

Match Report
Amy Rose
Hertfordshire v Northamptonshire

Result, Hertfordshire 40 Northamptonshire 41

Heartbreak for the Amy Rose team on Sunday morning, losing by 1 to the very last bowl of the game.

Rewind to the start of the game and Hertfordshire were pleased to give debuts to Chloe Storey, Becks Jaques and Louise Avery.

2021 runners up, ourselves played 2019 Champions Northants in the prelim round and the quality of the two teams showed through with an exhilarating game that ebbed and flowed throughout the game.

Herts got off to a good start with a 7 on End 4 with Rachel taking out the Northants Bowl for the count, Hayley's Rink was engaged in a nip and tuck game swapping small scores.

And so it went on all morning, ebbing and flowing but with never more than a few in it.

Great support from both counties meant for a great atmosphere and as the last few ends approached the noise level rose,

Rachel's rink was first to finish and holding 2 thanks to a fine bowl from Rachel the Northants skip proceeded to play a great bowl to get shot, a 3 shot swing meaning the rink lost by 2.

Hayley's rink was 3 ends behind, killed ends from Jess contributing to this.

No bad thing to have a staggered finish, we knew what was needed but with everybody watching the pressure was immense.

End 20 saw us 1 down and 1 down on the game, after discussion the decision was to draw due to risk of going further down, it proved a great choice as Hayley drew within inches for shot, cue lots of noise, high fives, general mayhem.

This meant after 3 and 1/4 hrs it was all square with 1 to play.

Reba's second bowl was a side toucher but refused to fall leaving it vulnerable, eventually the Northants 3 removed it and stayed.

Hayley missed with her 1st but she didn't miss with her 2nd, taking the shot bowl out and staying for shot herself with the added bonus of just rolling directly behind the Jack.

This left the Northants skip, Billie Swift with the last bowl of the game and I have to say the bowl she bowled was one of the finest I have ever seen.

Last bowl of a game with a everybody watching, not a short bowl on the rink and our shot bowl directly behind she proceeded to dead draw the shot within a foot. An absolutely incredible bowl considering the circumstances and being the last bowl we unfortunately had no bowls to respond with.

A postscript to the game meant the loss was Jess Weir's last game for the Amy Rose Team, Jess has been ever present for the last 11 years and on behalf of the County we thank her for her commitment and effort over the years. It would have been great to sign off at Leamington but sadly not to be.

For people who sometimes think the game of bowls is quiet and not very exciting to watch, well they should have been at the game Sunday, nail biting, tension

filled, raucous support and ends changing constantly with last bowls it was a great showcase for bowls.

Our thanks go to Royston BC for allowing us the use of their superb facilities and for providing breakfast.



Roger Evans
Manager