

THE BLACKBALL FLYER

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

SELSEY

Well done to the Oxfordshire Youth, who made the final at Selsey for the first time ever. The youth A team beat last year's champions Derby in the semi final, but lost to Warwickshire Youth at the last hurdle.

Oxfordshire Seniors also made the semi final in their event, as did Oxford C, who only missed out on a spot in the final by 1 frame.



SELSEY SINGLES

Oxfordshire Ladies were delighted to have an Oxfordshire lady in the semi-final for the second year in a row. This time it was Shelly James flying the flag for Oxford, knocking out England player Kelly Denton on her route to the semi. Shelly made a good start in the semi, going 2-1 up against Kim Carney, but Kim found her form, eventually dispatching Shelly 4-2.

For the men, Will Cooper had the strongest showing, reaching the last 16 in the mens event, before losing to England A team player Jimmy Carney.

NATIONAL B TEAM CHAMPIONS!!!

Team:

Shaun Taylor, Nick Mansell, Peter De Banks, John Street, Ben Scott, Ash Penny-Larter (c) Kenny Saunders, Adam Luck, Rhys Freemire



A successful 2009/10 season of County Pool (Blackball rules) saw Oxfordshire B qualify for the National Finals at Selsey. Having seen Oxfordshire A climb to success last year, could the B team follow in their footsteps for 2010?

Group Stage

Despite losing their opening group match against Middlesex 14-9, Oxfordshire remained confident they could do well at this tournament. Now warmed up and ready to do battle, their performance improved for the next group games, beating Warwickshire C 14-8 and then Essex 14-6 later in the day.

Day 2 saw Oxfordshire take on Warwickshire B, the favourites and last year's champions. A 14-10 win and Oxford were full of confidence for finishing in the top 2 teams and progressing to the semi finals. They still had to beat a resurgent Bristol (14-11) and on Sunday morning see off Cambridgeshire 14-8. This was enough to see Oxfordshire top their group, and go through to face London in the semi..

Semi-Final

Oxford took a slender lead in the first leg 5-4. With vocal support from the surrounding

Oxfordshire crowd the team pushed on into the second leg, again winning it 5-4, putting Oxford 10-8 up going into the final leg. 4 more wins and Oxford had made the final!

Final

Oxfordshire used the same order that beat Warwickshire B in the group the day before. However, things don't go according to plan. 3 of our first 4 players went in off the break and had to stand by as their opponents took full advantage and started clearing up. Things were looking woeful, and quick as a flash Oxfordshire were 8-1 down, and even the most optimistic of Oxford supporters were having doubts.

This didn't stop them getting behind their team though, and the noise from the Oxford crowd was deafening. Oxfordshire just couldn't seem to find their earlier magic, until Warwickshire started to chant "That is why we are the Champions". Oxfordshire didn't take this lightly and came out fighting and somehow Oxfordshire had taken the second leg 6-3. Now there was everything to play for as Oxfordshire went into the third leg just 10-8 down. Oxfordshire certainly had the support behind them

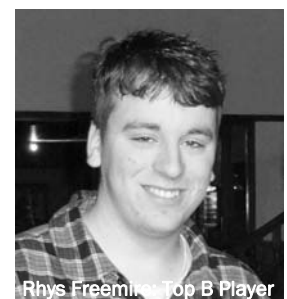
and this would be their biggest leg of the weekend. The first frame of the third leg ends quickly and Oxford are 11-8 down. Was this as close as Oxford were going to get?

The wins for Oxfordshire started rolling in again and Oxford had brought it back to 11 all and then at last into the lead and to 13-12 up.

Only Rhys and John were still playing, with Oxfordshire only needing to win one more. The whole hall is watching as John is on a clearance. Then he's on a straight black to middle... but somehow it doesn't go in. His opponent now looks certain to clear - have Oxfordshire missed their chance?

Rhys has his eye on Johns table, and he now realises that it's going to all come down to him. He's at the table and all his balls go, but the clearance isn't nailed-on easy. He takes them confidently, and positions for the black just off straight to the corner pocket.

For the first time all weekend the supporters are completely silent. Is this going to be it? One shot to either make Oxford champions or to ruin Oxford's dreams? Rhys hits it and the crowd go absolutely mental - it's in!!!! Oxfordshire B have won the National B Team event for the first time ever!!!!



Rhys Freemire: Top B Player

SUCCESSFUL TRIALISTS 2010/2011

Men:

Mark Salter, Brian Carroll, Anthony Stopp, James Eggleston, Jamie Power, Richard Walters, Lee McAllister, Jez Thompson, Dan Durham, Tom Hooper, Lee Trinder, Tom Williams, Rob Wheeler

Ladies:

Claire Brown, Emily Middleton, Hannah Francombe, Conny Meisenburg, Samiha Ismail, Jojo Scoble, Jodie Rabin, Lucy Walker, Rosanna Cretney, Megan Watson, Jane Carpenter

Youth:

Lewis Moss, David Aggutter, George Scotland, Foley Sercombe, Jake Belcher, Elliot Trevelyan, Hasan Ali, Adam Harrington, Brendan Neale

Seniors:

Rob Walker, Shelly James, John Street, Tony Durham, Andy Schweizer, Jamie Power, Andy Moss, Glen Johnson, Bradley Massingham, Taylor Dickson

Oxford's new county manager:

ADAM BROWN



COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP & MOST WINS

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

In the mens final, three times & defending champion Matthew Challen found himself in the final yet again. But this time Matty would need to beat top A player **Adam Brown** twice to take the trophy home. This proved too much to ask and Adam breezed through 3-1. Finally a new name on the Men's trophy!

The youth final ended up being between **Jamie Saczak** and Rhys Freemire. Would Jamie finally gets his hands on the winners trophy after being runner-up 3 times? This time it was Jamie's year, and he won the final 3-1.



The favourites didn't make the final in the Ladies event. Nicki beat Jaz in round 1 then rapidly exited the contest. Jaz battled her way up the loser's half, and looked set to reach the final once again until she was stopped in the semi by **Verity Anton**, who won 3-2 from 2-0 down.

Verity went on to beat B team player **Jo Lenthall**, who had gone unbeaten all day, 3-1, 3-1 to win the title.



In the first ever Seniors championship, **Brian Carroll** was unbeaten all day until he faced Kev McIlroy in the final. Kev needed to beat Brian twice to win. Kev took the first match 3-2, only to then lose the re-match 3-2.

SQUAD RANKINGS

Adam Brown was top player for the men, not only comfortably topping the Oxford rankings, but also finishing top of the whole southern region as well.

Nicki Hoskins hung on to top position in the Oxford Ladies rankings, which she had occupied most of the season, despite a late charge from Jaz who finished a frame behind.

Nick Mansell had a fantastic season, finishing top of the regional B stats.

Jamie Saczak waved goodbye to his last season in the youth

team with style, completing his hat trick of wins by finishing top of the Oxford and regional youth rankings, as well as finishing top of the Selsey stats and winning the county championship. A very impressive season - well done. Congratulations to **Liam Durham**, who was the best Youth B player at Selsey.

Shelly James topped the ladies rankings at Selsey. B team play **Emma Penny-Larter** also had an excellent tournament. Both won 8 out of 12 frames played.



Rhys Freemire grabbed the top Mens B player at Selsey spot with the last frame of the B team final, also bringing Oxfordshire national glory at the same time!

Mark Pitfield was top of the Mens C team, closely followed by Richard Saunders, both of whom had an excellent tournament.

Top player for the seniors at Selsey was **Kev McIlroy**, with **Roger Goodall** finishing top of the Bs

ENGLAND TRIALS

Men: Adam Brown, Andrew Gee
Ladies: Shelly James, Kate Challen

DIARY DATES

- 28 March @ 11am - **Squad Day** - Blackball Fives
 - 18 April - First county match for Mens A, B & C & Ladies A
 - 25 April - First county match for Ladies B & Youth A & B
 - 24th -30th April - World Championships - England players only
 - 29/30 May - **England Trials** at Barking Pool Club
- For more information or any queries, contact Secretary Jaz Venning on 07977449174.

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circles and unscramble them for the final message

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