

THE FIRST BBS CHAMPIONSHIP "A RESOUNDING SUCCESS"

The Men:

Skimmers 387-381 Pin Ups

At midday on Saturday 24th September the first Blackthorn British Skittles Championship men's title got underway **Vipers, Eliot "A", Berry Hill Billes, Skimmers, Eliot "B", Ledbury Legion, Fives Nines** and **Pin Ups** getting through to the quarter finals, with **Rumney Rebels** being unlucky not to get through, losing only on a countback after tying 323 each with **Berry Hill Billes**.

In the quarter finals, **Eliot "A"** and **Eliot "B"** progressed to the semi-finals with the "B" team looking extremely strong with a 355 to 337 win over **Ledbury Legion**. **Eliot "A"** was fortunate enough to scrape through by 1 pin against the **Vipers** (355 to 354). They were joined in the semi-finals by two Dorset teams: **Skimmers** from Dorchester who beat the **Berry Hill Billes** 351 to 343, and **Pin Ups**, from Wykes Regis for defeated **Fives Nines** 370 to 340. At this stage most pundits were backing for **Eliot "B"** the title. They had won all six of their group games and had looked very strong in their first two matches at the finals. There was much talk of an all "Eliot" final.

The road to the men's final:

	Skimmers	Pin Ups
Round 1:	Morganite (Malvern) 403-370	Pawnbrokers (Ivybridge) 362-339
Q-finals:	Berry Hill Billies (Yorkley) 351-343	Five Nines (Cardiff) 370-340
Semi-final:	Eliot "A" (Cirencester) 387-365	Eliot "B" (Cirencester) 378-341

The men's semi-final saw the surprising demise of both **Eliot "A"**, comfortably beaten by **Skimmers** 387 to 365 and **Eliot "B"** thrashed by **Pin Ups** 378 to 341.

The men's final was a real cliff hanger and was decided by the superb form of **Skimmers** captain **Steve Willsher** and an inspired last roll by **Derek Knight**. Willsher downed a fantastic 67 pins, whilst Knight, the last man, needing 11 to win, shot an unbelievable 17 to take the match, the prize money and the title of "British Champions" by 6 pins. One could only feel sorry for **Pin Ups** who must have felt they had done enough to win the title. Their top scorer in the final was **Clive Aston** with 55 pins.

The Ladies:

Railway Rockers 306-297 Tryhards

The last 16 of the Ladies teams saw victories for **Railway Rockers, Weston AFC, Jolly Girls, Grasshoppers, Royal TOTS, Tryhards, Gamps** and **Fairwater RFC**. **Fairwater RFC** was the closest winner, by 3 pins, 307 to 304 against **Landgirls**.

The quarter finals resulted in wins for **Railway Rockers** with a 304 to 301 win over the local team **Weston AFC, Jolly Girls** 299 to 295 over **Grasshoppers**,

Tryhards over **Royal TOTS** (337 to 327) and **Gamps** over **Fairwater RFC** (344 to 332).

Railway Rockers had a close semi-final victory (310 to 306) over **Jolly Girls**, whilst **Tryhards** had things a little easier winning 313 to 283 against **Gamps**.

Cardiff's **Railway Rockers** defeated Cheltenham's **Tryhards** 306 to 297 in the final with club captain Carmen Chapman leading the way, downing 47 pins, helped by Marion Speakman and Jackie Sutcliffe (41). Top scorer for the **Tryhards** was Julia Brewster with 44.

The road to the ladies final:

	Railway Rockers	Tryhards
Q-finals:	Weston AFC (Weston-Super-Mare) 304-301	Royal TOTS (Taunton) 337-327
Semi-final:	Jolly Girls (Tuffley) 310-306	Gamps (Cheltenham) 313-283

Mixed:

Wallbangers 350-327 AKA Predators

At 10:15 play commenced with the last 16 of the mixed team event and resulted in wins for **Paignton Wolves**, **Stow Legion**, **Berry Hill Billies**, **AKA Predators**, **British Legion**, **Wallbangers**, **Bottoms Up** and **Castoffs**. The closest match was between **Bottoms Up** and **Wallbangers** with the former winning by 4 pins, 339 to 335.

Paignton Wolves looked strong in the quarter finals beating **Stow Legion** 357 to 340. Local team **AKA Predators** proved too strong for **Berry Hill Billies** (328 to 314). **Wallbangers** scraped through by 5 pins (351 to 346) against **British Legion** and **Bottoms Up** defeated **Castoffs** 317 to 306.

The mixed team semi-finals were both one-way affairs. **AKA Predators** beat a strangely subdued **Paignton Wolves** 335 to 314 and **Wallbangers** beat **Bottoms Up** 338 to 321.

The road to the mixed final:

	Wallbangers	AKA Predators
Q-finals:	British Legion (Worc) 351-346	Berry Hill Billies (Yorkley) 328-314
Semi-final:	Bottoms Up (Bristol) 338-321	Paignton Wolves (Paignton) 335-314

All winning teams received cheques for £1000 and runners-up received £500 sponsored by Blackthorn.