

WORTHING PAVILION BOWLING CLUB

SPECIAL FINALS REPORT

The sun shone on Worthing Pavilion's finals weekend, which started with the tussle for the mixed pairs title, pitting Sue Gubbins and John Frew against Keith Wadhams and Helen Jones. The match seemed to take a decisive turn on the eighth end, when Gubbins and Frew scored five points to take a 10-5 lead. Wadhams and Jones responded but were still trailing 13-8 after 12 ends. They then won four consecutive ends to go 14-13 up with two to play. Victory appeared to be in sight until Gubbins and Frew claimed four points from the penultimate end. That proved a blow from which Wadhams and Jones could not recover, although their point on the last end made the result 17-15.

The winning combination of Gubbins and Frew were back in action after a quick lunch, this time teaming up with Paul Ward in the Ted Cripps open trebles final. They proved far too strong for their opponents, Colin Davey, Simon Warr and Graham Ives, who found themselves 11-0 down after five ends. A brief rally reduced the deficit

by two but five points from the eighth end gave the runaway leaders a 16-2 advantage they never looked likely to relinquish. The match ended after 14 ends with Gubbins, Ward and skip Frew winning 25-5.

In the final of the 100 Up tournament, being played by men for the first time at Pavilion, Alex Paine gained an early lead and eventually defeated Simon Warr 100-80 to take the inaugural title. Paine's second final on Saturday was in the Open Handicap Aussie pairs, partnering Simon Davey against Kevin Batchelor and Jonathan Gauntlett, who were given an eight-shot start. The lower-ranked pair doggedly defended their advantage, mainly thanks to claiming four points on the seventh end to go 16-5 up. Paine and Davey gradually reduced the deficit until, after 17 of the 18 ends, they were trailing by only three points, 21-18. With all but one of the 16 woods played in the last end, an inspired firing shot by Paine left them holding three and with hopes of a fourth. But Batchelor's last bowl, a tit-for-tat firing shot, cut his rivals'

score to only one point and secured a thrilling 21-19 victory.

Mark Strong met Ken Chapman for the honour of being declared men's singles champion. In a high-quality final Strong seized the lead in the early stages and soon went 10-2 up. His impressive accuracy helped him maintain an advantage of at least eight points until Chapman skilfully battled back into contention. He won the 15th end to make the score 19-12 but any hopes of denying his rival a third singles title in five years were extinguished when Strong scored two points on the next end to reach the 21 needed for victory. Father and son Colin and Simon Davey contested the men's singles handicap, with Colin given a two-shot start in the race for 21 points. In a seesaw final, Simon soon took the lead but his father hit back and scored four on one end to go 14-11 up. Simon thwarted Colin on the next end by firing the wood into the ditch but could not close the gap. With 21 points needed for victory, the 19th end proved decisive. Simon

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was 19-14 down and holding three until Colin took the jack with his last wood to gain a six-shot turnaround and win 22-14.

In another handicap competition, the Warwick Davis Plate, Jim Walmsley was given two shots against Simon Warr, who was contesting his third final of the weekend and still seeking a first victory. Walmsley went 7-1 up and, although Warr closed the gap to 9-7, his opponent then pulled away to win 21-13.

Warr's record in the finals was played three, lost three but he was not to be denied in the men's championship pairs. With Arthur White lead and Warr the skip, they faced Andy Clarke and skip James Brennan. White and Warr led 6-1 after five ends before their rivals won three in a row to go 7-6 up. The match swung decisively on the 12th and 13th ends, when White and Warr scored a total of eight. Victory was conceded after 17 ends with the winners 18-12 ahead.

Bennie Bennett, club president, umpired all the finals with a light touch,

while competition secretary Jamie Dunk was applauded for ensuring the season's tournaments ran smoothly.

By: Simon Ritter

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