

September 2019 Junior Academy Day

The second of this year's County-wide Junior Academy Finals Day took place in warm dry conditions on Saturday 7th September. Young bowlers under eighteen took part in a day of bowling activities based on:

- Testing of individual bowling skills in the morning
- Competitive bowling in the afternoon

The scores from the two sessions were combined to crown this year's Champions, who were presented with their trophies by the lady President Anne Farmer.

In the Under 14s competition, these were:

Winner: Daniel Murphy of Newport Pagnell

Runner Up: Ryan Smith of Bletchley St Martins

In the Under 18s Competition, these were:

Winner: Ewan Thick of Newport Pagnell

Runner Up: JD Boshoff of Olney Bowls Club.

This was a very exciting final between Ewan and JD, which went to an extra end, before Ewan prevailed with two woods either side of the jack. JD, the youngest in this section, played forcing shots but just could not get the winner on this occasion, after both players had delivered a great game of bowls.

In the U14s games the enthusiasm of the competitors was to the fore as always, but with really good bowling on display from the youngsters. Two new Academy members took first and second place, Danny Murphy from Newport Pagnell winning, with eight year old Ryan coming a close second. Two very real talents.

The consensus view of the coaches supporting the event was that the standard of bowling had increased yet again this year, with many participants reaching a very high standard indeed. This augurs well for the future of bowls in Bucks.

Once more the County is indebted to the Aylesbury Town team for hosting the event, in particular ever present Keith Stratfull and Karen for supplying meals for the participants, and providing refreshments throughout the day.

Thanks must also go to Henry Beach and his team of helpers for providing interesting challenges for the skills tests, and to the County team who administratively made the Junior Academy Day such a success.

Any young bowler in Buckinghamshire wishing to participate in the Junior Academy events should contact either Terri Keen or John Lonergan who will provide guidance on the programme of activities.

The two key dates for next year are already in the 2020 diary, so please note **May 23rd 2020 and September 5th 2020**. Both Saturday events will be held at Aylesbury Town BC, with bowlers reporting in by 0930 hours. Other events and dates will be announced as we further develop the Junior Academy programme for next year.

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