

PRINGLE PARK 2008-2009 OPEN FOURS

The first club championship event of the 2008/09 season was played last weekend of 6 & 7/12/08. The club fours had only 5 team entries which was a little disappointing. Going into day 2 there were three teams remaining - being 1 lifer's Paul Steir (Gordon Smith ,Harry Moore, Shane Myers) Terry Buchan (Warren Dawson, Jamie Browning, Phil Reid) and 2 lifer Bruce Buchan (Allan Peers, Steve Pitcon, Rodney Eade). Whilst Terry Buchan and his team sat the 1st game out with the bye on day 2 brother Bruce & co. did battle with Paul Steir's team in a repeat showdown from the last game of day1. Unlike the 1st encounter which was won by Buchan in a tight battle Steir never looked like being beaten on Sunday morning cruising to victory 20-7. As we all know bowls is a 'funny game' and Buchan and co. couldn't find their touch.

We therefore still had 3 teams left in the event but now they were all 1 lifer's. Steir sat out with the bye whilst the 2 Buchan's went head to head in the semi final. Bruce Buchan's team started strongly and with lead Rodney Eade finding good form from the front held a handy lead with half the game gone. However things changed soon after when Terry Buchan picked up a 5 bringing them right back into the game. Bruce Buchan needed 3 to draw going into the 18th and final end. This is quite a tough ask even in a game of four's but Bruce Buchan managed to do exactly that claiming the 3rd shot on a measure. An extra end was therefore needed to decide the game and find out who would meet Steir's team in the final. With 2 bowls in the extra end to be played Bruce Buchan held 2 shots as he approached the mat to play the last of his 2 skip bowls. After consulting with his team the decision was made to cover a 'danger' bowl of the oppositions. Unfortunately for Bruce the target was missed and to make matters worse another opposition bowl sitting short of the head was promoted giving away the shot. Terry Buchan did not have to play his last bowl - it was shake hands time. Bruce and his team took the loss well given the unfortunate circumstances. As we all know 'that's bowls'.

The final between Paul Steir and Terry Buchan was a tight game however the quality of bowls was not of a high standard. Green keeper Bruce Buchan and his trusty assistant/s have done a remarkable job preparing the green over recent weeks and there was a high degree of satisfaction amongst the players over the weekend with the quality of the surface. The surface for the final was 'challenging' and the frustration amongst the individual bowlers with their own bowls increased as the game progressed. Even skip Paul Steir who had been playing consistently outstanding bowls throughout the weekend struggled somewhat however he and lead in his team Shane Myer's were the only players of the 8 on display to play bowls of any real note in the final. At approximately the halfway stage of the game Steir's team held a handy 14-8 lead. However Buchan's team clawed their way back and the scores were locked at 15-15 late in the game. At that point Steir's team found some momentum and lead by 3 going into the 18th and final end. Sitting 2 down on the head and 3 down on the board skip Terry Buchan had no option with his final bowl but to drive and kill the head. With the pressure right on Terry 'nailed' the shot bowl along with the jack sending it rocketing out of bounds. Terry said afterwards that he had no idea how he managed to pull that shot out of the bag. The final end of the game therefore needed to be replayed and with the skips going to the mat Terry Buchan's team held 2 shots on a relatively close head given what had gone before. As it happened there was no change and Steir's team got the result by 1. A bit of a mention for Terry Buchan who skipped his team to the final. Terry, still a junior, excelled in skipping his far more experienced colleagues for the 1st time at senior club champ level and was probably the standout player of the tournament along with Paul Steir. Keep it up Terry because lots of success lies ahead.

Whilst the tournament was no doubt a success it is hoped that more club members get involved in teams for the upcoming club champ triples to be played on the weekend before Xmas. GET YOUR NAMES ON THE BOARD.