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Under 25s 2024 Four Counties Festival

Venue / host: Bristol BC, Somerset BA, 6th May 2024

Match report:

Like what has now become the norm, we yet again managed to scrape the bare twelve players.

It wasn't the best of starts for a couple of the Worcestershire rinks, at 5 ends Jonathon Smith rink were 5 v 2 down, Izzie White 4 v 1 down and Harvey's rink just leading out 5 v 2.

At 10 ends Jonathon rink managed to get the deficit to down to 2 shots 7 v 5 down, Harvey rink managed to pull away to a 7 shot difference 11 v 4 up.

Izzie rink at 7 ends were 6 v 1 down, but they managed to pick up a 4 on the 8th end. Making the deficit to a shot. But at this stage of the game the somerset four made their move. Picking up a 6 up on the 9th end, but they then went on to score on the next 6 ends. This giving them a commanding lead 19 v 5 shots. But Izzie and her team made a spirited fight back over the last 6 ends scoring on 5 of them. Taking the game to a difference of 7 shots. They managed to get 10 shots out of the last 6 ends with only losing a 3.

Jonathon rink managed to reduce the deficit at 11 ends picking up a 3 to go a shot in front. This seemed to be the turning point, as over the next 4 ends they went unanswered by the Gloucester rink securing a 14 v 11 shot difference this turned out to be the difference at the final stage for this rink 19 v 16 up.

A great run out for Mason on Jons rink, who came to help us out, due to the low numbers.

Harvey rink was in control of the game up, until the 16th end. Were the Wiltshire skip managed to peel the jack for a 6 taking the score to all square. The Wiltshire rink scored on the next end; this took them into lead for the first time of the game. Lucky enough Harvey managed to get his rink settled over the next 2 ends picking up four shots, to take the lead by 2 only to be nailed back to all square going into the last end. Nail biting stuff but the lads managed to pick up a 3 on the last end. With all four players playing their part.

A great end to a stunning day of bowls. Now the overall result was a strange one. With 3 counties all having scored 4 points each. So, the result went down to shots scored. This put us into 3rd position, As you will see below Somerset ran out the winners with 74 shots scored, then Gloucester into 2nd position with 59 shots scored.



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League standing:

Somerset 4pts (total shots 74)

Worcestershire 4pts (total shots 55)

Gloucestershire 4pts (total shots 59)

Wiltshire 0pts

Lastly, I only think its right to thank all the parents, grandparents and friends who helped get all the players to the venue safe and sound.

Thank you all for your support for this event over the past years.

Harry Boulton		Bailey Shute	
Mason Addison		Jake Barlow	
Thomas Yapp	V	Josh Hodges	Gloucestershire Rink
Jonathon Smith		Josh Phillips	
19		16	
William Johnson		Zach Broom	
Sapphire Griffiths		Sophie Hicks	
Aqua Griffiths	V	Sam Dart-Denning	Somerset Rink
Izzy White		Peter Loaring	
15		22	
Adam Palmer		Innes Collier	
Toby Blundell		Liam Tucker	
Alfie Griffiths	V	Isla Baughn	Wiltshire Rink
Harvey Griffiths		Jamie Pugsley	
21		18	

Just so club and players are aware, we are in discussion to if we continue with the rink formats or change to something a little different.

You all know how difficult the last 7 years have been to get out a full compliment of players for the under 25. I do know that both Hewell and Redditch are putting a massive effort on recruiting younger players.

Hopefully everyone local and county can give them their full support, when required.