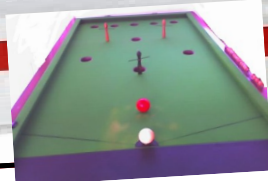




All England Bar Billiards



The bi-monthly newsletter of the All England Bar Billiards Association

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AEBBA Newsletter Editorial

We have come to the end of the bar billiards year and it has again been a great year for bar billiards and the AEBBA would like to congratulate all the winners. The year's highlight was without doubt the World Championships in Jersey, where **Kevin Tunstall** won his record **6th** world title. Hard luck to **Martin Cole**, who had a great run to the final—as many have said already his time will surely come especially with the way he plays the Jersey tables.

Despite being only 5th in the rankings, it has been without doubt Kevin's year. He won 4 national events to put him on 76 in total! In addition to the World's Kevin won the Surrey, Kent and Off the Spot titles in 2019. The top spot in the rankings belongs to **Mark Trafford** who had a lean year opens wise, winning just the Alternative Rules (but for the first time) before trying to win the Grand Prix to complete his triple crown. He lost his first match but went on to hit big scores to win the event in style. England number 2, **Nigel Senior**, had a good year winning 3 events—the Oxford Open, the AEBBA 4 pin and finally his home Sussex Open on his 23rd! attempt. Outgoing World Champion **Paul Sainsbury** made little impact on the opens this year but did win a big one—his 5th All England Singles (puts him 2nd all time behind that man Kevin).

After losing a few finals **Matt Jones** was relieved to get back in the winners circle. He won his home open in Bucks. He also retained the World Pairs title with **Cliff Slade** (the only player not to miss a ball in the final—potting the 100 hole) Matt now is a new high of 3rd in the rankings. Another home winner this year and a totally new winner was **Jason Neal** who won in Northants and then added the over 50's title later in the year. The 'Tenerife Tornado' **Dave Ingram** showed he can still win despite barely playing by taking the Guernsey Open title. Also there was finally a local league winner of the East Anglian 4 pin event, where **Dave Lillie** beat **Curt Driver** in the final. Speaking of Curt, the England captain steered **England** to another win over **Guernsey** in June, although sadly **Jersey** could not raise a side to play us in Jersey. Curt is now number 4 in the rankings and was again consistent making 4 finals in 2019 but a major singles title eluded him—but he did win the AEBBA pairs with **Mark Brewster** and the Mixed pairs with **Pauline Withey**. Also don't mention to him the county champs but just to add Sussex A were the winners and a star studded Kent team were relegated.

This year the ladies game saw an interruption to the dominance of the top 2 ladies **Jean Brackenridge** & **Pauline Withey**. They are still the top 2 in the rankings but neither took a ladies title in 2019 (the first time since 2000 this has happened). **Denise Wills** won her 2nd British Ladies title. But the other 3 were firsts. First national titles for **Ros Appleby** (Special Ladies) and **Michelle Baden** (Ladies Grand Prix). **Dawn Jordan** became the first Bucks lady to win the Ladies All England Singles in October—after a fair few attempts!

Another great year! The AEBBA would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

World Championships @ Merton Hotel, Jersey, 8th/9th/10th Nov 2019

Kevin Tunstall (pictured right on the left) won his record 6th World Championship title in Jersey. Kevin beat teammate **Martin Cole**, (pictured right on the right) in the final. Martin was put into play first after Kevin won the dice roll. Martin missed early and things looked ominous as Kevin got the balls back, but Kevin also missed early and then there was a battle to try and clear the table from both players. Martin managed this and built a 10k lead at the half-way point. Kevin was not to be denied, however, and made enough with his opening break in leg 2 to take the title.

135 players entered the tournament (5 down on last year) and the first round was again played in groups of 4. There were some exciting groups, and most of the top players progressed, however there was one big casualty. The reigning champion, **Paul Sainsbury**, was drawn in the opening group and found himself in huge trouble after losing to **Janet Burns**. This meant he needed to beat **Mark Brewster** to stay alive, but he lost the dice roll in the decisive leg and was not given a chance by Mark. Another former champion, **Trevor Gallienne**, struggled as he only won 1 game out of 3 in his group but results went his way to get himself a play off spot.

Then followed the live draw for the last 64, which, seemed to keep most of the top players apart, for now at least... The pick of the ties (and a repeat of last year's last 64 big match) was two former champions meeting, **Graham Bisson** and **Jim Millward**. Jim reversed last year's result to progress. Into the next round we had a big Jersey v Guernsey clash where **James Jeanne** got the better of **Trevor Gallienne**.

So by the time the field was whittled down to 16, 12 UK mainland, 3 Jersey, and 1 Guernsey players were left in, with 3 past champions present. Some great matches here—**Jack Baden** took out the 2013 finalist **Nigel Senior**. **James Jeanne** recorded a comfortable win over **Harry Barbet** in an all Jersey clash. James now the only Jerseyman left in as 2 time runner up **Nigel Ryall** lost to 2 time champ **Mark Trafford**. The match of the round was between **Martin Cole** and England captain **Curt Driver**. Curt chasing **17,360** nearly got there but failed to pull off an ambitious 200 shot with the bar having gone. Onto the quarter finals and **James Jeanne** kept the Jersey flag flying ending **Jack Baden's** superb run. **Martin Cole** saw off teammate **Stuart Mepham** in a low scoring affair. A big opening score was enough for **Mark Trafford** to see off a spirited run by **Neil Higgins**. And the remaining Guernseyman departed here as **Bob Chapple** could not overcome **Kevin Tunstall**. **Martin Cole's** 17k opener was too much for **James Jeanne**. Kevin set a tournament high of **19,410** for **Mark Trafford** and Mark broke down early in his chase.



The World Championship Doubles was retained by **Matt Jones & Cliff Slade** (pictured left). They beat **Curt Driver & Mark Trafford** in the final. Matt was the form player of the weekend—just don't ask him what happened in the singles! I am sure this makes Cliff the oldest World Champion in an sport breaking his own record from last year! The plate was won by **Alan Brackenridge** beating **Kyle Ingram**. Alan was the player who knocked out **Paul Sainsbury** in the plate semi final and he complete the Jersey/Guernsey plate double.



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John Burrows

It is sad to report the passing of **John Burrows** (pictured right) who passed away in June 2019. Obituaries are not usually printed in these AEBBA newsletters, but John was one of the truly greatest players of the game and it seems fitting to pay a tribute to him at this time.



His record in national events is up there with the very, very best. He won the All England singles 3 times plus 1 Grand Prix title. He was also a 4 time winner of the National Off the Spot title before it became the Triangle rules. Add to that 7 more county opens gives a total of 15 national wins. He only lost 2 national finals.

His scoring power was immense, in the 36 opens he played for which there are full records his average leg score was 9,940 (so close to 10k like the Don Bradman 100 test average). This is the highest average recorded of any player in open history.

A period of matches between 1996-98 showed how dominant he could be even in the strongest of eras. He won 3 opens in a row he entered the 1996 Northants, 1997 Oxon and 1997 Berkshire. He then won the 1997 Grand Prix before retaining the Oxon title in 1998. He played 33 matches in this period losing just 2 (both to Keith Sheard, but he did also beat him twice)

He was one of the greats and also a complete gentleman off the table. A true legend of the game.

Have any ideas of what you want to see in the Newsletter, or wish to contribute stories or pictures?

Email nigelsenior05@googlemail.com with your suggestions

Latest British Rankings (@ 31st December 2019)

MEN				LADIES			
Pos	Player	County	PTS	Pos	Player	County	PTS
1	Mark Trafford	Oxon	318.5	1	Jean Brackenridge	Sussex	117.4
2	Nigel Senior	Sussex	310.6	2	Pauline Withey	Oxon	100.5
3	Matt Jones	Bucks	255.1	3	Denise Wills	Surrey	63.9
4	Curt Driver	Kent	254.3	4	Dawn Jordan	Bucks	60.1
5	Kevin Tunstall	Sussex	253.8	5	Jenny Florey	Oxon	57.7
6	Paul Sainsbury	Kent	201.7	6	Ros Appleby	Sussex	56.9
7(+1)	Phil Osborne	Sussex	148.2	7	Lorraine Hall	Sussex	46.6
8(-1)	Mark Brewster	Kent	144.7	8	Michelle Baden	Sussex	43.7
9(+2)	Martin Cole	Sussex	143.8	9	Mel Standbridge	Oxon	38.2
10	Gerry Fitzjohn	Kent	126.6	10	Jan Bithell	Sussex	38.0

Ladies Grand Prix, 24th Nov 2019



Michelle Baden (pictured left) won her first national Ladies title by winning this year's Ladies Grand Prix. This win comes after many years of trying and a few near misses in big competitions. In a repeat of last year's final she beat **Pauline Withey**. The table in the final proved tricky and Michelle built a handy 3k lead at the interval after Pauline lost a break to pretty much level the scores. In leg 2 Pauline again lost scores as Michelle kept hers to build up a lead of around 7k with 8 minutes to go. Pauline got the balls back to have one last go but broke down to hand the title over to an emotional and relieved Michelle!

Michelle was the final qualifier and seeded 8th but opened up with wins over top seed **Ros Appleby** and **Jan Bithell** (seeded 4). She lost to **Jenny Florey** (seeded 5) but she had enough score to pip Ros by just over 3k overall. Pauline was seeded 3rd and won her group with 3 wins over **Jean Brackenridge** (seeded 6), **Denise Wills** (seeded 2) and **Mel Standbridge** (seeded 7).

Group A		
Pos	Player	Pts
1	Michelle Baden (Sus) (8)	4
2	Ros Appleby (Sus) (1)	4
3	Jenny Florey (Oxon) (5)	2
4	Jan Bithell (Sus) (4)	2

Group B		
Pos	Player	Pts
1	Pauline Withey (Oxon) (3)	6
2	Jean Brackenridge (Sus) (6)	4
3	Denise Wills (Sus) (2)	2
4	Mel Standbridge (Oxon) (7)	0

Jean will be disappointed to be eliminated at the group stage as she topped scored of all the 8 players, but she did have the consolation of the days high break with **5,030**.

Final	
Michelle Baden	8,780
beat	
Pauline Withey	3,030

Final Grand Prix Standings (after 9 events)

Pos	Player	Pts
1	Kevin Tunstall	68
2	Nigel Senior	52
3	Matt Jones	41
4	Curt Driver	32
5	Gerry Fitzjohn	25
6	Martin Cole	25
7	Mark Trafford	23
8	Dave Ingram	19
9	Martin Smith	16
10	Ian Lelliott	15
11	Jason Neal	15
12	James Jeanne	15
13	Phil Osborne	14
14	Mark Brewster	13
15	Bob Hall	12
16	Tony Webster	10

Grand Prix @ Arborfield Club, Reading, 24th Nov 2019

Mark Trafford (pictured right) won the Grand Prix title for the first time. This completes the Triple Crown of events for Mark, having previously won 2 World Championships and 1 All England Singles. He becomes the 6th man to accomplish this feat joining **Kevin Tunstall**, **Keith Sheard**, **Phil Collins**, **Paul Sainsbury** & **Bernie McCluskey**. Mark beat **Curt Driver** in the final. Mark missed early but retrieved the balls to lead by 16k at the break. An early mistake by Curt in leg 2 allowed Mark to ease his way to the title.



The top 16 performers on the open circuit this year were seeded and placed into 4 groups— winners progressing to the semi finals. Top seed **Kevin Tunstall** was rarely troubled in his group winning his 3 games over **Martin Smith** (seeded 8), **Jason Neal** (seeded 9) and **Jack Baden** (seeded 16). In Group B **Nigel Senior** (seeded 2) took control with wins over **Joe Oakley** (seeded 15) and **Phil Osborne** (seeded 10). **Mark Trafford** (seeded 7) lost a 10k break to lose to Phil but by the time he put 40k plus passed Joe he just needed a win over Nigel to progress. A day's highest break of **23,850** by Mark proved too many for Nigel. Group C was strong and it pitted World Champ finalist **Martin Cole** (seeded 6) against World Pairs winner **Matt Jones** (seeded 3), **Mark Brewster** (seeded 11) and Guernseyman **Bob Chapple** (seeded 14). The World Champ runner-up continued his fine form to win all 3 of his matches to book his place in the semi finals. The final group ended up in a shoot out between **Curt Driver** (seeded 4) and **Gerry Fitzjohn** (seeded 5) as they had both beaten **Stuart Mephram** (seeded 13) and **Stephen Coleman** (seeded 12). Gerry will rue missed chances to deny his county team-mate his place in the semi finals as Curt came out on top **12,590-8,040**.

In the semis Curt put **19,870** on the board for Kevin to chase—Kevin missed early. A similar story in the other semi where Mark set Martin **16,360**. Martin pegging his reply before he really got going.

Group A		
Pos	Player	Pts
1	Kevin Tunstall (Sus) (1)	6
2	Martin Smith (Sus) (8)	4
3	Jack Baden (Sus) (16)	2
4	Jason Neal (Nor) (9)	0

Group B		
Pos	Player	Pts
1	Mark Trafford (Ox) (7)	4
2	Nigel Senior (Sus) (2)	4
3	Phil Osborne (Sus) (10)	4
4	Joe Oakley (Sus) (15)	0

Semi Finals	
Curt Driver	20,040
Kevin Tunstall	1,360
Mark Trafford	20,430
Martin Cole	20

Group C		
Pos	Player	Pts
1	Martin Cole (Sus) (6)	6
2	Mark Brewster (Kent) (11)	4
3	Matt Jones (Bucks) (3)	2
4	Bob Chapple (Gue) (14)	0

Group D		
Pos	Player	Pts
1	Curt Driver (Kent) (4)	6
2	Gerry Fitzjohn (Ken) (5)	4
3	Stuart Mephram (Sus) (13)	2
4	Stephen Coleman (Nor) (12)	0

Final	
Mark Trafford	19,390
Curt Driver	510

Over 60's @ Totteridge Club, 20th Oct 2019



The Over 60's title was retained by **Gerry Fitzjohn** (pictured left) after he beat Buck's **Dino Clark** in the final. Gerry was always in control in the final and was 9k in front after leg 1 and he extended that lead to win the match **16,140-1,980**.

Only 9 players entered and the competition was run as a straight knockout. Gerry started off with a comfortable win over **Brian Dawkins** but two tough matches followed to make the final. In the quarter finals he beat **Pete Sainsbury**, Pete just falling short of the **15,660** (day's highest) break set by Gerry. In the semi Gerry had to chase down this time. **Ernie Jordan** set him **13,510** and Gerry made **14,560** in reply. Dino's run to the final was also tough. In the quarter's he beat **John Slee** in a close match **10,700-6,000**. He had a closer match in the semi final against Sussex's **Ric Bithell** but he won that **9,720-6,140**.

(Reported late as no space on Newsletter #65)

Under 30's @ Arborfield Club, 24th Nov 2019



Stephen Coleman (pictured left) from Northants won the Under 30's title for the 2nd time adding to his win in 2014. In the final, Stephen faced **Jack Baden** fresh from his great run to the quarter finals in the World Championships. Jack put himself 5k in front at half-time but Stephen fought back well scoring 14k in the 2nd leg to win **18,420-8,920**.

6 players entered and were split into 2 groups with the group winners making the final. Stephen beat **Kyle Ingram** (a previous runner-up in this event in 2016) and Cambridge's **Lee Mason** with a 9k average to win his group. Jack crucially beat reigning champ **Joe Oakley** in his opening match and followed it up with a win over **Jon Gillespie** to progress. Stephen also made the day's high break of **10,660** in his first leg of the day.

Upcoming Events in January & February

8th Feb - Oxon Open - The 27th Oxon Open will take in February, at the Berensfield Social Club. Last year **Nigel Senior** won the title for a record 3rd time beating **Curt Driver** in the final.

Dates for your diary 2020—see <http://www.aebba.org/> for entry forms

- 8th Feb - Oxon Open (@ Berensfield Social Club)
- 7th/8th Mar - British Pairs (@ Queens Hotel, Bournemouth)
- 28th Mar— World 4-pin Open (@ Masonic Hall, Sudbury)
- 5th Apr—Surrey Open (@ Salfords Club)
- 25th/26th Apr—AEBBA Challenger Event (Novotel City Centre @ York) [Entry open to players outside 200 in rankings]
- 2nd May - England v Guernsey (@ Roffey Club, Horsham)
- 2nd/3rd May - Guernsey Pairs/Guernsey Open (@ Les Rocquettes, Guernsey)
- 16th May - AEBBA Northants 4 pin Open (@ Cock Inn, Northampton)
- 17th May - Northants Open (@ Cock Inn, Northampton)
- 7th June—Sussex Open (@ Roffey Club, Horsham)
- 28th June - National Off the Spot Open (@ Totteridge Club, High Wycombe)
- 5th July - Kent Classic (@ SixinOne Club, Tonbridge)
- 26th July - British Ladies (@ Burgess Hill Con Club)
- 9th Aug - Bucks Open (@ Totteridge Club, High Wycombe)
- 6th Sept - Alternative Rules (@ Salfords Club, Surrey)
- 20th Sept - County Div 1 (@ Totteridge Club, High Wycombe)
- 27th Sept - County Div 2 (@ Totteridge Club, High Wycombe)
- 11th Oct - Team Champs/ Special Ladies/ AEBBA Mixed Pairs (@ Totteridge Club)
- 25th Oct - AE Open Singles/AE Ladies Singles/Over 50's/Over 60's (@ Totteridge Club)
- 6th/7th/8th Nov - World Champ Pairs/ World Champs Singles (@ Merton Hotel, Jersey)
- 22nd Nov - Grand Prix/ Ladies Grand Prix/Under 30's (@ Totteridge Club)
- 6th Dec - AEBBA AGM (@ Totteridge Club, High Wycombe)