

A study in concentration - new singles champion Paul Coleman.



Young Surrey ace too hot for World champion

YOUNG Paul Coleman, still to gain his spurs at senior international level indoors, dropped a major hint to the selectors when he toppled reigning World indoor singles champion Mervyn King to claim the blue riband English men's singles title.

The Wey Valley ace showed an ice-cool temperament under pressure as he transformed a 12-6 deficit into a 21-17 victory to deny King a third singles crown.

King, hoping to make amends for narrowly missing out on a triples bronze medal at the Commonwealth Games, appeared to be in total control of affairs as he edged his way into a six-shot advantage.

Coleman, though, refused to buckle under pressure and gradually re-discovered the scintillating form that had taken him to his first final by making his opening bowls count, and forcing his more illustrious opponent to introduce more weighted shots.

The Surrey youngster won 11 of the last 16 ends played which underlines the way fortunes changed during the second half of the match. Coleman scored on nine out of 11 ends from 6-12 down to lead 18-15. King responded with singles on the next two ends, and singles were exchanged on the next two ends to leave Coleman 19-17



Sussex, winners of the Under 25 inter-county double rink title.

ahead, but shot down on the next.

However, with his final bowl of the end he managed to extricate the jack with a backhand draw to two of his waiting bowls to upset the odds.

Although Coleman was taken all the way by East Dorset's Peter Ward in the quarter-finals, his other three wins were fairly regulation, including an impressive 21-6 semi-final success over Spalding's World number 17 Graham Smith.

King dropped just 11 shots in the opening three rounds, including a 21-0 quarter-final victory over Neil Jackson (Essex County), before accounting for home favourite Les Gillett 21-16 in the semi-finals.

Gillett for his part had been pretty awesome, too, in the early rounds, beating current internationals Nicky Brett (City of Ely) and Robert Newman (Whiteknights) 21-4 and 21-9 respectively, and then restricting Foxhill's David Harding to five shots in the last eight.

PAIRS

HAVING narrowly missed out on singles bronze at the Commonwealth Games, Stephen Farish returned indoors to skip Cumbria clubmate and former international Paul Barlow to the pairs title.

It means that Farish, who has also won the fours twice and the triples once, just needs the coveted singles title to complete the set.



Steve Farish, fresh from representing England at the Commonwealth Games, returned indoors to win the pairs with Cumbria clubmate Paul Barlow.