

## SKIMMERS RETAIN MEN'S TITLE

### The Men:

#### Skimmers 383-336 Pin Ups

Dorchester based Men's skittles team **The Skimmers** retained their **Blackthorn British Skittles Championship** title when they once again defeated their opponents in last years final, fellow Dorset team **Pin Ups**.

In 2004 the tie was not decided until the final roll, but this year **Skimmers** led from the beginning, losing only the 3<sup>rd</sup> leg (74-77) before recording a comfortable 383-336 victory.

Star Man for the **Skimmers** was **Darryl Burt** who downed 57 pins, with **Jeffrey Brown** and **Tim Reed** lending support with 52 pins each. For the losers only **Alan Roberts** showed any real resistance downing 57 pins.

**Steve Willsher**, the **Skimmers** captain was delighted with his teams performance, "I really didn't expect us to retain our title. We started slowly this morning but improved as the day went on." He said, "Winning the Blackthorn is the highlight of our season, now we have to try and make it three in a row," he added.

### The road to the men's final:

	<b>Skimmers</b>	<b>Pin Ups</b>
<b>Round 1:</b>	Lion Cubs (Newent) 351-332	Social Flickers (Cirencester) 367-304
<b>Q-finals:</b>	Mashers (Barnstaple) 349-318	Zulu Mechanics (Weymouth) 357-356
<b>Semi-final:</b>	Saucemen (Worcester) 366-331	Dawlish Monsters (Devon) 375-336

The **Pin Ups** match against their local rivals **Zulu Mechanics** was a real cliffhanger. After the 3<sup>rd</sup> leg the Mechanics were leading by 12 pins, but a disastrous 4<sup>th</sup> leg, which they lost by 68-84, meant they needed to win the last leg by 5 pins but could only manage 3 (77-74) therefore losing by 1. Star man for the **Zulu Mechanics** was **Steve Gould** with 55 pins.

**Badsey Rec** was involved in another match decided by 1 pin when the rec won 366-365. "Man of the Match" was Badsey Rec's **Dave Gisbourne** who downed a massive 63 pins. The Skimmers Derek Burt who, in the semi final against the Saucemen, downed an incredible 67 pins recorded the highest individual score during the Men's Finals.

### The Ladies:

#### Ever Hopefuls 336-301 Royal TOTS

In the Ladies Team finals, first time entrants **Ever Hopefuls** from Pensilva in Cornwall surprised everyone by taking the title. They beat Taunton's **Royal TOTS** in the final but almost went out in the first round drawing with **AKA Angels** (Weston Super Mare) 323-323 before winning the "Shootout" 31-29. In the final **Ever Hopefuls** led all the way, losing only the 3<sup>rd</sup> leg 59-66. **Mavis Jeffrey** top scored with 52 pins with **Jess Gilbert** downing 45. For the **Royal TOTS Sue Rex** top scored with 46 pins.

**Royal TOTS** beat **Tryhards** (Cheltenham) 303-292, **Boozey Floozies** (Cinderford) 309-301 and **Jolly Girls** (Tuffley) 335-321.

The road to the ladies final:

	<b>Ever Hopefuls</b>	<b>Royal TOTS</b>
<b>Round 1:</b>	AKA Angels (Weston-Super-Mare) 323-323 (31-29 in Shootout)	Tryhards (Cheltenham) 303-292
<b>Q-finals:</b>	Grasshopper (Tuffley) 322-293	Boozey Floozies (Cinderford) 309-301
<b>Semi-final:</b>	Pirates (Cheltenham) 354-299	Jolly Girls (Tuffley) 335-321

Last year's champions **Railway Rockers** (Cardiff) were knocked out by the **Pirates** 315-303 in the first round.

**Mixed:**

### **AKA Predators 347-304 Outlaws**

Weston Super Mare based **AKA Predators** comfortably won the Mixed team event beating **Outlaws** (Barnstaple) 347-304 in the final. **Paula Malone** top scored for the Predators with 59 pins whilst **Ian Braunton** was the Outlaws best with 48 pins.

The road to the mixed final:

	<b>AKA Predators</b>	<b>Outlaws</b>
<b>Round 1:</b>	Wreckers (Calne) 340-319	Faraday Mixers (Swindon) 316-306
<b>Q-finals:</b>	Calvista (Callington) 311-304	Forest Floppers (Cinderford) 340-303
<b>Semi-final:</b>	Ring of Belles (Bath) 352-310	Wallbangers (Malvern) 352-332

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