

NICOLA ADDS A SECOND MERIT TITLE

Nicola Boulton added to her 2014 success by winning the Ladies Senior Individual Merit, sponsored by **Country Garden Roses** and the **Chester Partnership**, for a second time. She was in tremendous form throughout the day on the greens of Windle Bowling Club, played in Merseyside, the county of the Ladies President, Lynsey Gorman.

Lynsey herself qualified but bowed out to Nicola in the quarter-final stage having earlier defeated Adele Chadwick (Lancashire), 21-13, and Hannah McDonald (Burton & District) and Eileen Pye (North Lancs & Fylde), both 21-6.

With the winners swapping greens for the first three rounds, from the quarter-finals onwards all games were played on the No 1 green and in glorious sunshine.

Louise Ollerton (Greater Manchester) was a comfortable 21-12 winner over Heather Johnson (North Derbyshire) and would meet Nicola Boulton in the first semi-final. Nicola getting the better of Lynsey Gorman, 21-14, in her quarter-final game. Both ladies were involved in a tremendous semi-final game which saw the 2014 winner a relieved finalist after a narrow 21-18 victory.

In the other half of the draw, former Lady President, Joan Lewis, eased past Julie Alderman (South Staffordshire) 21-8 in her quarter-final match having earlier ended Maliza Herbert's (Warwick & Worcester) hopes of a third title in a 21-20 thriller. Emily Kernick (Warwick & Worcester) reached the penultimate stage courtesy of a 21-11 success against Mid Cheshire's Stacey Linegar. Like Joan, Emily put out a former winner, Tracy Ryan (2016) 21-16 in the first round but just couldn't get over the line in her semi-final succumbing to a 21-19 defeat.

In the final, Nicola got off to a great start to open up a 10-4 lead. Joan fought back to draw level at ten across only for Nicola to regain the jack and lead on to a 21-12 victory. All scores can be viewed below.

Lady President, Lynsey Gorman, made the presentations to all competitors with the finalists, Nicola (left) and Joan (right) receiving rose bushes courtesy of the sponsors, Country Garden Roses.

