

# Harrow & District Inter-County Championship 2013

The Harrow & District Inter-league competition commenced on 01 Dec 13 with Thames Valley entering two teams in a 16 strong field *writes Darren Howard*.

## **TVSL A Report by Matt Wilson:**

Thames Valley A team came through a nail-biting final frame shootout at Wycombe Liberal Club on Sunday to advance to the second round of the Harrow & District Inter-County Championship.

The team, made up from six of the top cueists in the region including two ex-professionals, were pitted against a strong Milton Keynes side who finished runners-up in the 2011-2012 competition.

Matt Wilson made a break of 38 in sharing his two frames with Laurence Oliver who himself cued runs of 35 and 36, while Nick Birney also claimed one of his two frames against ex-professional Tim McGarry.

Dylan Leary, formerly ranked inside the world's top 100, claimed a hard-fought victory over Paul Issed to edge Thames Valley in front, and when Antony Denham ground out a draw in the fourth match of the night against Kristian Kelly, only two frames were required to seal victory.

However, Anwar Mahmood came unstuck to drop his two frames against Terry Greenough and when ex-Main Tour pro Eddie Barker could only share his frames with Darren Thody, the match went to a nerve-wracking deciding frame play-off.

Wilson stepped up to take on McGarry and immediately made a run of 24 before losing position and playing safe. McGarry took on an ambitious long-red and left Wilson with an easy opener, and from there made a match-winning break of 62 to advance Thames Valley into the next round and a tie against either Watford 'C' or Harrow 'B' in January.

## **TVSL B Report by Darren Howard:**

The Thames Valley B side played Welwyn Garden City at Racks Club in Maidenhead. Paul Madden commenced the proceedings by beating WGC captain Dave Read 2-0 and Lee Carlton lost a close match against Jem Tilson who potted a black on 33 during the match but went in-off. But Carlton smashed back with some solid long ball potting but the match eventually ended up with a re-spotted black in the last frame, which Tilson coolly sunk with a  $\frac{3}{4}$  table length finish.

Emin Thorose was on the receiving end of a barrage of some excellent potting from Sid Smith and lost 2-0 in a quick fire encounter. Kevin Furmston out played Martin Wilkins pulling back two frames for Thames Valley making it all square at 4-4 whist making a steady 45 break in the process.

Darren Howard and Sean Beman went 1-1 with good fortune siding with Beman as he made the most of an in-off red pot from Howard in the closing stages of the second frame.

With the match all poised at 5-5, Doug Smith played the decider against WGC player Danny Claxton. Claxton won the first frame in a cagey opener. Doug played tactical at the start of the final frame hoping for a chance to force the play off, but Claxton executed a brilliant long red with an impressive

positional shot on the blue and went on to make a superb 80 clearance to win the match for Welwyn Garden City 7-5.

Welwyn Garden City now play the winners of Harrow A and Watford A in the quarter finals who are also in the same side of the draw as the TVSL A team.