the final of the Whaley Bridge Open - Graeme won 21-13.*



JOHN PARROTT



It is now almost twelve months since John Parrott agreed to become Patron of the British Crown Green Bowling Association.

Due to his heavy work commitments in Snooker, Horse Racing and Golf, John has been unable to attend any of our events during 2011 but Development Officer, Pat Crowther, is in the process of contacting his agent with a view to his presence at our events next season.

Pat has received several requests for John to attend other bowling events during 2011, all of which were passed on to his agent.

MANAGEMENT MEETING

Management Committee members are reminded that their next meeting takes place on **Saturday 19th November**.

As usual, the meeting will take place at Winnington Park, with a 9.30am start.

PROMOTION OF CONTESTS

With Open Competition organisers already advertising their competitions for next year, many of which are already full, it might be worth reminding Promoters of bowling contests, new or old, who invite entries from Clubs within their County of promotion that they must apply to their County Authority for affiliation and approval.

If a competition organiser is inviting or accepting entries from outside the County staging the event, after applying to their County Association for approval, they must then apply to the BCGBA and pay an Annual affiliation fee of £6.00 (to the BCGBA CEO) at least 28 days before the commencement of the contest.

On all entry forms and all forms of publicity relating to the event the words "Affiliated to and Approved by the British Crown Green Bowling Association", the maximum number of entries, the entry fee and the total prize money should be included and promoters accepting female entries must clearly indicate that it is a mixed competition. The application must state the name of the Club and venue where the contest is being held and such contests shall be deemed 'Open Contests'.

Please don't forget that no final stages or qualifying rounds of open competitions shall be contested on the date of and within the County Association where the BCGBA Senior Merit Finals are taking place and approval will not be granted at either County or BCGBA level for any contest which does not possess the Public Liability cover defined in Bye Law 5(b).

HITCHEN ON HIS WAY TO 200



If you thought Paul Gamsby's 144 appearances for Warwick & Worcester was impressive then what about Robert Hitchen.

The Yorkshire stalwart made his 151st appearance in his side's Crosfield Cup final victory in the BCGBA Senior County Championship.

From memory, Robert says he made his debut in 1976 in his side's home leg at Hillcrest Bowling Club. Wales were his first opponents but it wasn't a winning start as he lost on his debut.

But it wasn't long before he was off the mark and his record shows that he has won over two-thirds of his Senior County Championship (excluding Supplementary) games he has played in.

Amazingly, Robert has played in 19 Crosfield Cup Finals, being on the winning side on 10 occasions.

MAUREEN LIKES TO BE BESIDE THE SEASIDE

What a difference a day makes. With the men basking in the Blackpool sunshine the previous day, the ladies had to don their wet gear as the weather took a severe turn for the worse with constant rain during their Champion of Champions event, eventually coming to a stop, typically, just as the final was coming to an end.

The First Round was full of shocks with a number of the fancied runners – Julie Green, Lynsey Gorman, Julie Gardner, Maliza Herbert and Katrina Earl, champion in 1998 and 1999 (under her maiden name, Caley) - making early exits.

This still left former winners Pat Roscoe and Lesley Smith in the competition but they both came up against Maureen Perkins who was at the top of her game as she powered to her first title.

Maureen, winner of the Ladies Talbot Trophy the previous month, faced two gruelling 21-17 opening round victories to reach the last eight. She finally got away from the North Warwickshire champion, Jill Gibbon, in the First Round having peeled on no fewer than five occasions, the last being 17 across then had an anxious wait before securing her second round victory over the South Derbyshire champion, Linda Wheeldon.

Surprisingly, her easiest games came against the former winners. Pat Roscoe, winner of the Greater Manchester Merit and Champion of Champion in 2006 was on the wrong end of a 21-10 score line with double champion (1992 and 2001), Lesley Smith, faring slightly better as the Cheshire Merit winner scored 11.

In the final, it was looking like it was going to be another comprehensive victory as the Blackpool sea air, although wet, seemed to suit the Talbot winner as she led Wendy Allen, winner of the Mid Cheshire Merit, 15-2.

Wendy's battling skills once again came to the fore as she had done in previous rounds. Against Lynsey Gorman she ran out to game from 17-20, against Nicola Potts she turned a 16-11 deficit into 21-18 success and against Jodie Faulkner in her semi-final she fought back from 11-17 to win a 21-20 thriller.



Maureen Perkins receives the trophy from BCGLBA President, Isobel Jones

Alicia, the BCGLBA Junior champion for the second year running, claimed the scalp of favourite Katrina Earl in her opening game, 21-16, but then lost narrowly to former winner Pat Roscoe, 21-19, in her next game.

Jodie, the Warwickshire Merit winner, reached the semi-finals just two weeks after giving birth to a beautiful baby girl.

The British Crown Green Ladies Bowling Associations wish to extend their deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Marion Jones, former secretary of Greater Manchester Ladies, who sadly recently passed away.

But in the final she gradually fought her way back into the game winning eleven of the next thirteen ends to trail 17-16.

Unfortunately, her efforts were all in vain as her comeback was to end as Maureen scored a two at the next end and finished the game off with two singles to register a 21-16 score line.

Among some notable performances throughout the day was that of Alicia Ormsby and Jodie Foster.

..... and then interviewed for Sky TV



JOAN BOWS OUT ON A HIGH

After some 15 years as Yorkshire Ladies Team Manager, Joan Wrigley, ended her reign with victory in this season's Waterloo Cup. Joan will be relinquishing her post to become the next President of Yorkshire County Crown Green Bowling Association.

Joan was presented with an engraved vase, flowers and some bubbly by her Yorkshire colleagues at the end of the Waterloo Cup final as a token of their thanks for the service she has given over the years.



The vase is filled with bubbly



Joan is presented with her flowers and vase by Yorkshire president, Chris Hasselby

ISLANDERS WIN CENTENARY MIXED PAIRS

JENNY MOORE & JOHN KENNISH made their trip from the Isle of Man to Fulwood Conservative Club, Preston, to compete in the Centenary Mixed Pairs Championship, **sponsored by Pat & John Crowther**, worthwhile as they took the trophy back with them after a 21-13 victory over defending champions, Lynsey Gorman & Terry Glover.

They were worthy winners with some convincing performances although their first round opponents, former winner Debbie Farmer and her new pairs partner, Brian Barrass (South Yorkshire), pushed them all the way in their 21-19 victory. After that it was all plain sailing as they tore through the field with some ease.

Yorkshire's Helen & Andrew Gilroy scored 12 in the second round, the 2008 winners, Lynn Pritchatt & Mel Evans (Staffordshire) only managed 10 in the quarter-finals as did Debbie Talbot & Lee Schofield (South Yorkshire) in the semi-finals.

The Merseyside partnership of Lynsey Gorman & Terry Glover started their title defence with a 21-12 victory over Liz Buckley & Matthew Horton (North Midlands), then left Alex & Will Harrison (Lancashire) on 8 in the second round and made it through to the semi-finals at the expense of a 21-15 victory over Kate Wilson & Michael Knowles (North Lancs & Fylde). In the semi-finals they put paid to Dot Dwyer & Mick Connolly (Greater Manchester) title hopes, winning 21-16.



Immediate BCGBA Past President, Dr Henry Butler, made the presentation to Jenny and John

COLIN WINS 'BATTLE OF WATERLOO' IN PORTUGAL

Unfortunately, none of the BCGBA or BCGLBA Merit winners managed to lift the 2011 Oceanico Bowls Masters Portugal trophy, played at the excellent Amendoeira Golf Club, near Silves.

Whilst the UK was feeling the full force of the wind, rain and cold, Portugal experienced soaring heat with each day becoming hotter and the first cloud was spotted late on the final day during the semi-finals.

Spring Waterloo winner, Colin Beaman, took the spoils in a thrilling final with Autumn Waterloo winner, Simon Coupe, 21-20. Beaman ran out on Coupe from 14-20 after Coupe had done the same to Gary Ellis in the semi-finals, Ellis being the only ever winner of the competition's previous two year history.

The Merit winner for the men that went the furthest was Colin Kelly who flew the flag for the Isle of Man, bowing out to Beaman in the quarter-finals, 21-18. Maliza Herbert, winner of the BCGLBA Merit was top lady, falling at the last sixteen stage.

Ross Dunkley won the Taylor Bowls Trophy in another nail biting final, beating Jack Hargreaves 11-10 while Jack Dyson and Danny Ferris won the Random Pairs with another single chalk victory, 11-10 over Ross Dunkley & Laura Doherty.



Colin Beaman and Oceanico representative Michelle Collins



Taylor Bowl representative, Graeme Wilson, presented Ross Dunkley with the Taylor Bowls Trophy



Random Pairs winners
Jack Dyson (left) and Danny Ferris

Oceanico must be thanked for giving our merit winners the opportunity to compete in the Oceanico Bowls Masters Portugal and their support of crown green bowls over the last three years.

Sadly, 2011 will be the last time the Masters will be played at the Amendoeira Golf Club as the greens will be closing from 31st December 2011.

COACHING AGM

The Coaching Annual General Meeting takes place on Saturday 26th November, 10am and will be held at Winnington Park.

LADIES TO VOTE ON RULE CHANGES

The British Crown Green Ladies Bowling Association will be voting on the proposed changes to their rules at their Annual General Meeting on **Sunday 6th November**. The meeting gets underway at 10am at Winnington Park, Northwich.

Details of the Notices of Motion received are:

PROPOSED BY THE COMMITTEE

BYE-LAWS

Page 226 - Rule 4, line 7: After 'Development Officer' insert 'Welfare Officer'.

Page 228 - Rule 16d, line 2: Delete 'white'

Page 228 - Rule 16f: Add new sentence to read 'In pairs contests players will be dressed identically'.

SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Page 231 - Rule 1, line 4: After 'i.e. ladies who are' delete 'playing'

Page 234 - Rule 16, line 2: After 'name' insert ' of the player, their club and BCGBA Number, also'

PROPOSED BY WARWICKSHIRE

BYE-LAWS

PAGE 227 - Rule 9: That the county affiliation fee be increased to £75 to exclude the County Championship – (entry fee for this at present £25.) That this fee be reviewed each year should the balance sheet reflect a shortfall.

PROPOSED BY WIRRAL

SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Page 231 - Rule 1, line 3: Delete from 'Each home team' to 'letters when exchanged.' And replace with 'Home teams are not allowed to select home bowlers, i.e. ladies who are members of the Club selected to host the County match. If it is found that a home bowler has been played in a match, those games identified will be null and void and 21 – 0 awarded to the non-offending team'.

PROPOSED BY YORKSHIRE

SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Page 234 - Rule 16: "Cost of programmes to be £1."

Pages 231 to 235 - Add a new rule as follows: "The final of the Waterloo Cup shall be played between the losing semi-finalists of the County Championship."

Pages 231 to 235 - Add new rule as follows: "The finals of the County Championship and Waterloo Cup shall be played on home and away venues of the two competing counties."

JUNIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Page 235 - Rule 2, line 5: Replace "18" with "16".

PROPOSED BY COVENTRY & DISTRICT

SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Page 234 - Rule 17: Remove last sentence which presently reads: " A green can only be used by one County Association during any one season".

New Rule: All Counties may only select greens to which their Leagues are affiliated.

New Rule: Aggregate points for games won to be as follows - Home Win, 2 points; Away Win, 3 points

CHESHIRE - FOR DISCUSSION

I would like to put forward these points for discussion at the Ladies AGM.

Concerned some County Secretaries are forgetting or omitting these points, they were brought up at the Secretaries meeting last March.

1/ **ALL** Counties send in a list of County Players for the coming season to BCGLBA Secretary before the first County match, with all clubs players are playing members.

2/ Homesters as per 'Senior County Championship Rules' 1.....Home bowlers must be identified on team letters when exchanged.