

Under 18 Inter-County Qualifiers at AMF Sheffield – 7th March 2009

By James Burrows (Boys Team Manager)

First of all I would like to send my apologies to the girls team, Rachel Hodds, Hannah Lawrence and Natalie Smith from Yarmouth and Courtney Lewis, Jordan Lewis and Tiffany Nock from Norwich YBC. I am afraid that I did not take down your scores game by game and subsequently I am unable to report in much detail. I do apologise for that but would like to start off by saying congratulations to you for finishing in 5th place in the Girls Division, some 430 pins ahead of the cut and just 176 pins behind 3rd place Staffordshire. Going from not making the Finals last year to this comfortable qualification shows just how far the Girls division in Norfolk has come, long may it continue. As I said at the beginning of this report this is all I have on the girls but my congratulations to you all.

The boys' team consisting of the top 6 from the trials was an all Norwich YBC affair with the team being Matthew Fidgett, Daniel Frazer, James Handford, Michael Nock, Michael Perry and Thomas Wright. In the first game we started off against Lincolnshire (sort of, the qualification was based on pinfall so we were not really against one team, but everybody else) with Thomas Wright on the bench and high game went to Matthew Fidgett with a 224 which gave us a good team start with a 936. Tom then came in for Michael Perry in the second game (against Staffordshire) and cemented his place in the team for the rest of the day with an excellent start of 210, high game though went to Michael Nock with an excellent 231 giving the team a 999 game, pushing us momentarily at least up to 2nd behind County Durham. Unfortunately, either side of the lunch break things took a turn for the worse and we slipped down to 5th by the end of the 4th game.

In the final game before lunch (against Cambridgeshire) it was a straight swap in lead off Michael Perry back in for Daniel and high game this time went to Tom with a 203 with James Handford not far behind with 190 to continue his consistent start to the day. Regardless the dip in form gave us an 883 and dropped us down to 4th going into lunch. After the lunch break and lane dressing the poor form continued and a team game of 870 against Derbyshire with James being top man with a 204 dropped the team down to 5th and things were getting close to turning into a disaster until a massive psychological victory against Yorkshire in the penultimate game pushed the team right back into the mix.

A 168 from Daniel (in for Michael Perry), 187 from Michael Nock, 197 from James, 200 dead for Matty Fidgett and high game again for Tom with a 215 gave the team a near 100 pin

victory over Yorkshire with 967. More importantly it pushed us back up into 4th spot and gave us a huge confidence boost going into the last game against Cheshire that we would remain or go higher in the final table. Up until this point from my point of view it had been a fairly easy day and there were few decisions to make at all but at the end of the 5th game I had a very difficult one to make, which was made easier by the professionalism and brilliant attitude of both Michael Perry and Danny Frazer. Both admitted that by their high standards they were in poor form and despite saying that low man (bar 200's) would be out Michael allowed Daniel to continue stating he thought that he would hit a higher score. After a hand shake from them both and a proud look on my face that I had inherited a team with this amount of drive to succeed we went onto the final game.

Three more impressive performances from Matthew Fidgett (197) Michael Nock (217) and Tom Wright (231) gave the team 987, cemented our place into 4th place (ahead of Yorkshire and Staffordshire) and meant that we qualified for the finals at Nottingham on July 4th and 5th.

I would personally like to congratulate every member of the squad – both male and female, Kevin Law who was the girls coach, parents, organisers etc for the brilliantly run tournament and I look forward to Nottingham in July. Now onto some stats:

Boys Final Table

County	Total	Team Average Per Bowler Per Game
County Durham	5831	194.3
Lancashire	5793	193.1
Lincolnshire	5660	188.6
Norfolk	5642	188
Yorkshire	5630	187.6
Staffordshire	5376	179.2
Cambridgeshire	5197	173.2
Bedfordshire	5194	173.1
Derbyshire	5179	172.6
Nottinghamshire	4315	143.8
Cheshire	4311	143.7

Girls Final Table

County	Total	Team Average Per Bowler Per Game
Yorkshire	5393	179.7
Lincolnshire	5250	175
Staffordshire	4885	162.8
Lancashire	4799	159.9
Norfolk	4709	156.9
Cheshire	4313	143.7
Cambridgeshire	4280	142.6

Boys Stats

Name	Pinfall	Average	High Game
Thomas Wright	1030 (over 5)	206	231
Michael Nock	1165 (over 6)	194.2	231
Matthew Fidgett	961 (over 5)	192.2	224
James Handford	1142 (over 6)	190.3	204
Daniel Frazer	861 (over 5)	172.2	178
Michael Perry	483 (over 3)	161	172