



December 2023

The Extra End

The Newsletter of the ESMBA



Christmas Wishes from the ESMBA



On behalf of the ESMBA Management Committee, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our Members, Sponsors and Partners a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Barry Hedges
ESMBA Chairman



England in British Isles Success

The 2023 British Isles Championships were held in Prestatyn over the weekend of 17/18th November.

England were to face hosts Wales, Scotland and Ireland in the Individuals and Team Events

The Premier team achieved 2nd place, again, winning 4 out of 6 games. They have increased their lead on Wales and Scotland. In 2022, England won both games against Wales by a total of 9 shots. This year it was increased to 43 shots. In 2022, the combined win against Scotland was by 14 shots. This year it was increased to 45 shots. Unfortunately, the team lost both games against Ireland. In the first game, a more attacking approach was used which didn't work. Ireland are perfectly capable of playing very aggressive bowls and were successful doing so. The game was lost by 36 shots.

The second game on Sunday, using a better mixture of 'draw' and 'drive' tactics yielded a much improved performance. Winning on 3 out of 4 rinks but losing, overall, by 2 shots.



The A team maintained their 2nd place in the championships having won 4 of their 6 matches. They slipped up on the first day, against Wales, but then won against Ireland to leave themselves in a great position after the first round of matches. On the second day, wins against Scotland and Wales made the last game against Ireland a 'winner takes all' affair. Unfortunately, they couldn't repeat their success against from the previous day. Losing by 14 shots and finishing as runners up. Overall, they played at a consistently high level and left the championship knowing that they are definitely capable of winning the A Team title!

In the Premier individual championships, it was fantastic to see our players victorious in 3 of the 4 disciplines. With the Triple drawing their final game to finish 2nd. Had they won that game they would have won the Championship.

Alex Kley was unbeaten throughout to claim his second British Isles Singles title and become the first player ever to achieve this in successive years.

Saul Featherstone & Ryan Knight won the pairs after remaining undefeated. They drew their first game against Scotland, beat Ireland in their 2nd and then Ryan had a brilliant last bowl in the final match against Wales to rescue the position and win by 1 shot.





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News!

Does your club or county have any news they would like featured in the newsletter? Please contact James Scoins – james@esmba.co.uk if you would like to contribute an article or pictures to a future edition of 'The Extra End'

Mailing List

If you, or someone you know wishes to join the Newsletter Mailing list; please contact James Scoins – james@esmba.co.uk to be added.



Adam Easthope, Jon Pitcher, Craig Strong & Ross Dunkley won the fours after beating Wales and Scotland in their first 2 games. Other results meant they could afford to lose their last game against Ireland, by quite a few shots, and still win the title. They duly managed a very close game and were successful in clinching the title.

England was also successful in the A Team Singles with Glenn Harvey victorious - repeating his success from last year and winning his second British Isles A Singles title. Having won his first 2 games, he was in the position of being able to lose his last game by a few shots and still win overall. He duly managed a tight game, losing narrowly, but taking the title. Back to back successes!



Greater Manchester proud of its newest umpire



Annabelle who represents Greater Manchester in the England Under 21 Academy has passed her umpiring qualifications alongside her Dad Dave. Annabelle who is 13 is the ESMBA's youngest umpire and may possibly be the youngest ever to qualify. Greater Manchester are proud of Annabelle's achievement.



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Development Material

Did you know that the ESMBA has a range of Development Literature, from Posters to informative leaflets?

ENGLISH SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

play Short Mat Bowls



For more information about Short Mat Bowls and the ESMBA please take a leaflet today

To find out more about Short Mat Bowls in your area please follow the QR Code or email enquiries@esmbsa.co.uk



These are available from the Development Officer or can be picked up at any ESMBA Fixtures or Events.

Digital Copies are available on the ESMBA Website – Club Support.



Development Support from the ESMBA and Bowls Development Alliance

Access to the ESMBA Grant and Loan Schemes

Our Personal Accident Insurance covers all members for Short Mat Bowls related activities

Support from the National Governing Body for Short Mat Bowls

Access to our network of Coach/Bowls Qualified Coaches

What does my Membership get me?

Opportunities to play at all levels from Club, to International

Low Annual Registration Fee, which includes the Personal Accident Cover

Specialist Civil Liability and Equipment Insurance Scheme for Clubs, Leagues and Associations

Many more benefits being added, join and become part of your national association

Our Website: www.esmbsa.co.uk enquiries@esmbsa.co.uk



Please contact James Scoins, ESMBA Development Officer: james@esmbsa.co.uk if you would like some for your Club or County.

Dorset in Top Team Challenge



2023 ICC Champions Dorset featured in the British Isles Top Team Challenge on the weekend of 2/3rd December, at Heatherton World of Adventure, Tenby, Pembrokeshire. This was Dorsets first foray into the Top Team Challenge, where they would face Irish Boomer Cup Winners; North West Zone and Welsh Champions Pembrokeshire. The format for the weekend was 4 sessions of individuals (2 sessions against each team) and 2 sessions of Rinks (1 session against each team)

Dorset was first on the mat against Pembrokeshire playing Individuals and Pembrokeshire dominated with Dorset only winning 2 mats out of 8. The mats were slow and unresponsive, a far cry from Dorsets quicker and reactive Wygreen Lights. Dorsets Trio of Sam Havery (s) Rob Martin and Hazel Thomas pulled out all the stops for a 16-11 win over K Symmonds, J Stiles and M Taylor, whilst Mark Whites four of Rich Nicholl, Chris Hall and Tony Carr held firm for a 10-6 win over G Gladstone, M Davies, G Davies and K Hudson-Brown

Dorset then faced North West Zone, and only managed 1 win out of the 8 mats, with Pairs duo James Scoins (s) and Brian Baker winning comfortably over James Caskey and Ricky Cochrane.



Individuals continued with Dorset facing Pembrokeshire for a second time, and taking 9 points to Pembrokeshires 7, and a total of 92 shots to 90. Victories for Scoins & Baker over Hudson & Jones and Emily Thomas & Callum Beale helped cement the session win.

Dorset then made their Rinks debut, facing North West, with Dorset winning 3 mats, but due to 2 big losses losing the bonus 6 points to North West resulting in a 9-3 loss.



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ICC News

The latest ICC Results and Tables are now available on the ESMBA Website

Premier:

DORSET lead Group 1

HEREFORDSHIRE lead Group 2

KENT lead Group 3

HAMPSHIRE lead Group 4

CHESHIRE lead Group 5

NORFOLK lead Group 6

A Team

DEVON lead Group 1

WEST MIDLANDS lead Group 2

KENT lead Group 3

The following morning, Dorset faced an uphill struggle if they were to achieve second place and went straight into rinks against Pembrokeshire who had just played North West Zone. Dorset were close on all mats and but came off with 1.5 points and 40 shots to Pembrokeshires 10.5 points and 62 shots. Jack Knights four of Rob Martin, Andy Hall and Dave Redfearn achieving a 6-6 draw against Alan Evans and Alex Kleys four of Michael Hall, Mark Riley and Brian Baker emerging victorious 10-6 over Michael Johns's four.



Following lunch Dorset faced North West in their final individual round, North West were only a few points ahead of Pembrokeshire at this point whilst Dorset were fighting for their pride. Dorset went fighting into their last session and tied the session with North West, denying them an opportunity to gain the overall win before the last session. Thomas (s) and Beale went in fighting and racking up a big win over Jordan Rankins pair.

James Scoins missed his last shot against James Caskey with the game resulting in a draw and Jack Knights Four managed a draw after being 8-0 down early in the game.

June Balbinksi ran North Wests Brian Rankin close, losing on the last bowl of the game. Brian is famed for playing the Bowl to win the Irish Boomer Cup in March – a shot that was streamed on Facebook.

Mark Whites four pulled off a fine win over Jamie Cochranes four, whilst Irish international Adam Rankin beat Alex Kley 14-9 in the singles.

Sam Harveys triple of Rob Martin and Andy Hall came out with a narrow victory over R McCullan, whilst Michael Halls triple lost 6-12 to legendary British Isles Champion Ryan O'Neil



Dorsets result against North West left for an intense showdown between hosts Pembrokeshire and North West Zone. Pembrokeshire needed 6 out of 8 mats in the individuals to win the Title, however North West dug deep and pulled out fantastic wins taking 5 mats to Pembrokeshires 3.

