

Bowls Coleman is new national King

PROUD Paul Coleman wrote his own piece of history as he lifted the English National Indoor singles title.

The 27-year-old became the first Wey Valley bowler to claim the crown since Alan Windsor's triumph 30 years ago.

And what made Coleman's feat all the more impressive was that it came against reigning world champion Mervyn King – who at one stage led by six shots.

Coleman, who eventually edged out the Norfolk star 21-17 at Melton Mowbray, confessed: "To beat Merv is one thing. To beat the world champion is another but to do it in the national final is just the icing on the cake.

"I can't believe it. I was 12-6 down but somehow managed

to get back to 17-17 and pick up the winning shots from there."

But it was not long before Coleman – part of Guildford-based Wey Valley's Denny Cup final side – was brought crashing down to earth.

The following morning after a celebratory previous night, he was in action again – this time against Gary Fitzgerald in his club singles final.

And after losing 21-12, philosophical Coleman, who had to play five games in two days, said: "I tried my best but it was so hard mentally and physically to pick myself up again. I'd had a night out and only three hours sleep."

Coleman's national triumph earns him an automatic place in the British Isles Championships at Thornaby next season.