



Top bowler decided

Champion Chiltern bowler Kevin Howes measures-up the final end of his game with Len Brown, of Yarrawonga (second from left). The other semi-finalists, Harry Atkinson, of Albury (left) and Bob Adlington (Corowa Servicemen) look on. Atkinson went on to defeat Howes for the "Champion of Champions" title of the Ovens and Murray Bowling Association.

BOWLS CHAMPIONSHIP TO HARRY ATKINSON

Albury pennant skipper Harry Atkinson won his first Ovens and Murray singles championship when he defeated Kevin Howes 21-11 in the final at Corowa Bowling Club yesterday afternoon.

Atkinson has played in the finals of the championship seven times previously.

He was runner-up to Percy Smith (Corowa), to Vin Byrnes (Albury), and Roy Stanton (Rutherglen). He was defeated in the semi-finals by Frank Lethbridge and Jack Easdown (Corowa), Roy Stanton, and Trevor Carter (a Melbourne bowler who had a season with Wodonga).

He holds six club championships of Commercial Club and one for Albury.

In the first day's play at Commercial Club on Saturday Atkinson defeated Geoff Heberle (Myrtleford) 21-16, Reg Prosser (Corowa) 22-5, Max Illingworth (Moirra) 22-3.

In the semi-final he met Bob Adlington (Corowa Servicemen), who provided the toughest opposition Atkinson met anywhere along the road.

The game was played over 22 ends and Adlington led 5-4 after they had played five ends and 6-4 on the 6th. Atkinson drew level at 6-6 and then drew away to lead 13-8, but Adlington fought back and scores were level at 16-16, 17-17 and 18-18. Atkinson won with three shots on the 22nd end.

He lost four shots twice in this game; the first after playing 5 ends and the second on the 17th.

Adlington played well right through the championship games and perhaps his best win was over Jim Ellis (Benalla), whom he met in his third game.

He had an easy win in his first game when he defeated Fred Cooper of Mulwala Services 22-13, and in his second he defeated Bill Ronald (Mitta Valley) 21-10.

His third game, against Jim Ellis, and the Thornton v Howes game provided some of the best draw bowling of the day at Commercial on Saturday.

The scores were level at 9-9, 12-12, and Thornton led 19-15 but Howes won five ends in a row to win 21-19.

In the semi-final with Len Bown (Yarrowonga) Howes "walked" home. He opened with three shots and followed with 3, 4, 1, 3, 2, 2 to lead 18-0 and he went on to win 22-5.

Details of final and pictures in O-M round-up on Thursday.

SINGLES

First round: A. Falck (Beechworth) d J. Wilson (Wodonga) 23-7, R. Medlin (Tallangatta) d A. Stanton (Wangaratta) 21-14, L. Bown (Yarrowonga) d L. Heath (Kiewa Valley) 21-20, R. Adlington (Corowa Servicemen) d Fred Cooper (Mulwala Services) 22-13, W. Ronald (Mitta Valley) d W. Dunne (Tungamah) 22-7, R. Prosser (Corowa) d E. Schlenker (Yackandandah) 21-13, H. Atkinson (Albury) d G. Heberle (Myrtleford) 21-16.

Second round: Atkinson d Prosser 22-5, M. Illingworth (Moirra) d R. Chandler (Rutherglen) 21-18, J. Ellis (Benalla) d J. Willis (St. James) 22-9, R. Adlington d W. Ronald 21-10, L. Bown d R. Medlin 23-18, L. Hewitt (Commercial Club) d C. Elvish (Bright) 23-13, H. Thornton (Ovens) d A. Falck 21-18, K. Howes (Chiltern) d J. Charnstrom (Border Golf) 21-18.

Third round: Atkinson d Illingworth 22-3, Adlington d Ellis 23-18, Bown d Hewitt 21-17, Howes d Thornton 21-19.

Semi-finals: Atkinson d Adlington 21-18, Howes d Bown 22-5.

Final: Atkinson d Howes 21-11.

In the Adlington - Ellis match Ellis played the draw game to perfection, and almost as perfect with his up-shots was Adlington and he upset end after end of Ellis' god work.

However, it was Adlington who played the shot of the day to draw the absolute when Ellis was holding four shots. The space to draw was so limited that he touched two of Ellis' bowls to get the shot between them.

Runner-up Kevin Howes is the son of well known Chiltern bowler Jack Howes, and Kevin acquitted himself admirably in the event. In congratulating Atkinson, Howes said "I'm just as happy as he is".

Howes' first game on Saturday was against John Charnstrom (Border Golf) and he jumped right into top gear to win six ends in a row and lead 9-0.

Charnstrom scored 1, 1, but then Howes took over again and went on to lead 14-2. However, Charnstrom fought on determinedly and scored 3, 1 and Howes 1, 2 to make the scores 17-6 in Howes' favor.

Then Charnstrom came into his own and won eight ends and hit the front 18-17. Howes scored 2, 2 for game.

Howes' second game was against Harry Thornton (Ovens) and it was his draw shots that got him out of trouble frequently and brought ultimate victory.

There were a number of ends when he was down two or three shots and he would draw right to the jack to save the end.