

Fife Darts Association



In January, Fife held their first Inter-County match of the New Year and played host to the county team from East Stirlingshire.

Before the day's darts began, Fife were top in all four divisions, so we knew good results in all the day's games would stand the county in good stead and boost chances of becoming champions in the Scotland North division.

The women's B kicked the day off and Moira Murray lost the first set against Lorna Murray 2-1, but Kirsty Burns (13.01) and Agnes Gallagher (11.45) won the next two sets before Shiona Arbuckle won the fourth for the visitors to make the final score 2-2.

The men's B team were next up and they won the first 5 sets before East Stirling took the last one for a 5-1 victory. The winning players for Fife were Stevie Fairfull (21.23), Kevin O'Hagan (18.82), Lee Thomson (21.72), Colin McClements (22.89) and Gordon Donnelly (19.27). East Stirling's consolation win came from Hugh Allison with 25.08.

Before the women's A match commenced, there were a couple of awards to be made. Two Fife players received certificates for their performances against Perthshire in December in which they won the top averages in Scotland North. Gary Robson presented the awards with the first one going to Brenda Hunter and the other certificate was presented to Danny Cunningham for his game. Danny's average of 35.79 was also the highest in Britain for that month.

Back to the darts and Brenda Hunter was up first and won her set 3-2 with 15.27. East Stirling took the next three sets following wins from Marlene Hannon (15.03) against Morag Small, Colleen Hunt (23.12) against Sheena Fotheringham, and Christine Jenkins (18.68) against June Innes, which put them 3-1 ahead. Margaret Hatton was on fifth for Fife and her set with Kate Wilson went the distance before she won the deciding leg with 15.80 to bring Fife back into the game at 3-2. Last up for Fife was Frances Wood, and she won her tie against Bridget Martin 3-1 with 14.40 to give Fife a share of the points for a creditable 3-3 draw.

The final match of the day was the men's A, and Fife got off to a flier following 3-2 wins from Colin Hepplewhite over John Devine with 20.62, and Mark Thomson (26.46) against Gary Anderson. East Stirling then levelled the match at 2-2 with wins from John Donaldson (26.81) and John Robertson (26.84) against Pete Naughton and John Walker. The next two sets were shared with Fife's Rab Shaw (22.60) winning 3-1 against Wullie Hamilton, only to see Alex Lister winning a fifth leg decider against Nelson Brown for 25.68 to make the match all square.

Danny Cunningham (29.31) and Darren Moir (27.83) then put Fife 5-3 ahead following wins over Craig Quinn and John Beggs, before James McKenna won the ninth set for the visiting side (22.66) to put the score at 5-4 in Fife's favour. Billy Pryde was next up for Fife and he played Hugh Allison and went on to win his set 3-1 with 23.20 to guarantee Fife would get at least a share of the points.

Neil Brunton was up against Gary Robson in the penultimate set and threw some excellent darts winning 3-0 in 15, 17, and 15 darts to give Fife that much needed point and put the match out of East Stirling's reach with the score standing at 7-4. The last set was won by Andy Murray against Danny Inglis for the visitors with a three nil win for a 26.84 average which made the final score 7-5 to Fife.

There were 8 maximums scored during the day, all of which came in the men's A match. Fife players to score 180's were Nelson Brown, Billy Pryde (2), and Neil Brunton, while John Donaldson, John Robertson, John Beggs and Andy Murray all hit one each for East Stirling. The highest checkouts on the day were; 160 – Danny Cunningham (Fife), 138 – Darren Moir (Fife), 128 – John Donaldson (East Stirling), 111 – Christine Jenkins (East Stirling), 108 – Alex Lister (East Stirling), 107 – Darren Moir (Fife), and 104 – Neil Brunton (Fife).

Player of the match awards went to; Women's B – Kirsty Burns (Fife), Men's B – Hugh Allison (East Stirling), Women's A – Colleen Hunt (East Stirling), and the Men's A went to Neil Brunton (Fife) following his 31.98 average.

With Fife strengthening their lead in all four divisions, things are looking good for all teams, but we only have one game left, which is away to Central next month. All our nearest teams have two matches remaining, as Fife have the bye in March, and so we shall just have to wait and see what happens elsewhere, and await the outcome from the final fixtures.

Entry forms for this year's Fife open are now available and anyone wishing to enter can either obtain a form from their league rep, a Fife committee member, or a copy can be downloaded from the Association's web page. The competition takes place in the CISWO, Glenrothes, and goes ahead on 29th – 30th April this year. Entry fees are £7 for the men's singles, and £5 for the women's. There will be a doubles tournament on the Sunday also and entries for this are £6.00 and £5.00 for the men and women respectively. Prize money for the singles champion is up to £1200 in the men's and £400 in the women's, with BDO Grand Prix ranking points available to those who reach the latter stages of the competition.

With this season's Super League now having reached it's halfway point, the team sitting in pole position in the men's competition are East Fife. They have a slender three-point lead over Glenrothes. Lochgelly are currently undergoing a revival to the kind of form which saw them win the Super League twice back in the late eighties, and are presently in third place. However, this is only due to a slightly better "legs for" average over Earn Valley who have the same points as the Lochgelly team. Dunfermline are in fifth place and bringing up the rear are Inverkeithing.

Top performances in the last round of matches were as follows; Highest Average – 26.37 from Danny Cunningham (Glenrothes), and John Walker (East Fife). Highest Checkout – 120 by John Walker, and the Fastest Leg was in 14 darts by Nelson Brown (Glenrothes).

Top positions in the averages are held by; 1st – Danny Cunningham with a D/Ave of 31.58, 2nd – Steve Fairfull (East Fife), D/Ave 28.92, 3rd – Nelson Brown, 28.27, 4th – Paul Griggs (Lochgelly), 27.53, and in fifth is Rab Shaw (Glenrothes), with 27.33.

This season, the women are trying out a new format, and are playing a singles league. The best performances in the last round were; Highest Average – 18.79 from Liz McGovern, Highest Checkout – 74 by Brenda Hunter, and the Fastest Leg was from Liz McGovern, who had a 22-dart leg.

The top three players are currently Margaret Hatton with a D/Ave of 21.23, Frances Wood (19.46), and Morag Small (17.94).

Diary Dates for March

Thursday 2 nd	Fife meeting, CISWO, Glenrothes
Saturday 4 th	Scottish Singles Fife qualifier, CISWO, Glenrothes
Thursday 9 th	Men's Super League (Earn Valley vs Dunfermline, Glenrothes vs Inverkeithing & Lochgelly vs East Fife)
Saturday 11 th	WINMAU World Masters Fife qualifier, CISWO, Glenrothes
Thursday 16 th	Women's Super League, Bowhill Club
Saturday 18 th	Scottish Mixed Triples Scottish finals (Venue to be announced)
Friday 24 th – Sunday 26 th	Berwick weekend
Thursday 30 th	Men's Super League (Inverkeithing vs Earn Valley, Dunfermline vs Lochgelly & East Fife vs Glenrothes)

**Bobby Adamson,
30th January 2006**