

Coleman turns up the heat

By Jon Woods

PAUL COLEMAN, who won the English indoor singles title in April, took a small step towards lifting the World Bowls Tour crown at Potters Leisure Resort, Norfolk, yesterday when he defeated Gareth Wills 8-2, 7-2, in the first round.

Wills, a 29-year-old Welsh international from Hereford, has learnt a lot from his mentor, Robert Weale, but simply could not cope with Coleman's consistently superior drawing to the jack.

Danny Brown, the manager of Lincoln Indoor Bowls Club, where he partners world ranked Billy Jackson in the pairs, had to work hard to win an intriguing battle between two England qualifiers.

Brown lost the first set to Margate's Kieron T Moss, at 18 the youngest of the 71 competitors, but bounced back to win the second and edged home on the third end of a tense tie-break. Those victories set the English duo up for a crack at two of the favourites for the title: Brown takes on John Price on Monday while Coleman will play the England indoor team captain, Andy Thomson, next Wednesday, the day before his 28th birthday.

Welsh fortunes took a turn for the better when Jason Greenslade and Robert Weale, who lost in the pairs final four years ago, swept to a 12-0, 10-4 victory over South Africa's Nick Rusling and Theuns Fraser.

Noel Graham and his Irish team-mate, Clifford Craig, emerged 11-6, 8-6 winners against Israel's Amir Yaron and Raymond Sher to clinch a place in the first round.