

LDS Regional Carpet Bowls 2017

Some excellent bowling was seen at the Lothian Disability Sport Carpet Bowls Championships held recently at Musselburgh Sports Centre with many close fought ties and several sections only decided on shot difference. One of the casualties in the Learning Disability section (men) was last year's winner, John McMillan (West Lothian), who, despite beating current Scottish champion Alan Gordon (East Lothian) in their section tie, lost out to him on count back. The semi final matches saw Alan beat James Bennet (Midlothian) 15-2 and Gordon Graham (West Lothian) beat Colin Robertson (Midlothian) 7-4. Unfortunately Alan then appeared to run out of steam as Gordon had a comfortable 11-0 win in the final to lift the trophy that he has won on several previous occasions.

The ladies Learning Disability category was no less keenly contested, shot difference again being required to separate out section winner Carol Whyte (East Lothian) from runner up Lisa Wilkie (Midlothian). Carol then went on to play Gillian Brown (East Lothian) in the first semi final where she was narrowly beaten 5-4. Lisa met defending champion Amanda Craig (West Lothian) and she too was beaten, this time by a margin of 9 shots to 5. Gillian and Amanda then played out a really close final, Gillian reversing the result of their earlier section tie by winning narrowly 7 – 6.

On the Physical Disability side Jimmy Restorick (East Lothian) won Group 4 (Ambulant men) with straight wins over his three opponents, although some were close run, his win over Robert Kelly (East Lothian) for instance only being by one shot. The second Physical Disability section was an amalgamation of several groups as there were insufficient bowlers for each of the different categories. It was however, encouraging that 3 in this section were playing in this event for the first time and one of them, Blair Darling (East Lothian) went on to win the group.

A team has been selected to represent Lothian Disability Sport at the forthcoming Scottish Disability Sport Carpet Bowls Championships in February and we wish them all a good competition. With two defending champions in the team in Alan Gordon and Eileen Restorick (East Lothian) hopes are high that we will have some representation in the finals and may come home with a trophy or two.

Finally thanks to everyone who made the event possible, including event umpire Richard Douglas, all those who came along to mark ties, Prestonpans DBC and Blackburn for the loan of carpets and Elizabeth Ann Little for collecting and returning them.