



English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd

The National Governing Body for Indoor Level Green Bowls in England

NATIONAL INDOOR BOWLS FINALS AT BRISTOL DENNY CUP & YETTON TROPHY

(MEN'S & WOMEN'S INTER-CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS)

22/23 April, 2017

FREE RESULTS AND ROUND-UP SERVICE *(images may be available on request)*

This service is provided on behalf of the EIBA by David Rhys Jones, who plans to email bulletins and updates to media outlets, once or twice a day during the above championships. Results will be presented in a print-friendly form, but are also available on the EIBA website <www.EIBA.co.uk>. Comments, queries or requests for pictures should be sent to David...

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SATURDAY 22 April

TITAN TRAVEL DENNY CUP

KINGSTHORPE'S GREAT ESCAPE

Midlanders overhaul Devon's finest to lift the Denny Cup for the second time



The jubilant Kingsthorpe team that defeated Exonia in the Denny Cup final

Two highly-respected outdoor clubs with a long and proud history contested the final of the national men's indoor inter-club championship at Bristol today, when Kingsthorpe, who play in Northampton came out on top, 71-66, against Exeter-based Exonia, in a fairytale final.

"How on earth did we win that?" asked Kingsthorpe skip Andy Manton, while his captain Jason Bryan replied in a flash, "Because of our team spirit. Quite simply, we never give up!"

To be honest, it was difficult to explain exactly how Kingsthorpe came back from a deficit of 25 shots at the halfway stage. "We were dead and buried," chuckled their former England international Mick Sharpe afterwards. "But Andy's brilliant shot that produced six shots inspired us."

He was referring to a precision double take-out that Manton, a current England star achieved on the 10th end, when his rink trailed Ian Bond's quartet, 15-1. It may not have seemed likely at the time, but shot turned out to be the game-changer, and was the turning point in a crazy final.

Visibly boosted, Kingsthorpe, who were champions in 2003, upped their game, but they still had a mountain to climb, and it wasn't until the last few ends that they really got on top. Veteran Sharpe played a perfect shot to claim five on the 16th end, and Vernon Gearey added a six on the 17th. The Exonia players were shell-shocked, but there was no escaping the fact that Kingsthorpe had won by five shots, 71-66, with Gearey returning a 27-19 card, and Sharpe, who had trailed Nathan Farrant's rink throughout, edging home by one shot, 17-16.

Connor Cinato was held to a 12-12 draw by the rink skipped by Exonia captain, and, although he lost to Ian Bond, Manton, who was 1-15 adrift after nine ends, was proud to return a highly respectable 15-19 scorecard.

The Kingsthorpe club was formed 121 years ago, in 1896; Exonia came into being in 1901: but it took both of them a long time before they embraced the indoor game. Exonia opened their indoor green in Union Road in Exeter in 1970, and Kingsthorpe following suit in Whitehills twenty years later.

It was a bitter pill for the Devon team to swallow, but Exonia, who were runners up in this event in 1974 and 2007, were made to suffer the same fate - in dramatic fashion - in 2017.

When they arrived this morning to contest the semi finals, Folkestone and Exonia were both hoping to break new ground by winning the Denny Cup for the first time, while Kingsthorpe's only previous success was in 2003. However, it was Cumbria who seemed to have the pedigree, having lifted the coveted trophy eight times between 1996 and 2015.

On paper, the semi finals should have been closely contested affairs - and the one between Cumbria and Exonia certainly started that way, the scores being tied at 20-20 after five ends - but Kingsthorpe, in devastating form, led Folkestone, 32-9 after six ends.

For Exonia, the rink skipped by Kevin Phillips did well to turn 2-9 deficit into an 18-13 lead, but dropped five shots over the last two ends for an 18-18 tie. Ian Bond's rink scored 15 shots to two against Stuart Airey's quartet on the way to a 19-10 victory.

Nathan Farrant did well to beat Ian Gallagher's rink, 13-11, but the real damage was done on Rink 4, where Kieran Daniels, Steve Parker, Simon Broom and James Hampton defeated a Cumbrian rink skipped by former Commonwealth Games silver medallist Steve Farish, 18-10.

Ironically, Folkestone found some rhythm in the other semi final, though a 24-11 defeat for the rink skipped by Marc McCaughan at the hands of Andy Manton's quartet proved too much for the other three rinks to cover.

For Kingsthorpe, Connor Cinato defeated Shaun McCaughan, 17-13, Vernon Gearey beat Gordon Charlton by one, 12-11, and Mick Sharpe fought out an honourable 13-13 draw with Pat Briscoe. On the surface it may look like two runaway wins, but in reality they were two very different matches.

RESULTS...

National Men's Inter-club championship (Titan Travel Denny Cup)

Semi finals:-

Exonia bt Cumbria 68-49 - Rink scores (Exonia names first):

James Heard, Dave Veal, Lee Phillips, Kevin Phillips 18, Eddie Murray, Stuart Irwin, Gavin Taylor, Martyn Rice 18;

Paul Stone, Richard Barton, Matt Bass, Ian Bond 19, Graeme Vipond, Steven Green, Ben Sherwen, Stuart Airey 10;

Dan Holloway, John Hooper, Bill Davis, Nathan Farrant 13, Paul Barlow, John Wills, Mark Nanson, Ian Gallagher 11;

Kieran Daniels, Steve Parker, Simon Broom, James Hampton 18, Kevin Harrison, Paul Wallace, John Baird, Steve Farish 10.

Kingsthorpe bt Folkestone 66-48 - Rink scores (Kingsthorpe names first):

Chris Wright, Martin Gearey, Jim McKee, Connor Cinato 17, Jason Avery, Paul Brett, Jeff Vane, Shaun McCaughan 13

Neil Rolfe, David Walker, Ben Sharpe, Andy Manton 24, George Mitchell, Dave Merrells, Arthur & Marc McCaughan 11;

Jason Bryan, Peter Morris, Mark Tompkins, Mick Sharpe 13, Roger Howse, Clive Bruce, Colin Elson, Pat Briscoe 13;

Mick Spear, Darren Lewis, Ray Castle, Vernon Gearey 12, Mick Fisher, Chris Knapp, David Holmes, Gordon Charlton 11.

Final:- Kingsthorpe bt Exonia 71-66 - Rink scores (Kingsthorpe names first):

Chris Wright, Martin Gearey, Jim McKee, Connor Cinato 12, James Heard, Dave Veal, Lee Phillips, Kevin Phillips 12;

Neil Rolfe, David Walker, Ben Sharpe, Andy Manton 15, Paul Stone, Richard Barton, Matt Bass, Ian Bond 19; Jason Bryan, Peter Morris, Mark Tompkins, Mick Sharpe 17, Dan Holloway, John Hooper, Bill Davis, Nathan Farrant 16;

Mick Spear, Darren Lewis, Ray Castle, Vernon Gearey 27, Kieran Daniels, Steve Parker, Simon Broom, James Hampton 19.

SCHEDULE - Sunday, 23 April

1000hrs - National women's inter-club championship (Yetton Trophy) - Semi finals

North Wilts v Spalding; Arun v St Neots

1500hrs - Yetton Trophy - Final

North Wilts or Spalding v Arun or St Neots

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