

Kendal & District Bowling League Super 32 Competition

The 2014 season got underway this past Sunday with this newly established competition, showcasing the top players from last year in a knockout style event at Staveley Bowling Club. A good crowd turned out despite the weather forecast to witness some excellent bowling in ever-changing conditions. At the start of the day the green ran fairly well considering the rain on Saturday, but that soon changed towards the end of the first round games, as torrential rain quickly started to puddle the green! In spite of this, there was still some top quality bowls played and although the conditions didn't suit everyone the four players who reached the semi finals all took to it like a duck to water!

In the first semi-final 27 year-old Liam Baxter of Holme Bowling Club faced Steve Carruthers (33) of Windermere; early in the game both players seemed content to sling the jack as far as they could to try to outreach the other but neither managed to pull away. In the early-teens it was Baxter who changed tact to a shorter mark, playing from a heavily puddled corner to the dry area nearest the clubhouse and back and was able to edge out his opponent 21-19.

The second semi-final saw Jonathan Cooper (39), also of Windermere, take on the impressive James Dennison, 27, of Levens after Dennison had managed to eliminate top-seed Mark Ashburn in the quarters. Jonathan has only been bowling for couple of seasons but played like a veteran in the wet, showing how far he's come on as a player in such a short space of time. This game was also tit-for-tat all the way but it was Cooper who edged it 21-18, quite literally, as he achieved many points all day along one side of the green!

After two remarkable semi-finals often the final that follows is a run-away and this threatened to be the case again as Baxter quickly built an 8-2 lead! Jonathan was determined not to disappoint the crowd though and again utilised his edge to comeback and lead 17-15. Liam responded well, and was able to regain his lead and eventually take the trophy with a 21-18 triumph!

Everyone was soaked through but many stayed all day to watch the spectacle and they went away having been treated to bowls of the highest quality! Liam Baxter goes away with the top prize and will go on to represent the Kendal and District Bowling League in the £3,300 Builders Supply Invitational at Lune Road, Lancaster on August 16th later this season.

Liam Baxter, receiving the trophy from the sponsors:



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