

WCGBA Report on the BCGBA Veterans Team Championship 2018

This year the qualifying round took place at the Openshaw Bowling Club, Gt. Manchester, with a series of matches against Cheshire, Gt. Manchester and the Potteries. The green was a challenge to everyone throughout the day, but most players adapted well to the conditions and produced high class bowling.

In the first round, Wales played Cheshire. There were excellent performances by Kevin Nicholas 21-6, Merfyn Jones 21-12 and Graham Bennett 21-11. Mike Chamberlain and Des Hey also won their games resulting in an overall win for Wales by 145-127.

In the second round we played the hosts, Gt. Manchester. In the past few years, Gt. Manchester had been the weakest team in the group, but on this occasion they had a far stronger squad and were determined to use their knowledge of this tricky green to produce a win. Once again, Wales had a good start with Kevin Nicholas and Merfyn Jones bowling well to register wins of 21-12 and 21-15 respectively. There were three close games with Mike Chamberlain and Graham Bennett both winning 21-20, and Des Hey just being pipped on the post losing 21-20. There was never much in the overall aggregate throughout the game, but Gt. Manchester eventually won by 151-142.

In the final game, Wales played the Potteries, Kevin continued his form, but his opponent also played very well. Eventually Kevin won a high class close encounter 21-20 to complete a Played 3, Won 3 record. Merfyn Jones 19-21, and Des Hey 21-9 again played well and both ended up winning two of the three games played. Colin Smith 21-17 was the only other winner in this game, which resulted in a win for the Potteries by 151-142.

All the Welsh players adapted well to this difficult green and can be pleased with their performances. Wales were certainly well in the hunt right up to the last games being played.

Gt. Manchester, as hosts, played well throughout the day and thoroughly deserved their success in qualifying for the final day. On the final day Staffordshire won the 2018 Veterans Team Championship.

Mike Barrodale (Team Manager)

