

National title for Coleman

BOWLS

Mike Haigh

Merton Park-based Paul Coleman has been crowned men's national indoor singles champion for 2005-06.

Coleman won the championship the hard way, beating world indoor singles champion Mervyn King in the final after five gruelling rounds in Melton Mowbray.

The Surrey bowler, who plays indoors for Wey Valley IBC and outdoors for Raynes Park-based Southey BC, qualified for the blue riband event of the indoor bowls calendar by winning Surrey-based Area 27.

At the main event in Leicestershire, Coleman defeated Beckenham-based Tom Doig 21-12 and Devon's Stuart Evans 21-10 in the first two rounds.

Coleman's toughest match came in round three against East Dorset's Peter Ward, in which the Surrey man edged through 21-20.

After a convincing 21-6 win over Lincolnshire's Graham Smith in the semi-final, Coleman took the title with a superb 21-17 victory over King.