

Buckinghamshire Junior Academy 2021 Finals Day

The impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic has continued this season, leading to a later start for the Bucks Junior Academy programme than was originally planned. The County-wide Finals Day took place on Saturday 11th September, with both the Under 14's and Under 18's Trophies contested in bright sunshine.

The 2021 Finals Day, for the County's Junior Academy, returned to Aylesbury Town Bowls Club this year, after being hosted by Newport Pagnell in 2020.

Skill tests were set by Henry Beach, with coaches and supporters assessing performances from a structured scoring system.

The Academy exists to provide coaching and competitive bowls for young bowlers under years of age, as a pathway to senior level bowls. Young boys and girls from the clubs of the County meet and compete at these events, having fun and building long term friendships while improving their skills.

This year the competitors brought with them a high level of skills to a day of "Skill Tests" and, in the afternoon, competitive bowls. All competitors scored well on both disciplines, with the winners not being decided until the closing stages. In a close competition the winners were presented with their trophies by the Men's County President Peter French.

Under 14's Championship: Winner: Kyle Richards (Waddesdon)

Runners Up: Leigh Richards (Waddesdon) and Oliver Preston (Wolverton Town)

Under 18's Championship: Winner: Ewan Thick (Newport Pagnell)

Runners Up: Esmay Martin (Newport Pagnell) and JD Boshoff (Olney)

The County extends its thanks to Aylesbury Town BC for hosting the finals, and to Keith Stratfull in particular, for his feeding of the competitors with a hot meal once more. Additionally our thanks go to all the many club coaches and helpers who made the day so successful.

2022 Season. Next season will bring new challenges, particularly around dates, despite as we expect the pandemic subsiding. Clubs with young bowlers are encouraged to liaise with the Academy Managers, to contribute to the preparation of next year's programme highlighting the needs of their youngsters.

Terri Keen: 01494 771983

John Lonergan: 01908 507676

Email: terrikeen@hotmail.com

Email: johnlonergan@btinternet.com