

THE BLACKBALL FLYER

The newsletter for Oxfordshire's Blackball County Pool team—all the latest news and events

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SELSEY SINGLES

Oxfordshire Ladies also achieved their best performance to date in the singles. Nicki Hoskins beat several England players in her run to the semi-final, where she eventually succumbed to previous European and World Champion Sarah Trudgett.



For the men, Tom Williams had the strongest showing, reaching the last 16 in the mens event. Five youth players got to the last 16, with Andrew Gee and Rhys Freemire going one step further to reach the youth quarter finals.

Ben Scott also had success in the flyer, reaching the quarter-finals, knocking out former world champion Andy Lucas 2-0 in the last 16!

NATIONAL CHAMPIONS!!!



Oxfordshire's Men's 'A' and Seniors' (40+) County Pool Teams produced stunning performances to win their respective events at the EBPF National County Pool Championships in Selsey, West Sussex this month. **Oxfordshire 'A' led by John Kinsey won the main event for the first time**, beating defending champions and tournament favourites East London 14-8 in a pulsating Final.

Oxfordshire got off to a sticky start in the group stage, narrowly losing 14-12 to local rivals West Berkshire in their opening match. In the second match, despite trailing Middlesex 7-4, Oxfordshire fought back to win 14-11 with several excellent individual performances. South Derbyshire took on an Oxfordshire side now firing on all cylinders and were quickly dispatched 14-8.

With an unusual air of confidence flowing through the team, Oxfordshire began the match with East London in devastating style, quickly firing Oxford to a 6-1 lead. They never recovered and an amazing 14-5 victory ensued. A final victory 14-11 over Bristol ensured that

Oxford topped their group, and would face Derbyshire in the semi-final.

The Semi-Final was a very tense affair but the vocal support for Oxfordshire was a huge influence in the result. It was all square at 13-13 with only Pete Machonochie left playing. After a tense 45 minute safety battle, and following a foul from his opponent, he held his nerve to clinch a 14-13 victory.

The Final was a rematch against East London. If there was any extra pressure on Oxfordshire it did not show as they opened up a 3-0 lead. This time however, East London responded winning seven of the next eight frames to lead 7-4, but a gallant Oxford fought back to level the scores once again and unforced errors started to creep into East London's play. Oxford were unstoppable now, and stormed to 13-8, and all eyes turned to Jamey Street who won the final frame with another calm clearance. A fantastic performance backed up by terrific support from the rest of the Oxfordshire squads.

Special mention for Andrew Gee, who played for both the Youth A and the Mens A throughout the weekend, mak-

ing a significant contribution for both teams.

Congratulations to debutant Adam Brown, who, at Selsey for the first time, stepped up to the plate to win 80% of his frames, a contribution which was pivotal to Oxford's success.

Oxfordshire Seniors, led by England International Malcolm Lewis, also won the inaugural Seniors' (40+) event. Despite a shaky start in the group, excellent wins over Essex and Derbyshire 'B' saw them reach the Semi-Finals. Lewis sudden rediscovered his touch and inspired his team to a stunning 11-5 Semi-Final victory over Derbyshire 'A'.

Oxfordshire initially struggled in the Final against Middlesex and they soon found themselves trailing 5-1. Oxfordshire fought hard to reach parity and finally levelled the match at 8-8 with wins from Lewis, John Bland, Chris Webb and McIlroy. Brian Carroll gave Oxfordshire the lead for the first time. Further wins for Webb and Bland saw Oxfordshire win the inaugural Seniors' title.

Team (L to R):

John Kinsey
 Marcus Guise
 Adam Brown
 Jamey Street
 Matty Challen
 Kevin McIlroy
 Jimmy Cairns
 Pete Machonochie
 Andrew Gee
 (missing: Ash Fletcher)

SUCCESSFUL TRIALISTS 2009/2010

Men:

Adam Luck, Richard Saunders, Andy Schweitzer, Nathan Ball, Mark Pitfield, Rhys Freemire, Martin Rowland, Steve Mill, Daniel Durham, Kenny Saunders, James Egleston

Ladies:

Katie Challen, Rachael Featherstone, Conny Meisenberg, Ally Smith, Carrie Francombe, Emma Penny-Larter, Justine Houseman, Sheree Houseman, Bex Millington, Jo Lenthall, Sarah Warne, Jodie Rabin

Youth:

Shelley McDermott, Liam Durham, John Colchester-Hall, Elliott Hooper, Phillip Cassidy, Dylan McGuire, Josh McCamley, Sid Mobbs, Adam Harrington, Josh Merriott, Megan Watson

ENGLAND TRIALS

Men:

Matthew Challen, Jamey Street, Lee Brown-John, John Street

Ladies:

Lauren Thomas

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP & MOST WINS

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP



In the mens final, defending champion Matthew Challen found himself needing to beat Kev twice in order to retain his title. The first match was a close fought battle, but Matty triumphed to leave him one match from victory.

The final match started with a long safety frame, and Kev seem to triumph as he got to the black. There was some disruption from the crowd at this point, and Kev missed. This was the turning point of the match, and after Kev lost that long safety battle, **Matthew Challen** ran away with the match to claim his third successive victory in this event.

The youth final ended up being between an undefeated-all-day Jamie Saczak and team mate Andrew

Gee. The first match was very close, and Jamie nearly ran away with it, but an in-off let Andrew back in and he fought his way into a deciding re-match. **Andrew Gee** then deftly took out some strong clearances to snatch victory.

Two times defending ladies champion Nicki Hoskins was this time in the final against Jaz Venning. Nicki had been beaten earlier in the day by Jaz, but Jaz was going to have to repeat this feat in order to take the title.

Nicki battled fiercely in the first match, winning 3-1, for the right to play a deciding match. **Jaz Venning** recovered some form though, and a potting-orientated approach was enough to triumph 3-1.



SQUAD RANKINGS

Jaz Venning made a last minute charge to top the ladies rankings, at the last match of the season. Sadly it wasn't quite enough to finish top of the region, with Jaz finishing in 2nd place, and Nicki Hoskins in 3rd overall.



John Street had a fantastic season, finishing top of the Oxford rankings, as well as top of the regional B stats.



Peter de Banks hung on to top spot in the Oxford youth rankings, as well as finishing top of the Selsey stats. A very impressive season - well done! Rookie **Thomas Gaughen** finished top of the Youth B team at Selsey.

Stephanie Meidinger topped the ladies rankings at Selsey by some margin, winning 10 out of 12 frames played.

Tom Williams grabbed the top B player at Selsey spot, and A team player **Adam Brown** was the darling of the A's, with an 80% win rate.

DIARY DATES

- 29 March @ 12pm - **Squad Day** - Single frame knockout
- 1st-9th April - Youth World Champ'ships - England players only
- 4th -11th April - World Championships - England players only
- 19 April - First county match for Mens B & C team
- 26 April - First county match for Ladies, Youth, Mens A
- 27/28 June - **England Trials** at Barking Pool Club
- 4 October - County 5's - fun tournament for entire squad (t.b.c)

For more information or any queries, contact County Manager John Kinsey on 07880723844.

POOL QUIZ

WORDS:

snooker, total, clearance, break, rerack, glory, tournament, frame, match, selsey, pool, champions, rest, baize, team, trophy, prize, oxford.

O	T	K	A	E	R	B	X	F	O	R
D	S	C	T	E	A	M	L	O	O	P
H	E	A	A	Z	S	E	L	S	E	Y
C	R	R	R	I	E	T	H	N	E	H
T	N	E	M	A	N	R	U	O	T	P
A	B	R	K	B	E	S	T	I	I	O
M	O	X	F	O	R	D	N	P	P	R
T	H	L	A	T	O	T	E	M	R	T
C	G	L	O	R	Y	N	O	A	I	U
E	M	A	R	F	N	T	S	H	Z	R
E	C	N	A	R	A	E	L	C	E	Y

The remaining letters will spell out a relevant phrase!!!