

GLOUCESTERSHIRE BOWLS ASSOCIATION – MEN'S DIVISION

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Press Release

Two Gloucestershire Juniors in National Finals

On Sunday 1 July, Frampton on Severn hosted the one-day competition for the County Juniors (Under 25s). With the preliminary rounds out of the way, the four quarter-finals started in mid-morning. On rink one, Steve Crowcombe (Cam Mills) and Joshua Phillips (Ardagh) had a to-and-fro game. Steve established an eight-shot lead by the tenth end only for Joshua to catch up and level the scores at 15 all by the fifteenth end. Steve, however, found a bit extra and won three of the next four ends to finish the game 21 – 17 ahead.

Rink two saw Alex White (Cheltenham, Suffolk Square) against Jack Grover of Cirencester. This proved a very tight game to begin with, the scores being level at 12 all after the thirteenth end. Jack won the next four ends, giving him a 17 – 12 lead and whilst Alex started to pull back, Jack rallied and managed to hold on to this five-shot lead to win 21 – 16.

Rink three attracted much attention as this featured fellow club members and partners in the pairs – Ben Coldrick and Nathan Kitchen of Cheltenham, Suffolk Square. This set probably the best two juniors in the County against each other and was expected to be a tight game. That proved to be the case. After five ends, 4 shots each; thirteen ends, 9 each; seventeen ends, 14 shots each; twenty-three ends and 19 shots each. The singles' game is played as first to 21 wins, so things were indeed as tight as expected. On the twenty-fourth end, Nathan managed to find that slight edge and picked up two shots to give him the win, 21 – 19.

Rink four had Jack Daniels (Bishops Cleeve) against Tom Luce (Fairford). Jack established an early lead and then used this as a base to secure his position and extend the lead, finishing the game 21 – 9 ahead.

In the first semi-final in the afternoon, Nathan Kitchen was matched against Jack Daniels. Whilst Jack was consistently drawing his woods close to the jack, Nathan had that bit more experience from his times as an England player and had the skill to regularly play running woods to remove Jack's shots or promote his own woods as well as drawing to the jack. He finished the game 21 – 11 ahead.

The other semi-final, Steve Crowcombe against Jack Grover, was a much closer affair for the first twelve ends, with Steve being only a single shot ahead at that point. Steve won the next four ends to establish a six-shot lead. Jack pulled three-shots back but Steve stretched his lead to win 21 -13.

Much thanks must go to Frampton Bowls Club and its Secretary (Tom Griffiths) who organised a team of members to provide bacon-butties and other food plus drinks for all before and during the game, and markers for the games themselves. Also, to the green-keepers who were cutting the green early in the morning to produce an excellent playing surface.

Both Steve Crowcombe (Cam Mills) and Nathan Kitchen (Cheltenham, Suffolk Square) will therefore be representing the County at the national finals in Royal Leamington Spa on Saturday 18th August before they face each other in the County finals on Saturday 1 September.

For further information, contact County Secretary - David Skeats at glosbowlssec@gmail.com (01452 741229)