

# **P&D 2022 Competition Finals**

The closing of the 2022 P&D Outdoor Season commences with the Semi-Finals & Finals of the P&D Men & Mixed Competitions.

The Semi-Finals were split over two weekends:

- Most of the Mixed Semi-Finals were held at Leigh Park BC on the weekend of July 30/31.
- All bar one of the Men's Semi-Finals were held at Fareham BC over the Bank Holiday Weekend.

The Finals themselves were held at Leigh Park BC on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. They were going to be a busy time for a number of players who had got through in two events.

## **Morning Session**

The morning session had the Finals of:

- The Men's Over 60's Singles, Triples and Fours Competitions
- The Mixed Competition's Ivan Robb Memorial Trophy.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Trophy to be decided was the **Over 60's Singles**, which saw Fareham's Charlie Bailey, hoping to retain the trophy he won last year, taking on Rowner's Phil Pender. Both players would also be on the green later in other Finals, so were hoping the game wouldn't be a lengthy one.

- Although Charlie picked up a 2 on the 1<sup>st</sup> end, it was Phil who picked up the line better as he won the next 5ends to lead 7-2.
- Phil continued to maintain the pressure so that he was 16-8 in front after 15ends.
- The next 7ends saw Charlie making Phil have to fight hard to win the game as each of the ends took excellent bowls from both players to win a single shot.
- However, by the 22<sup>nd</sup> end, Phil was "on the hill", being 20-11 in front and held match bowl which Charlie needed to disturb with his final wood to take the match further. His just failed to do so, leaving Phil the winner by 21shots to 11.

In the Semi's at Fareham, Phil had a long struggle to get the better of Lee-on-the-Solent's Martin Ellis. At the start of the match, it took Phil 4ends to find the correct lines, by which time he was 7-1 down. He then fought back to level the scores after 10ends. Each of the next 11ends saw only a single shot being scored by either player, at which point Phil was 16-13 ahead. The next end proved to be the telling point as Phil picked up a 4 and then won the match on the next end to prevail 21-13. Meantime Charlie was taking on Purbrook Heath's Mark Berry, and made his local knowledge pay off to great effect to win 21-12 after 17ends.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Trophy decided was the **Ivan Robb Memorial Trophy**. It's named after the long serving and well respected former League Secretary who passed away in 2013. This Competition is open to the Secretaries and Treasurers of all P&D Affiliated Clubs.

The 2022 Final was between Lee-on-the-Solent's Kim Francis-Ellis, making her second appearance in the Final, and Gosport's Simon Batcheler.

- Kim started quickly, picking up a 4 on the 1<sup>st</sup> end but then lost her length and line so that by the 14<sup>th</sup> end, Simon was 15-6 up, a lead he kept up to the conclusion of the 21<sup>st</sup> end, where he was still 9 in front, 19-10.
- At that point, Kim suddenly found her length and line again so that, 4ends later, she was only 1down at 18-19.
- The next end saw Simon remembering what to do as he picked up a double to win 21-18.

In the Semi's, Simon had an easy 21-4 win over Portchester's Debbie Sowrey, making his grass experience tell, whilst Kim beat Denmead's Brian Goldacre 21-13.

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The next Trophy to be decided was the **Fours**, which was between Alexandra's Keith Jones, George Madgwick, Carl Baggott & Don Lilley and Southsea Waverley's Dave Watts, Phil Drewball, Barry Starks & John Biggs.

The game was a great example of a "Game of Two Halves".

- After 8ends, the Waverley team were 11shots up, 14-3.
- The next end saw the Alex team pick up a shot and this proved to be the turning point of the game.
- Alex immediately put up a long jack and proceeded to control the game to such an extent that the Waverley team scored just one further shot, whilst the Alex team picked up 19, to finish the winners by 23-15.

In the Semi's, the Alex team had defeated Star & Crescent's Steve Greenwood, Paul Huntley, Steve Sprake & Alan New 27-13, whilst Waverley beat Priory's Steve Smith, Andy Chadwick, Adrian Snook & Roly Bloy 20-14.

The last Trophy decided in the morning's session was the **Triples**, which was between Milton Park's Bryan Cherry, Tony Hall & Dave Brown and Purbrook Heath's John Burrowes, Nathan Hanley & Lewis Voysey.

The Milton trio had just got back from their trip to the National Finals at Royal Leamington Spa, where they had the pleasure of playing their only match on the same rink that was used for the Commonwealth Games televised finals. (They did confirm that the rink in question was as it appeared on TV, totally one-handed but was faster than it looked. They are also willing to sign any autographs people may want!!)

The final was the longest game of the session and was the 3<sup>rd</sup> that had swings in fortunes.

- By the completion of the 10<sup>th</sup> end, Milton were 16-5 up.
- The next 6ends saw a complete turnaround as the Purbrook trio scored 12shots to lead 17-16 with 2ends to go.
- Those last 2ends saw the Milton team knuckle down again to pick up pick up 5shots to win 21-17.

In the Semi's, Milton Park defeated Lee-on-the Solent's Martin Ellis, George Doig & Peter Gentry 18-10, whilst Purbrook Heath beat Fareham's Cyril Friend, Bob Scottow & Tony Cole 20-15.

The last wood of the Final deserves its own piece:

- Milton were holding 3shots
- Having tried and failed twice in trailing the jack, with his and the games last bowl, Lewis Voysey decided that strong-arm tactics were required and fired.
- This resulted in scattering woods left, right and centre.
- When the dust had settled, not only had he removed the three Milton scoring bowls, he had also taken out Purbrook's two nearest bowls.
- Looking around, the nearest bowls to the jack were another three Milton woods, which were harmlessly lying well short of the head but now counted!!

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## **Afternoon Session**

The afternoon session had the Finals of:

- The Men's Singles and Pairs Competitions;
- The Mixed Pairs and Triples Competitions.

These Finals had Phil Pinder, Charlie Bailey, Don Lilley, Phil Drewball, Bryan Cherry, Nathan Hanley & Lewis Voysey all playing again. All of whose success proves the nightmare the organisers feared in not only setting up the sessions but ensuring the bowlers involved DIDN'T play on the same rinks they had in the morning.

The 1st Trophy to be decided was the **Men's Singles**, which saw Rowner's Phil Pinder back bowling, this time taking on Priory's Martin Eggleton.

- This was a tense affair with neither bowler establishing a large lead, so that by the start of the 16<sup>th</sup> end, Phil led by 3shots, 13-10.
- At that point, Phil took a stranglehold on the game by picking up 7shots over the next 4ends to be 20-10 up.
- Martin did manage a 2 on the next end but that only delayed the inevitable as Phil picked up the 1shot he required on the next end to win 21-12

In the Semi's, Phil beat Clubmate Bill Ross 21-12, while Martin had a long struggle over 25ends before he got the better of Pembroke Garden's Dave Brookes 21-18.

Shortly after the completion of the Singles game, the 2nd Trophy was decided in the **Men's Pairs**. This was between Southsea Waverley's Phil Drewball & Danny Smith and Fareham's Keith Young & Charlie Bailey. Danny Smith had just returned from the National Finals where, partnering Gary Starks, he had agonisingly lost in the Men's Pairs Qtr-Finals by just one shot!

- The Waverley duo got off to a strong start, winning the first 7ends to take an 8-0 lead.
- Although the Fareham Pair won the 8<sup>th</sup> end, Phil & Danny kept up the pressure, winning 7 of the next 8ends, by which time they were 21-3 in front.
- At that point, Keith & Charlie conceded the game.

In the Semi's, Phil had to bring in a substitute as Danny was at Leamington. He called on the services of ex-England bowler Matt Marchant to help him beat Alexandra's Keith Jones & Don Lilley 18-15, whilst the Fareham duo beat Clubmates Bob Scottow & Tony Cole 23-13.

The next Trophy to be decided was the **Mixed Pairs**, which was between Lesley Somersgill & Don Lilley and Bryan Cherry & Alex Tymon.

- A strong start by Lesley & Don saw them lead 6-0 after 3 ends, which Bryan & Alex reduced to 6-4 by the end of the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- The next 8ends were shared so that Lesley & Don led by 1shot 12-11 after 13ends.
- The next 6ends saw them extend their lead so that after the 19<sup>th</sup> end they were 11shots in front, 22-12.
- Although Bryan & Alex won the last 2ends, they could only pick up 4shots in the process, so the match ended with Lesley & Don winning by 6shots, 22-11.

In the Semi's, Lesley & Don beat Kim Francis-Ellis & Martin Ellis 16-13, whilst Bryan & Alex defeated Mary & Phil Pinder 24-12.

The last Trophy decided on the day was the **Mixed Triples**, which was between Sue Brightman, Nathan Hanley & Lewis Voysey and the family trio of Jim, Sue and son Jamie Ward.

- Over the 1<sup>st</sup> 5ends, the Wards made use of home green knowledge to build a 7-4 lead.
- However, the 7<sup>th</sup> end saw them implode as they dropped a 7, from which they never recovered.
- The match ended on the 17<sup>th</sup> end with Sue, Nathan & Lewis 24-12 ahead.

In the Semi's, the Voysey trio defeated Joan & Rob Dawkins and Graham Hillier 25-7, whilst the Wards defeated Alec Deller, Kim Francis-Ellis and Martin Ellis 18-14.

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The July Mixed Semi-Finals weekend also saw the Final of the **Mixed Fours** being played.

This was between Tracy & Andy Hibberd, Kath Patrick and Adrian Snook who took on Wendy & Ian Homeyard, Mandy Wilde and substitute Simon Batcheler (regular team-member Jason Wilde having personal matters to attend to).

- This was a tight affair throughout, with the Snook ensemble often forging ahead only to be reeled-back by the Homeyard quartet.
- By the 21<sup>st</sup> end, the Snook team held a 3shot lead but again the Homeyard side fought back to take a 3 and force the extra end.
- With 1bowl left to be bowled in that extra end, the Snook's held at least 1 shot if not more, which meant that Ian Homeyard HAD to trail the jack to have any chance of winning the match.
- This he did and it looked like the jack would nestle in a group of Homeyard bowls, only for it to travel just that bit further to what had looked, before he bowled, like an innocuous heavy wood that had been delivered earlier by Tracy Hibberd, thereby winning the match for her team!!

In the morning Semi's, the Snook team had beaten the Betty & Brian Horn and Jane & Bryan Franklin quartet 19-10, whilst the Homeyard quartet were given a walk-over as their opponents couldn't raise a team!

Whilst those Seven who reached multiple finals are to be applauded (even if they had the organisers burning the midnight oil in setting up the Semi-Finals and Finals schedules) spare a thought for those who reached multiple Semi-Finals but didn't reach a Final – none more so than Martin Ellis, who reached 4 Semi's but got no further – reminds me of Tottenham Hotspur!!