

SDS & SIBA Invitational Indoor Para Bowls Singles Championships 2017



**Scottish Disability Sport (SDS)
& Scottish Indoor Bowling Association (SIBA)**

Indoor Para Bowls Singles Championships 2017

Falkirk Indoor Bowling Club

28 - 30 April 2017

Event Report

Ron McArthur

Bowls Performance Development Manager

SDS & SIBA Invitational Indoor Para Bowls Singles Championships 2017

Rationale & Selection:

This event was introduced in 2016 to fill a gap in provision for Scotland for a national indoor competition for bowlers with a disability.

The event was further strengthened in 2017 by Co-op Funeralcare coming on board as Event Sponsors for the next three years.

Following on from the successful inaugural event the competition has grown in size and now took place over three days.

Bowlers were invited to compete through SDS branches, existing partnerships with relevant bowling organisations and through SDS National Coaches. The bowlers with a visual impairment and the deaf bowlers were selected by their respective governing bodies.

The bowlers with a physical disability were selected by Robert Dick, the National Coach, and a panel of selectors, from the existing National and Developments squads. The largest group of bowlers were our bowlers with a learning disability. Selection for this competition was from invitations to SDS Branches to nominate bowlers who had previously engaged in national bowls events, including the Inter-Area and National Lawn Bowls.

Format:

The bowlers with a physical disability, deaf bowlers and bowlers with a visual impairment followed the Commonwealth Games format of 2 hours 15 minute matches or first to 21– whichever arrives first - from the Semi-Final stage onwards. Finals followed the Scottish Indoor Bowls Association rules of a maximum of four-hour final or first to 21.

Bowlers with a learning disability played over three sections; Male Section A; Female Section A and Open Section B for players with Down Syndrome or equivalent condition. The bowlers played round robin groups in all sections before a final. All matches took place as a timed event of 40 minutes or first to 21 – whichever arrives first.

Venue:

Falkirk IBC once again hosted the Championships. The event was run in partnership with the **Scottish Indoor Bowling Association (SIBA)**, **Scottish Association of Blind Bowlers (SABB)** and **Scottish Deaf Bowling Association (SDBA)**.

Falkirk IBC is the SDS hub for Central Region Bowls and proved to be an excellent choice of venue due to its central location and ready access to both motorway and rail links, along with ample parking spaces.

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The club is the site for many of the National Performance & Development Squad training sessions, so is familiar to many of the players who competed.

Falkirk IBC is a significant supporter of Scottish Disability Sport.

Sponsorship:

Following discussions organised after the 2016 event, SDS were delighted to secure sponsorship for this event for the next three years from Co-op Funeralcare. Lesley Van Dyk, Community Engagement Partner was an ever-present throughout and ensured players, coaches and spectators were well furnished with lots of Co-op branded bowls paraphernalia. Lesley also presented the prizes on the Saturday and on Sunday. Pete McWilliams, Falkirk Branch Manager also presented the prizes on Friday and Sunday and spoke at the prize-giving.

Falkirk IBC provided the facility free for the duration of the event.

Participating Branches:

Direct branch involvement in this Championships came from the following branches:

Fife
Forth Valley
Glasgow
Lothian

Bowlers from other branches areas were involved but where a connection between bowler and branch doesn't exist presently then positive moves should be made to create a relationship.

As with the inaugural event, SDS invited entries from the **Scottish Association of Blind Bowlers** and the **Scottish Deaf Bowlers Association**. SDS invited bowlers with a physical disability and learning disability from its own programmes.

Ultimately, in time it is intended that qualifiers for this event will be selected through the ten Regional Centres, currently in development. It is anticipated that 'play-downs' will take place at each centre prior to the competition.

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Entries: A total of 63 bowlers took part, which is an increase in 14 bowlers from 2016.

Withdrawals: There was one withdrawal prior to the event in the learning disability section, this came fairly late in the day and no replacement was possible.

There was one withdrawal prior to the event in the physically disabled section due to ill health, and one withdrawal notified on the morning of the event. There were three players who did not notify the competition of their non-appearance with no prior notification. Whilst SDS appreciate that circumstances beyond players control can arise and are sensitive to this, it is strongly encouraged that players notify their absence with as much prior warning as possible to aid the other competitors and championship organisers. Notification should be made to the appropriate person acting as the first responder for the event.

Classification: **Learning Disability**

Male Section A: 10 players
Female Section A: 6 players
Open Mixed Section: 8 players

Deaf Bowlers

Male Section: 4 players
Female Section: 4 players

Bowlers with a Visual Impairment

Male B2/3 Section: 4 players
Female B2/3 Section: 4 players

Bowlers with a Physical Disability

Female Open Section: 4 players
Male B6 Section: 8 players
Male B7/8 Section: 11 players

Programme: Play started at 10am on all days.

The programme was compiled in-house by SDS Administrator Caroline Lyon. The programme proved a very useful addition to the event and kept players, managers and spectators well informed as to the content of the event.

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- Presentations:** Presentations were made by the following people:
- Pete McWilliams – Co-op Funeralcare
 - Gordon Woods – Secretariat of SIBA
 - Lesley Van Dyk – Co-op Funeralcare
 - Gary Fraser – Performance Manager, SDS
 - Gavin Macleod – CEO, SDS
- Results:** For a full list of winners and runners up see Appendices.
- Administration:** Thanks to Norma Buchannan for administration of branch entries
- Umpires:** Thanks to all umpires supplied from the Scottish Bowls Umpires list who provided their services free over the three days. Special thanks to Grace Whitton for her unstinting support over all three days of competition and to Brenda Anderson who umpired on Friday and Saturday.
- Markers:** Thanks to Chris McGready, Nigel Walker, Liz Donnachie, Tam McPhater, Keith Hyland, Marday Vyapooree, Bob Christie, Bob Dick, Dr Sarah Ewing, Jen Sword, Liz Wallace, Graham Harvey, John Hughes, Ann Milligan.
- Support:** Provost of Falkirk Pat Reid – a strong supporter of disability bowls - took time out from his busy schedule to attend on all three days of competition. SDS and SIBA thanks Pat for his continued significant support.
- Photography:** Thanks to Jen Sword for photography for the duration of the competition.
- Summary:** Scottish Disability Sport (SDS) and the Scottish Indoor Bowling Association (SIBA) were delighted to hold the 2nd annual National Indoor Para Bowls Singles Championships once again at Falkirk IBC. The event originally arose out of a willingness of various stakeholders agreeing to work together to make this new event possible and complete the circle of competition in all formats of the sport. SDS, SIBA, Scottish Association of Blind Bowlers (SABB) and Scottish Deaf Bowlers Association (SDBA) all contributed to this event and evidences what can be achieved by strong partnership working. The event has proven to be an exciting addition to the bowling calendar and was further strengthened by the involvement this year of Co-op Funeralcare who have committed to the sponsorship of this event for at least the next three years.
- The event continues to grow with 63 bowlers competing over three days of competition – an increase on competitors and days from

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2016. Plans are already in place to grow further for 2018 with SIBA committing to providing trophies for each section.

The first day of the event witnessed the bowlers with a learning disability competing over three sections for the title of national champion.

28th April

The bowlers with a learning disability section featured 24 bowlers from four SDS branches and a high quality field turned out for the second opportunity at a national indoor title.

In the Male A section an all-Fife clash saw Daryl Stewart defeat Craig Donaldson by the narrowest of margins in an enthralling final with plenty quality on show.

The Female A section featured last year's champion - Lothian bowler Amanda Craig and a bowler who has had a phenomenal season with her club, Fife's Pamela Mitchell. Both bowlers began strongly before Pamela eased away following the fifth end to finish on top.

An all Lothian final in the Open B section culminated with last year's finalist Christina McSherry edging out her stablemate Euan Wright.

29th April

The deaf bowlers featured one male section and one female section. Once again, it was a real pleasure to welcome the deaf bowlers to the event and thanks have to go to Keith Hyland - secretary of the SDBA for his co-ordination and in his role as interpreter during the event.

Morris Cavanagh (Lothian) won the male section finishing ahead of Billy Paxton (Glasgow) 21-10. Charlotte Simpson (Glasgow) proved too strong in the final defeating Isabella Ingram (Dundee) by the same score.

The bowlers with a visual impairment had two sections B2/B3 for Male & Female. The Fife Pocket Rocket Maria Spencer defended her title with aplomb and defeated fellow IBD World Champion Irene Edgar (Ayrshire) in the female section.

Irene's husband Billy Edgar – another gold medallist from New Zealand 2015 – defeated Fife's Ian Graham in the final 21-15. Three of the four finalists in these sections have been selected to represent Scotland at the upcoming 8 Nations Test Series in Gold Coast, Australia in June. Irene, Billy and Maria will travel with a squad of 18 players, directors and coaches who will join up with

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their mainstream counterparts in the southern hemisphere for a fortnight of competition as a qualifier for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

30th April

Four females competed in the open section for female bowlers with a physical disability. Barbara McMillan, Tracy Black, Mary Wilson and Rosemary Lenton completed the round robin section. The final was contested between the two vastly experienced bowlers Barbara McMillan (Fife) and Rosemary Lenton (Dumfries & Galloway). A resounding victory for Barbara by 21 shots to 8 proved her hard work in the close season has begun to bear fruit.

The B6 male section saw an increase of 100% in competitors which illustrates the strength in depth of this section following a period of identification of players. Despite the expanded section two familiar names contested the final. Billy Allan (Fife) avenged his semi-final knockout last year by defeating Lothian's Gary Clelland 21 shots to 9.

The section for B7/8 Male bowlers grew in numbers by 3 from 2016 and the final proved to be a repeat of the 2016 edition with South Lanarkshire's Garry Brown defeating Ayrshire's John Wardrope by a slightly more comfortable score of 21-16 than his one-shot victory last year. Celebrations continued for these two bowlers as they discovered – along with Billy Allan – that they too had been selected to join Team Scotland on the trip down under.

Indoor bowling offers significant competitive and participation opportunities to bowlers. Therefore, after the continued success of this event, every effort should be made to develop and encourage its expansion throughout the branches and regions.

There are clearly bowlers playing regularly that are still to be identified by SDS and its member branches and continued efforts should be made to engage as far and wide with all partners in the bowling community to enable the sport to continue to grow. This should ensure bowlers with a disability access established pathways and keep Scotland at the forefront of this great sport internationally.

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Distribution List:

SDS Board & Officers
SDS Branches & Regions
Scottish Indoor Bowls Association
Scottish Association of Blind Bowlers
Scottish Deaf Bowling Association
Bowls Scotland
Pat Reid – Provost of Falkirk
Falkirk Indoor Bowling Club
Co-operative Funeralcare Staff

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Appendix A: List of Winners & Runners Up

Friday 28 April Results

Learning Disability Winners

A Male:	Gold – Daryl Stewart (Fife)	Silver – Craig Donaldson (Fife)
A Female:	Gold – Pamela Mitchell (Fife)	Silver - Amanda Craig (Lothian)
Open B Mixed:	Gold – Christina McSherry (Lothian)	Silver - Euan Wright (Lothian)

Saturday 29 April Results

Deaf Bowlers Winners

Male:	Gold – Morris Cavanagh (Lothian)	Silver – Billy Paxton (Glasgow)
Female:	Gold –Charlotte Simpson (Glasgow)	Silver – Isabella Ingram (Dundee)

Visually Impaired Medal Winners

B2/3 Male:	Gold – Billy Edgar (Ayrshire)	Silver – Ian Graham (Fife)
B2/3 Female:	Gold - Maria Spencer (Fife)	Silver – Irene Edgar (Ayrshire)

Sunday 30 April Results

Physically Disabled Medal Winners

B6 Male:	Gold - Billy Allan (Fife)	Silver - Gary Clelland (Lothian)
B7/8 Male:	Gold - Garry Brown (South Lanarkshire)	Silver – John Wardrope (Ayrshire)
Female Open:	Gold - Barbara McMillan (Fife)	Silver – Rosemary Lenton (D&G)