



V



## **Balcomb Trophy Report**

### **Middlesex 39 - Isle of Wight 45**

#### **Ashford BC – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> June 2022 – 1200hrs**

In the early “noughties” mobile companies did nothing but talk about the power of 3. Well Sunday in the Balcomb Trophy Preliminary Round tie it was all about the player at 3!

The Islanders Darren Griffiths and John Strain both had great games and proved to be the significant difference between the two sides in a hard fought contest.

On rink 4, Ashley Tanner and Matt Larman were winning the battle of the front end. Darren though either drew shot or opened the head, for his skip, almost every end. Jack took advantage on a consistent basis and you could see why the pair were National Runners Up a couple of years ago the way they worked together. Scott and Nick, try as they might, were unable to contain the damage being done.

Next door on 5 the players were facing the challenge of a much trickier rink. The pace was good but the lines were tough and it was a mighty challenge for anyone to consistently find both line and length. The exception was John Strain who seemed to have more control of his woods than any other player. End after end he drew shots and the big swinging bowls of the Middx back end were not reacting well to the rink.

The cards, reproduced below, show that Middx got off to a positive start but once the Islanders got going, they won comfortably more ends. The cumulative

shots also give a slightly distorted picture as from about 10 ends on Rink 4 were 2 ends ahead of 5!

Ashley Tanner	v	Martin Tasker Poland	Rink 4 running score	Glen Adams	v	Mike Cox	Rink 5 Running Score	Overall Running Score
Matt Larman		Alan Cawdell		Norman Worley		Peter Furmidge		
Scott Reading		Darren Griffith		Pat Briscoe		John Strain		
Nick Edwards		Jack Berry		Tom Smith		Steve Crockett		
1	1		1-0		1	1	0-1	1-1
	2	3	1-3	2	2		2-1	3-4
2	3		3-3	5	3		7-1	10-4
1	4		4-3	2	4		9-1	13-4
4	5		8-3		5	1	9-2	17-5
	6	5	8-8		6	3	9-5	17-13
	7	1	8-9		7	2	9-7	17-16
	8	2	8-11		8	1	9-8	17-19
	9	1	8-12		9	1	9-9	17-21
	10	1	8-13		10	1	9-10	17-23
1	11		9-13	3	11		12-10	21-23
1	12		10-13	2	12		14-10	24-23
	13	1	10-14		13	2	14-12	24-26
	14	1	10-15		14	1	14-13	24-28
2	15		12-15		15	1	14-14	26-27
2	16		14-15		16	4	14-18	28-33
2	17		16-15		17	1	14-19	30-34
	18	3	16-18	4	18		18-19	34-37
1	19		17-18	3	19		21-19	38-37
	20	5	17-23		20	2	21-21	38-44
1	21		18-23		21	1	21-22	39-45

So ultimately a disappointing result and an early exit from the Competition.

The side would like to thank all the spectators who travelled down and supported them and the County would like to thank Ashford for their hard work in hosting the tie.

We wish the Islanders well in the next round at Hampshire.