

Glyndwr Bowling Association

Binns Cup Final Sunday August 21st

Colwyn Bay RBL v St Asaph "A"

The 82nd continuous playing of the Binns Cup took place at Rhos on Sea BC under grey sky following rain about an hour previously. All present were expecting a very close game with divided opinion as to which was the stronger side. In the event the match lived up to its expected closeness and with the game see-sawing about the possibilities. Both sides had a number of current and former Welsh County players in their line up so there were high expectations of both teams playing a green that neither side had played on this current year.

Going into the match Colwyn Bay RBL in their history had reached the final of the Binns Cup just twice where they were comfortably beaten on both occasions but with the strengthening of their team with two former Deganwy players Dave Roberts and Geraint Jones together with Nick Hughes moving to play along the coast from the Wrexham area, with the retaining of Jason Jones and the resolve of captain Chris Slater, they were in a strong position to finally win the Binns Cup. Meanwhile St Asaph had strengthened with 2009 Welsh Merit Winner Trevor Heath transferring to them along with Steve Dace from last year's winners Denbigh.

So from the first four matches played Colwyn Bay RBL led by 20 shots winning three of the four matches, a feature of these matches was the performance of James Williams who held a good lead before Nick Hughes came through to win 21-19. Trevor Heath's win cancelling out that result. The remaining two matches went comfortably RBL's way.

The next five matches saw the game swing into St Asaph's favour winning four of the five matches with now veteran Terry Lea bowling well to defeat Steve Dace in a close match. The match would have remained in RBL's control but for a spirited comeback from Garry Wilson.

So going into the final three matches saw St Asaph 10 shots ahead but, Chris Slater showing a real captain's lead bowled well corner to corner to set up a strong lead and only a spirited fight back by Robert Pierce to gain five shots before losing saw RBL close the gap to 4 shots. Spectators were now standing around the green watching each end and Geraint Jones showing great experience and composure move into a commanding lead against Lewis Scott. Alun Evans who played in the first RBL defeat in 1996 took control to reduce the deficit to just one point, so all the pressure was on Geraint to win and the Cup for the Legion. Lewis clawed back to 20-17 down, and on his lead placed a wood within a foot of the jack, Geraint came back to just take the advantage, pressure on Lewis who bowled up and knocked his front wood in to lay two shots. Geraint bowled up to the head and knocked Lewis' bowl away and then to just push the jack to lay two shots. A bowl worthy of winning the Cup for the RBL team. The Colwyn Bay RBL team win by three shots.

	Colwyn Bay RBL "A"		St Asaph "A"	
1	Jason Jones	21	Kris Fearnley	12
2	Johnny Crowl	19	Trevor Heath	21
3	Nick Hughes	21	James Williams	19
4	Dave Roberts	21	Matthew Foster	10
5	Terry Lea	21	Steve Dace	18
6	David Jones	10	Gareth Foster	21
7	Anthony Harper	19	Garry Wilson	21
8	Henry Campbell	5	Ian Trickett	21
9	Danny McGoona	17	Ben Jones	21
10	Chris Slater	21	Rob Pierce	15
11	Alun Evans	21	Scott Parry	18
12	Geraint Jones	21	Lewis Scott	17
	Total	217	Total	214

Since 1930 the Binns Cup competition has stood unchanged in its format of 12 a side and this match showed again the interest and pressure of the final with the winning club going through to represent Glyndwr in the Welsh Clubs Championship. In 2007 Sunny Rhyl won the Championship and for the last three years Glyndwr Clubs have been runners-up so hopefully they will go one better this year and win the competition

They now go on to play in the Club Championship against the winners of the other three areas Conwy, Bailey Hill who have won it 6 times and Gresford Colliery who won it for the first four years it was played for from 1978 and a total of 7 times. The competition will be played on Sunday 25th September within the Glyndwr area

Roy Mills