

REPORT FROM SENIOR TEAM MANAGER

2017

My first game after being selected as Welsh manager was Derbyshire. I selected Gresford Village as the Home venue and a side I thought played the green really well with 5 reserves who were more than capable of being in the team. Hours of practice were put in but I feel on the day we were beaten by the weather. It's not very often we can say this in Britain but it was too hot and the green was a little bit quicker than we would have liked. Derbyshire played it better than us resulting in a 222-203 defeat losing by 19 at home. I also believe we sent a good strong team over to Derbyshire where they did more than was asked just missing out by 1 chalk to lose 210-209 -1 point losing 20 overall so it was back to the drawing board for the next game another tough one against Shropshire.

As I had seen it Wales beat Shropshire in previous years on a green known as Betws-yn-Rhos so in my eyes this was the road to take again and that was the home venue. I picked a side very similar to the team who had previously beaten Shropshire at Betws as most of the players were still competing at top level. The day came and I can honestly say our home team did Wales proud playing to the best of their ability only for Shropshire to come along and pick the green up from the start. Wales lads didn't give up and made it a hard day at the office for the Shropshire team losing the game by 3 chalks at home 218-215. Our away team consisted of lads who play in the Shropshire premier league so I thought we gained a little head start by picking a team of 12 players and 7 reserves who had experience on whatever green they picked. Unfortunately they went for Pontesbury where only a hand full of our lads had played on but even still our lads got stuck in and gave it there all keeping the game to 30 chalks losing 194-222 and losing 33 overall.

Leaving me thinking about the third game another tough one against Warwick and Worcester. I already had a green in mind for this game that being Gresford colliery as we had 8 or so ex homesters available and many more who knew the green really well. On the day of the game I felt I picked the right green and the right team as the result showed we won the Home game by 1 chalk 216-215 to a strong side that don't lose away from home. It was a little too much to ask of the away side to go to a very strong Warwick and Worcester venue but I know the lads went there and gave it there all. The game ended 244-164 losing by 80 chalks and 79 overall.

So Wales lost all 3 games but in my view I believe we have got a good strong squad and some good greens available to be picked from. We always knew this group was going to be a tough one but I myself am looking forward to the 2018 season and hope Wales can pull together as a team and get some wins under the belt and be where we deserve to be up there with the best.

Joey Williams