

Finals Weekends '2023'

Ladies and gents, again we were blessed with the weather over the two weekends of our Finals Programme. A good turnout of support to encourage and cheer on the competitors, their favourites or just the excellent bowling which took place over the seven days.

As with tradition at Prestwick Bowling Club, the ladies and gents Singles Championships opened our programme on Friday 18th August, and after two very good finals it turned out to be a good night for the Houston family with Lyn and Jamie winning their respective finals. Commiserations to both runners up who played their parts in the two excellent matches.

The first Saturday 19th August saw an array of various fixtures with singles, pairs, mixed pairs and triples all being well contested with various winners ensuing. A good crowd turned out to watch all games and the weather overall was kind to all involved. Winners and runners up were duly announced, and we were then on to Sunday 20th August

Adult singles and rinks were played in the morning and in the afternoon, we had the juniors final. All games were of an excellent standard, and it was very refreshing to see three competitors under 16 playing in these games.

As with above winners and runners up declared.

This year we trialled a mid-week programme due to an unforeseen bout of covid circulation throughout the membership which in turn led to games being deferred until the Wednesday evening. Again, a lot of the membership came out to support those playing and again after some very close games winners and runners up were announced.

Things were so tight in the Gents Nominated Pairs that we thought that we were going to have to finish on the Thursday morning due to light.

On the second Friday 25th August for the first time, we had the Senior Ladies and Gents Finals, well supported and again closely contested finals winners and runners up were announced. The Ladies Senior Final was the inaugural running of this event and was won by Lynn Houston and the Gents was won by Ian Ferguson. This format along with the mid-week programme went down very well and looks like a format to be kept in the future.

Our second Saturday 26th August we had an array of disciplines ranging from singles, two bowl pairs, balloted pairs to three bowl pairs which were played to a very high standard. As before winners and runners up declared.

Our final Sunday 27th August programme was somewhat disrupted as both our Ladies and Gents Singles Champions were representing our Club in the Champion of Champions for our district. It gives me immense pleasure, to announce that our very own Jamie Houston triumphed in the Men's Championship which is a fantastic achievement. Jamie proudly represented P.B.C. and brought the winning trophy home to display to all the members. Commiserations to Lyn but well done for your achievement and thank you for your representation.

My heart felt congratulations and commiserations to all who played in the Finals and huge thank you to you all for keeping us on the edge of our seats with such fantastic bowls and games. Sometimes scores do not reflect the actual games, and this has been the case with many finals this year and I hope will continue to be the case in years to come.

Lastly folks a few well-earned thank yous. Green staff (contractor, green bailey and green keeper). Playing Committee as always very professional. Caterers and Bar Staff who kept us fed and watered. Markers, scorers, umpires, and helpers without you these days do not happen. To all winners' congratulations and to all runners up there is always next year. To all you members for taking time to come and support your fellow club members throughout a fantastic week of bowls.

Lastly, I would like to pay tribute to Lesley Keenan (V.P.) who has been at my side the whole week and has taken up the reins when I had the fortune to be playing in some of the finals. I am immensely grateful for her support throughout the week. THANK YOU.

It has been in my experience as President very pleasing and rewarding to see so many well-known faces along with new members young and old enjoying being on our green which has been brilliant all year and playing bowls at such a high level with smiles on their faces. Very comforting for the future of P.B.C.

Here's to 2024

President