

STAN HARDMAN FINAL REPORT.

The final for the Stan Hardman Shield was played yesterday afternoon, August 30th, at Old Basing Bowling Club, between Basingstoke Town and Fleet United Cygnets. The weather was good and a number of supporters for both sides came along to support their respective teams. They were not disappointed, as the match was played in good spirit by both teams, some excellent ends played and a close finish.

After six ends, the Cygnets were 3 up on rink 2, it was level on rink 4, and the Town 1 up on rink 5. At the tea interval after 10 ends, the Cygnets still had their 3 shot lead on rink 2, the Cygnets had pulled ahead on rink 4 with a lead of 3 shots, whilst the Town had increased their lead on rink 5 to 4 shots.

On resumption after the tea break, on rink 2 the Town only managed to win two of the remaining ends with the Cygnets winning by 27 shots to 16 to give them the 2 winning rink points. On rink 5 the Town gradually increased their lead and at 16 ends had an 8 shot lead. However, on rink 4 the Town overturned their 3 shot deficit by taking a single shot on the next 5 ends to give them a 2 shot lead with three ends to play. Clearly, it was this rink that would decide the outcome of the match. The Cygnets were able to win the sixteenth end by a single shot and won the seventeenth by 2 shots to give them a 1 shot lead going into the last end. With everything to play for, the Cygnets managed to maintain the impetus, taking the last end by 2 shots giving them a 20 – 17 win, but more importantly, the two winning rinks points giving them an unassailable 4 points. This meant that there was no point in completing the game that was being played on rink 5, which had at that time completed 16 ends.

So a repeat of last year's final with the Cygnets getting the better of the Town. Congratulations to all those that played for providing the spectators on a lovely summer afternoon, with a very enjoyable game to watch, complete with tension on the last end on rink 4. Congratulation to Fleet United Cygnets; the first time that they have retained the Trophy. Commiserations to Basingstoke Town on a well fought match on their second appearance in two consecutive years. Can they make three in a row next year?

Finally, can I thank those clubs that hosted the play-off stages of the competition, Hook and Odiham & North Warnborough for the quarter finals, Farnborough for the semi-finals and Old Basing for the final. Together with their respective members that assisted during the afternoon with the provision the tea, preparing the greens to play on and also those that acted as umpires for the various matches.

Just a reminder that the AGM will be held on the Sunday 2nd December, I look forward to seeing you there.

Regards, Trevor

Trevor Carter
Secretary, Stan Hardman Basingstoke Thursday League