

## PERFORMANCES BY GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMPETITORS AT 2024 LEAMINGTON

Those with friends and colleagues representing Gloucestershire, or their clubs, in the 2024 English National Finals at Victoria Park, Leamington Spa, may well have been following results at the Finals very closely on Bowls England's Competition Website {<https://www.bowlsenglandcomps.com/season/5/2> }. However, other Gloucestershire colleagues might be interested in a summary of the 2024 outcomes, particularly in respect of our County

representatives, both in National Championship Competitions (those run by the County in the early rounds) and also in the National Competitions (those run by Bowls England throughout).

It is great to be able to tell you that Gloucestershire had two Competition Winners this year – that is, 2024 English National Champions – and, amazingly, it happened in effectively the same competition for both men and women, and on the same day (Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August) ! In the morning, in the National Men's Senior Pairs, Ken Sawyer & Tim Bloomer of Fairford BC triumphed as National winners. After fairly comfortable progress to the

Final, that then proved to be a real battle, with Ken and Tim finding the scores – against opponents from the very strong county of Essex – 21-21, after the 18<sup>th</sup> end drew to a nerve-wracking conclusion.

In the extra end, the Gloucestershire skip, Tim, had excruciatingly to deal with a jack that had just been planted in the ditch by his opposite number, but with the striking bowl coming to rest around two yards from the ditch. Tim held his nerve and carefully drew just past into that two yard gap. I think the photograph makes it clear how ecstatic he was at that moment ! Congratulations indeed to both Ken and Tim.





In the corresponding National Women's Senior Pairs, Kingswood & Hanham BC pair, Val Molton and Lindsay Collin, suffered no such tight finish. In their journey to the Final, Val and Lindsay in no instance ever needed to complete a game, their opponents conceding in all cases, and then in the evening Final, our heroines serenely pulled away yet again, against two former England players from Oxfordshire, allowing their adversaries only 6 scoring shots in 16 ends, winning 17-6 ! A day to remember for our two Bristol ladies and fantastically well done to them also !



However, the excellent performances did not end there. We had Semi-Finalists in three more competitions : Iona Bird of Barnwood BC played a great series of games, including beating a current international in the Quarter-Final, then losing narrowly indeed in a very competitive Semi-Final against the eventual winner, from neighbouring Worcestershire. Brilliantly done, Iona, and such hard luck at the end.

Two of Cheltenham BC's star group of young bowlers, teenage brothers Dylan and Finley Williamson, played some amazing bowling in their journey through the National Men's Junior Pairs, particularly in their second and third games, where they won by large margins. Their Semi-Final was a battle royale, closer than the score suggests, as - with all their bowls played - they held the shots on the penultimate end to reduce the gap to a single shot, before a somewhat fortuitous strike by an admittedly very effective opposing skip, moved the jack to within inches of the side rink limit for two shots lying yards away.

The third Semi-Finalist was Lindsay Collin of Kingswood & Hanham BC, again, she playing well on a very good run to the National Women's Senior Singles Semi-Final, where she continued to draw closely, but found an opponent from Somerset – the eventual winner - who just loved moving the jack around with her third and fourth bowls ! All in the game, of course !

One thing very noticeable for all the competitors mentioned, and others, was the great support from clubmates and from other Gloucestershire colleagues, so I'd personally like to say a big thank-you to all those 'stars' who turned up day after day ! Not to mention the 'hot' Whatsapp reporting lines from Leamington to all parts of our fine county.

There was inevitably plenty more great Gloucestershire bowling that did not get its just desserts, from teams and players who did not make it all the way, so well done to all our competitors, eventual winners or not. I know you'll enjoy always the pleasure of qualifying and playing at the home of English Bowls, in front of the Leamington crowds.

## OUTCOMES FOR INDIVIDUAL GLOUCESTERSHIRE COMPETITORS AT 2024 LEAMINGTON

### Men's National Championships

Men's Singles Championship	Lee Williamson (Cheltenham) James Fitzgerald (Cheltenham)	Preliminary Round 2nd Round
Men's Pairs Championship	Graham Phillips & Rich Browett (Barnwood) Joe Hardwick & John Smallwood (Olveston)	Preliminary Round 1st Round
Men's Triples Championship	Graham Starbuck, Clive Drake & Colin Hudson (Kingswood & Hanham) Calvin Schlaepfer, Mark Powell & Josh Phillips (Redland Green)	Preliminary Round 1 <sup>st</sup> Round
Men's Fours Championship	Tim Bloomer, Ken Sawyer, Jim Luce, Tom Luce (Fairford) Lawrence Oliver, Ian Curtis, Ken Tudor & Alan Tregoning (Olveston)	1 <sup>st</sup> Round Preliminary Round
Men's Junior Singles Championship	Dylan Williamson (Cheltenham) Louie Hodges (Cheltenham)	Preliminary Round Preliminary Round
Men's Junior Pairs Championship	Dylan Williamson & Finley Williamson (Cheltenham)	SEMI-FINALS
Men's Senior Fours Championship	Lawrence Oliver, Ken Tudor, Alan Tregoning & Ian Gauld (Olveston)	1 <sup>st</sup> Round
Men's Two Bowl Singles Championship	Chris Roach (Barnwood) Joe Hardwick (Olveston)	1 <sup>st</sup> Round 1 <sup>st</sup> Round

### Women's National Championships

Women's Singles Championship	Marilyn Wear (Frampton-on-Severn) Iona Bird (Barnwood)	Preliminary Round SEMI-FINALS
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Women's Pairs Championship	Chris Prosser & Joy Sheward (Barnwood)	Preliminary Round
	Val Heathcote & Jacky Howes (Frampton-on-Severn)	Preliminary Round
Women's Triples	Debbie Hurford, Margaret Powell & Darylle Pearce (Victory Park)	Preliminary Round
	Pat Thorley, Liz Robinson, & Julia Stannard (Nailsworth Mills)	2 <sup>nd</sup> Round
Women's Fours Championship	Paula Taylor, Barbara Clarke, Barbara Whitehead & Rachel Hughes (Gloucester City)	1 <sup>st</sup> Round
	Ange Niblett, Chris Norris, Viv Allies & Jan Williams (Cam Mills)	Preliminary Round
Women's Junior Singles Championship	Rhiannon Howells (Gloucester City)	Preliminary Round
	Emily Burke (Coleford)	Preliminary Round
Women's Junior Pairs Championship	Hattie Burke & Erin Burke (Coleford)	Preliminary Round
Women's Senior Fours Championship	Gill Hall, Fran Stockford, Jan Lee Cooper & Sue Latham (Olveston)	2nd Round
Women's Two Bowl Singles Championship	Rachel Hughes (Gloucester City)	Preliminary Round
	Pat Thorley (Nailsworth)	1st Round
<b>Men's Individual Competitions</b>		
Men's Senior Singles (Over 55)	David Heath (Cheltenham)	Preliminary Rd
Men's Senior Pairs (Over 55)	Ken Sawyer & Tim Bloomer (Fairford )	WINNERS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONS
Men's Champion of Champions	Mike Prosser (Barnwood)	Preliminary Rd
<b>Women's Individual Competitions</b>		
Women's Senior Singles (Over 55)	Lindsay Collin (Kingswood & Hanham)	SEMI-FINALS
Women's Senior Pairs (Over 55)	Val Molton & Lindsay Collin (Kingswood & Hanham)	WINNERS AND NATIONAL CHAMPIONS
Women's Champion of Champions	<i>[Lindsay Collin (Kingswood &amp; Hanham) lost at Regional Final stage]</i>	

