



The 5th Annual Shropshire Open – Report



Each year the event has seen more competitors take to the lanes in Shrewsbury and this year, backed by the BTBA we saw numbers jump to 47 entrants. Both of last year's winners James Tidd (Scratch) & Lloyd Cooper (Handicap) were not in the field which meant we would be crowning a new champion this year. OF the 47 entrants only Pete Stevenson was a previous champion (Scratch 2016).

We were using our house pattern (Empire – devised by Rob Thurlby & Ed Crane).

Round 1 – Squad A - 15 players took part in squad A, largely local bowlers but a few others who had decided to hit the lanes early, two of which James Denvil (203) and Dave Dugmore (231) set the early scratch scoring pace in game 1. Game 2 saw more bowlers adapt to the pattern with three bowlers going above 200, Kirstie Western (233), Michael Boddy (220) and Richard Martin (205). Only Michael Boddy went above 200 in game 3, in fact he went out of sight smashing in a 257 (302 Handicap) game, this also meant he led the scratch standings with 669. The half way stage is sometimes a good wakeup call and this proved to be the case here with 4 players shooting good scores to move in to contention, Darren Knightsbridge 247, Dave Dugmore 211 and Richard Martin & Darren Milner both shooting 201 games. Dugmore continued his form in to game 5 with a 230 as Boddy hit 202 to lead the overall by 2 pins from Dave. Sadly for Boddy a badly timed 145 saw him finish squad A in 2nd place in the scratch section with 1211, Dugmore's last effort of 245 propelled him to a 1309 and 1st place. Elsewhere bowlers were jostling for position and qualifying spots with Western (212) Steve Wilson (201) and Darren Knightsbridge (200) all hoping this was enough for the next round.

Round 1 – Squad B - 32 bowlers assembled for squad B with some rather long journeys concluded at AMF Shrewsbury. Leon Devlin set the benchmark with 245 in the opening game, 6 other players went over 200, with Gavin Greaves (235) and James Wheeler (225) the closest to Leon. 14 bowlers passed the 200 mark in game 2 with the same man Devlin leading the charge with a 258 game, followed by Craig Parker (241) and Frankie Plewis (231). Only 8 bowlers managed this feat in game 3 with the headline maker once again Devlin hitting 244 to set a benchmark of 750 off the opening 3 games, Pete Stevenson (234) and Daniel Lewis (217) made the podium places. Game 4 and it was pay-per-view stuff again from Devlin (233) but this was eclipsed by Gavin Greaves (236) with Kirk Taylor (220) getting the bronze, 6 others went over with Hayley Russell, Tom Walster-Prince, Chris West and Dan Bonfield all hitting at least their 2nd 200+ game. Game 5 had an unfamiliar look as all three high games going to those who hadn't placed yet. TWP (255), Liam Fitzpatrick (245) and David Whiffin (229). Naturally Devlin wanted to make amends and landed game 6 top of the tree with a 242 and wonderful 6 game block of 1400. TWP's 237 led to a final tally of 1285, enough for third place overall. Picking up the game 6 bronze was Dan Bonfield who most definitely was not shut out.

Since its inception in 19XX only three 300 games have been bowled on Shrewsbury's lanes so high scoring is something to be worked at and earned rather than being a given. Just 4 bowlers hit above average during qualifying, special mention to Anne Waddington, Dave Dugmore, Michael Boddy & Richard Martin.

The way this event works sees the top 8 scratch bowlers qualify for the second round – scratch with the top 8 handicap scores from the remaining players advancing to the second round – handicap. All scores from the 6 game qualifying block roll over and this is a now a fight to be in the top 4 of the relevant section to advance to the stepladder finals. Unsurprisingly Devlin held the lead in the scratch section (1400) with Anne Waddington & Richard Martin (1391) tied in joint 1st place in the handicap section.

2nd Round – Scratch

The good scoring from the morning continued with 7 of the 8 competitors hitting 200+ games, with 8th seed Bonfield making a move with a 255, followed by TWP's 235 & Greaves 235. Stevenson sitting in 5th place at

the start of the second round rolled a 248 second game to set himself up nicely for game 9 and a shot at the top 4, Boddy recovered from a tough first game with a 232 and Bonfield kept up the surge with a 219. The standings going in to the last game were tight with only a matter of pins separating 3rd – 6th place. Devlin cemented top seed for the stepladder with a 225, Greaves gave himself a shot at the finals with a 215 and Stevenson took 3rd seed with a 201. Dugmore's consistency meant a 200 game was enough for 2nd seed. Bonfield who was holding 4th place going in to game 9 rolled a 190 which meant a tie with Greaves and courtesy of countback meant he was eliminated as Greaves progressed, enough to grind anyone's gears.

2nd Round Handicap

The handicap section is all about hitting above average, half the field managed to do this in game 6 with Rob Spinks-Chilman (184 – 42 pins above entering average) leading the way. Richard Martin (192 – 21 pins above entering average) and Shropshire's very own Octogenarian June Johnson (153 – 18 pins above entering average) making a pop at those final 4 places. Only 3 players went above their entering average in game 8, Jamie Goswell (198 – 24 pins above entering average) June once again in the mix (+5) and James Watson (+3). With only 12 pins separating 3-8th at the start of the second round this was always going to be tight. RSC set the world alight once more with a +46 game, Jamie Goswell looked like he wanted to stay a little longer (+38) and June looking like she had finally warmed up rolled a (+19) and was the only player to roll every game in the second round above her average. After the scores had been checked Richard Martin stood in 1st place with 2132, Jamie Goswell and RSC tied on 2058 but courtesy of countback Jamie took 2nd seed and RSC third seed, Plewis took 4th seed with 2041.

Finals

1st Step: It's difficult to put in to context the excitement both 1st steps generated with each and every player matching their opponent pretty much shot for shot. To the extent that each game came down to the final ball. In the handicap section RSC appearing to be dead and buried managed to salvage a hambone leaving Plewis needing a strike to tie the game, an 8 count meant that she bowed out with handicap scores of 248-246. In the scratch section the players managed to do what was narrowly avoided in the handicap section and both strike out to tie the scores 208-208. In the event of a tie a one ball roll off would occur with the player scoring the highest total emerging, in the event of a further tie this would continue until there was a winner. At the first attempt Stevenson managed a strike to Greaves 8 count, progressing to the next step.

2nd Step: Incoming seeds Goswell (handicap) and Dugmore (scratch) had seen what their opponents had been through and were under no illusion of the test that lay ahead. The closeness of the previous matches was somewhat obliterated by RSC who chose this moment to pop in his highest score of the day, 205 scratch (283 handicap) with Goswell only able to muster a 190 in response, the long drive finally taking its toll. In the scratch section, it was again nip and tuck until the 10th where Stevenson took the initiative and closed out the game 215-202.

3rd Step: The scratch final was between a previous winner (Stevenson) and bowler of the day (Devlin), surely not one to disappoint. Perhaps the rest had unsettled Devlin who struggled to get into any kind of rhythm whereas Stevenson was firing on all cylinders, the match ended 257-197 in Stevenson's favour and with it his second Shropshire Open title. The handicap section also saw a 3rd seed looking for the win against Richard Martin. I think it is fair to say that the occasion got to both bowlers with mistakes being made. Sadly for Martin this was to be the lowest game thrown all day (197 handicap) and against RSC's (220 handicap) this was not going to be enough, the handicap title remains as it always has done, safe in Shropshire.

We would like to thank everyone who travelled to Shrewsbury to play the event, we are a fledging county seeking to recruit more players, improve playing standards and deliver good tournaments, we hope you enjoyed the challenge and look forward to seeing you again next year!

Good luck to everyone for the rest of the BTBA Tour – next events as follows

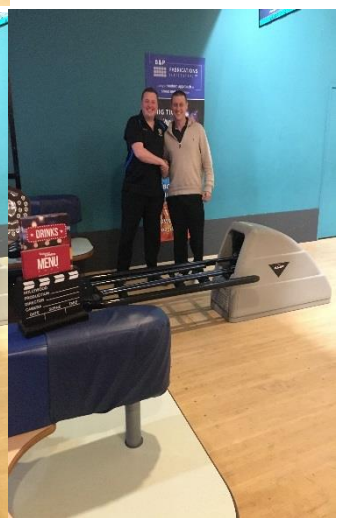
13th/14th October Northants Open Wellingborough

17th/18th November Generation Doubles Stroud

The 5th Annual Shropshire Open Winners:

Rob Spinks-Chilman – (Hcap)

Pete Stevenson (Scratch)



Dave Dugmore
3rd Place Scratch

Richard Martin
Runner-Up (handicap)

Michael Boddy
High Game Handicap 302

Leon Devlin
Runner Up (Scratch)
High Game Scratch 258





The 5th Annual Shropshire Open – Results

Venue: AMF Bowling Shrewsbury
 Date: Sunday 23rd September 2018
 BTBA Sanction Number: 18/0087
 Tournament Director: Pete Spearing



Round 1 – Qualifying

Name	Enter Ave.	H'cap	Game Score (Scratch)						Total Pinfall	
			1	2	3	4	5	6	Scr	H'cap
Anne Waddington	141	79	141	126	133	167	173	177	917	1391
Daren Knightsbridge	187	33	149	164	184	247	131	200	1075	1273
Darren Milner	186	34	165	179	174	201	182	145	1046	1250
David Dugmore	187	33	231	193	199	211	230	245	1309	1507
James Denvil	201	19	203	196	155	149	172	173	1048	1162
Jason Farrall	157	63	178	148	176	124	165	140	931	1309
June Johnson	135	85	114	137	128	136	105	175	795	1305
Kirstie Western	187	33	138	233	180	136	169	212	1068	1266
Mandy Spearing	175	45	188	173	124	158	130	126	899	1169
Michael Boddy	175	45	192	220	257	195	202	145	1211	1481
Phil Waddington	151	69	125	179	133	125	169	146	877	1291
Rhys Bean	198	22	146	169	158	195	160	145	973	1105
Richard Martin	171	49	176	205	178	201	169	168	1097	1391
Rob Spinks-Chilman	142	78	144	115	144	139	116	188	846	1314
Steve Wilson	183	37	176	179	167	192	163	201	1078	1300
Chris West	200	20	186	222	190	212	168	185	1163	1283
Clare Tracey	191	29	150	170	155	154	168	195	992	1166
Craig Ellis	210	10	199	228	195	189	197	152	1160	1220
Craig Parker	215	5	128	241	180	190	166	202	1107	1137
Daniel Bonfield	213	7	157	221	193	201	191	227	1190	1232
Daniel Lewis	209	11	180	131	217	190	209	167	1094	1160
David Whiffin	214	6	163	160	201	188	229	165	1106	1142
Eva Reynolds	159	61	154	151	126	155	176	128	890	1256
Frankie Plewis	188	32	174	231	211	170	158	176	1120	1312
Gareth Greaves	203	17	162	155	172	147	164	172	972	1074
Gavin Greaves	229	0	235	227	165	236	175	211	1249	1249
Harry Meyers	192	28	206	203	185	185	146	156	1081	1249
Hayley Russell	233	0	196	225	204	202	191	193	1211	1211
James Watson	155	65	178	153	148	137	163	146	925	1315
James Wheeler	202	18	225	166	138	194	122	0	845	935
Jamie Goswell	174	46	195	171	163	211	156	131	1027	1303
Joanne Green	180	40	137	159	135	187	179	178	975	1215
Jon Naylor	227	0	191	164	212	170	142	172	1051	1051
Kate Wicklow	187	33	189	211	160	127	171	170	1028	1226
Kieron Patel	199	21	190	222	199	149	208	190	1158	1284
Kirk Taylor	191	29	180	145	179	220	154	160	1038	1212
Laura Marcham	206	14	175	192	183	174	189	157	1070	1154
Leon Devlin	246	0	248	258	244	233	175	242	1400	1400
Liam Fitzpatrick	220	0	162	194	154	150	245	223	1128	1128
Matt Fruen	200	20	213	202	186	208	182	179	1170	1290
Matty Proctor	216	4	184	181	203	179	200	199	1146	1170
Nicky Donowski	197	23	221	202	193	147	165	189	1117	1255

Pete Stevenson	217	3	216	173	234	184	225	185	1217	1235
Samantha Hannan	208	12	186	187	174	203	218	220	1188	1260
Shane Couzens	183	37	123	176	120	138	186	176	919	1141
Steph Tilson	203	17	179	163	156	194	138	144	974	1076
Tom Walster-Prince	218	2	213	214	157	209	255	237	1285	1297

Round 2

Scratch Section

NAME	Code	Game 7	Game 8	Game 9	Pinfall (9 Games)
Leon Devlin	S1	212	214	225	2051
David Dugmore	S2	235	143	200	1887
Pete Stevenson	S5	210	248	201	1876
Gavin Greaves	S4	205	185	215	1854
Daniel Bonfield	S8	255	219	190	1854
Tom Walster-Prince	S3	235	172	161	1853
Hayley Russell	S6	231	194	167	1803
Michael Boddy	S7	155	232	201	1799

Handicap Section

NAME	Code	Game 7	Game 8	Game 9	Handicap Pinfall (9 Games)
Richard Martin	H2	241	245	255	2132
Rob Spinks-Chilman	H4	262	215	267	2058
Jamie Goswell	H8	187	277	291	2058
Frankie Plewis	H5	204	261	264	2041
Anne Waddington	H1	196	194	232	2013
Jason Farrall	H6	217	231	239	1996
June Johnson	H7	238	219	233	1995
James Watson	H3	236	237	194	1982

Round 3 - Stepladder Finals

Scratch					
1 st Step	Gav Greaves	208 (8)	v	208 (10)	Pete Stevenson
2 nd Step	Pete Stevenson	215	v	202	David Dugmore
3 rd Step	Pete Stevenson	257	v	197	Leon Devlin
Handicap					
1 st Step	Frankie Plewis	246	v	248	Rob Spinks-Chilman
2 nd Step	Rob Spinks-Chilman	283	v	190	Jamie Goswell
3 rd Step	Rob Spinks-Chilman	220	v	197	Richard Martin

Final Standings

Scratch		Handicap
Pete Stevenson	1st	Rob Spinks-Chilman
Leon Devlin	2nd	Richard Martin
David Dugmore	3rd	Jamie Goswell
Gav Greaves	4th	Frankie Plewis

High Game

258	Leon Devlin	Michael Boddy	302
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