

STETTON CLAIMS VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE



PAUL STRETTON is the 2019 Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship winner after a great day of bowls at the excellent Prees Cricket & Recreation Club in Shropshire. The Derbyshire bowler defeated Mike Fieldhouse (Cumbria), 21-14 in the final and received the trophy from Ray Grocott (right), of sponsors **The Grocott Family Charitable Trust**, and BCGBA Deputy President, Ken Howarth.

Stretton's day began with a 21-19 defeat of John Bonatti (Wales) and then accounted for Ronnie Newton (Greater Manchester), 21-12. His quarter-final opponent was Stuart Hanson (Yorkshire) who had just knocked out the 2016 winner, Noel Burrows (Cheshire), but he couldn't repeat his performance against Stretton who won 21-14. In the semi-final he eased past Mark Melvin (Potteries & District), 21-7.

Mike Fieldhouse had a close opening game, just getting the better of Lancashire's Bill Griffiths, 21-20. Wins against Mick O'Donnell (Greater Manchester) and Tony Eades (Warwick & Worcester) 21-17 and 21-12 respectively saw him book a semi-final place with the defending champion, Ian Johnson (Derbyshire). Hopes of an all Derbyshire final were dashed with Fieldhouse rarely troubled in his 21-11 victory.

In the final, Fieldhouse started where he left off against Johnson to open up a slender 5-3 lead. Stretton responded to go 10-5 in front and was always able to keep a gap between himself and his Cumbrian opponent. Fieldhouse rallied from 10-17 to get within three of Stretton at 14-17 but he was never to see the jack again as Stretton ran out to a 21-14 victory.

All results can be viewed below.

