

WELSH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION.

***** WELSH JUNIOR MERIT 2019 *****

The Merit for Welsh Juniors was held on Sunday 26th May at Hawkesbury BC. There was a good entry from our youngsters with ages ranging from 8 to 17. Deputy WCGBA President, Simon Walker, was our host and he was supported by President, Dave Mathias and members of the WCGBA Management.

Referees, Jim Clarke, Derek Evans, Alan Davies and Tom Lockyer were kept busy throughout the day.

With the first four games called to the green, the championship was underway. Nia Jones took some time to get into her stride and despite leading the way against Cody Edwards for part of the game, she eventually lost in a close 21-20 to Cody.

Harry Lawton's game was the first to finish from the first set with a 21-15 win against Kieron Hallett. Finley Hornbury beat our youngest contender Louis Parker Jones 21-7, with Louis not afraid to really stretch himself out across the green. A budding future County player for sure.

Jacob Jones and Zac Diamond has an excellent game with some brilliant bowling from both players to keep them only a few points apart most of the way. Jacob won 21-18.

In the second round, Josh Venables beat Cody Edwards, getting into his game swiftly and running out to 21-8. Young Haiden Williams triumphed over Daniel Roberts to win 21-10. Harry was to lose 21-15 against Ben Hewitt. Jacob Jones had another well matched game with his opponent Jake Hall. Jacob eventually won 21-17.

Keira Edwards was also to lose her second round match. As the girl reaching the furthest stage in the competition, this earned her the Welsh Junior Ladies title for the second year running and she will represent Wales in the British Junior Ladies competition later in the season.

In the Quarter Finals, Josh Venables played Ben Hewitt and beat him to 21-19. Finley Hornbury ended Jacob Jones' run and won 21-11. Ryan Williams beat Sion Bell 21-4 and Haiden Williams beat Lucas King 21-18.

The Semi Finals got underway with Finley Hornbury beating Josh Venables 21-17. Ryan Williams beat Haiden Williams 21-9.

The stage was set for the Final. Ryan Williams had played consistently and steadily throughout the day and got off to a commanding lead to go 10-3 in front. Finley struggled to find his mojo after his semi final and was only able to snatch the jack from Ryan on a couple of occasions. Despite changing the length half way through the game, Finley couldn't stop his opponent and Ryan ran out 21-7 to take the Junior

title for 2019. Ryan and Finley will represent Wales at the BCGBA Junior Merit Final at Netherfields BC, Kendal on Saturday 17th August.

It is always a joy to watch the juniors and the mature and competitive spirit in which the tournament is played. Individual performances matter very much to our young players and we certainly seem to have a healthy crop of up and coming stars of the future. Special mention must be made of young Louis Parker Jones aged eight and his game as mentioned from the first round and Haiden Williams, also playing in his first Welsh Junior Merit at aged 10. His proud Dad mentioned Haiden playing carpet bowls from the age of two and visiting his first bowling green at six days old. That's what I like to see. You are never too young to start. Some of the players we saw this year will be playing for the Junior side for the last time. We can't afford to lose them. How about a competition for 18 to 25 year olds. Now there's a thought!.