

# **P&D 2022 Champion of Champions Week End**

The 2022 P&D Outdoor Season closed with the running of the Annual P&D Champion of Champions over the weekend of September 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> at Leigh Park BC.

- The early rounds were played on the Saturday, with the Semi-Finals and Final being played on the Sunday.

The Competition is open to all the winners of P&D Affiliated Clubs Men's 4Wood Singles Championships.

## **Saturday**

Before the matches began, a minutes silence was held to respect the passing away of Queen Elizabeth, who was the patron of Bowls England.

17 Club Champions registered on Saturday morning with the draw taking place at 9.30am. With 17 entrants, it meant that one bowler could have the bad luck of having to play 3 matches during the day if he kept on winning.

It transpired that that fate befell Emsworth's Paul Forster.

- In the Preliminary Round, Paul faced Forton's David Thorn.
  - Although David got off to a fast start, picking up 6shots on the 1<sup>st</sup> two ends, Paul found his line and length on a tricky rink so that by the completion of the 9th end, the scores were level at 10all.
  - From that point, Paul capitalised on his mastering of the rink to score heavily over the next 7ends to run out the winner, 21-12.
- In the 1<sup>st</sup> Round, Paul then took on Cosham Park's Brian Buist.
  - Again, Paul started slowly, so that he was 11-3down after 7ends.
  - He pulled himself together and prevented Brian scoring another shot to run out the winner 21-11 after 18ends.
- In the Qtr-Finals, Paul met up with Purbrook Heath's Mark Berry, who has been making a name for himself in County Singles competitions.
  - This time, Paul got off to an excellent start, so that after 11ends he was 14-5 up.
  - At that point, Mark found his range to get back into the match so that after 16ends, the scores were level at 15all.
  - The match was over 2ends later as Mark scored a triple on each of them to run out the winner 21-15

Mark had reached the Qtr-Finals by finally getting the better of Denmead's Mike Wright 21-18 after 26ends. It was a match that swung to and fro. Mark must have thought he was in charge when he was 18-11 up, but Mike fought back to be 17-18 down after 23ends. They swapped singles on the next 2ends before Mark got a double on the 26<sup>th</sup> to take the match.

Highlights of the 1<sup>st</sup> round were the matches between Gas Social's William Chan & Milton Park's Bryan Cherry and Rowner's Graeme Coles & Priory's Steve Farnden, with both matches being long, tough battles that swung to and fro:

- The match between William and Bryan began with William starting well.
  - After 9ends, he was 7shots up, leading 10-3
  - Bryan then picked up 5shots over the next 3ends to reduce the deficit to 3shots.
  - William then extended his lead to 8shots after 22ends to be "On the Hill", 20-12 up.
  - Bryan fought back again by picking up 7shots on the next ends to be 20-19 down after 25ends.
  - The next end William kept his nerve to pick up the single required to take the match 21-19.
- The other game between Graeme & Steve was another battle royal.
  - Graeme moved into a 7shot lead after 7ends – 8-1.
  - Steve then took control of the next 8ends to score 12shots without reply to lead 13-8.
  - The next 8ends saw fortunes keep changing hands, so that Graeme was 18-16 up.
  - A double on the 24<sup>th</sup> end saw him needing 1more shot to take the match as he was 20-16 up.
  - However, he then, fatally, lost his line, which allowed Steve to score 5shots on the next ends to take the match 21-20

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In the other 1<sup>st</sup> Round matches:

- Fareham's Danny Russell beat Crofton's Andrew Watts 21-7
- Alexandra's Jamie Cooke beat Waterlooville's Richard Allen 21-10
- Pembroke Gardens' David Brookes (Last year's Champion) beat Southsea Waverley's Ollie Mew 21-13
- Leigh Park's Carter Blandford beat Bridgemy's Keith Vaughan 21-11

The other three Quarter-Final games, although tight, had similar score-lines to the earlier game:

- In the match between Jamie Cooke & Danny Russell, Jamie was much to steady for Danny, taking a 9shot lead after 10ends and, despite dropping a 4 on the 11<sup>th</sup>, he kept a stranglehold on Danny to run out the winner by 21-11 after 21ends.
- The match between William Chan & Steve Farnden was a tight battle over the 1<sup>st</sup> half, with Steve being 13-11 up after 12ends. Steve then scored 8shots over the next 5ends to run out the winner 21-12 after 17ends.
- The match between David Brookes & Carter Blandford saw David surge into a 13-3 lead after 8ends. Carter then scored 7shots on the next 2ends to give himself some hope, but that was squashed as David struck back to pick up 7shots over the next 4ends to lead 20-10. A 3 for Carter on the next only delayed the inevitable, as David got the single he needed on the 16<sup>th</sup> end to take the match 21-13.

All of which meant that Purbrook Heath's Mark Berry, Alexandra's Jamie Cooke, Priory's Steve Farnden and Pembroke Gardens' David Brookes would be returning on Sunday to continue their quest to become the P&D's 2022 Champion of Champions.

## **Sunday**

Having won through their Quarter Finals, the four bowlers involved returned to Leigh Park for the Semi-Finals.

Before play began, having paid respects to his mother the previous day, all present paid best wishes to our new King, Charles III, in the time honoured manner of giving him three cheers.

The Semi-Finalists were also faced with the challenge of finding the line of the rinks as they had been moved onto new marks from the previous day.

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Semi was between Jamie Cooke and Mark Berry.
  - These two know each other well, as they had met up in last year's County 2Wood & 4Wood Singles – winning 1 each.
  - In this match, Jamie was much the steadier, maintaining his form from the previous day.
  - Although Mark pulled out some excellent pressure bowls, Jamie was always in charge, running out the winner 21-12.
- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Semi was between defending Champion David Brookes and Steve Farnden.
  - The 1<sup>st</sup> 12ends were very tight, the score being tied at 9all.
  - David then picked up 4shots on the next 2ends, a lead he kept until he won the last 3ends to run out the winner 21-15.

The Final, although the result doesn't seem it, was a tight game from start to finish.

- Jamie's 4 on the 6<sup>th</sup> end giving him the edge on the match.
- He maintained his superiority over David by limiting his losses to single shots, whilst he himself was scoring in Pairs.
- The match ended with Jamie removing David's nearest bowl to pick up a 4 and win the match 21-9 and take the Title of P&D Champion of Champions 2022.