

Glorious gold for Colleen/Nici and team

By Alan Simmonds, Media Officer, Bowls South Africa

Superb Protea lawn bowlers Colleen Piketh (Eden) and Nici Neal (Sables) retained their title and a gold medal with a scintillating victory in the women's pairs at the Atlantic Championship finals in Cardiff, Wales.

The women's quintet of Piketh, Neal, Esmé Kruger (Gauteng North, Jacqui Janse van Rensburg Johannesburg BA), Anneke Snyman (Boland) won the trophy for best overall.

Added to yesterday's gold the women won silver in the fours, bronze in the triples and fourth place in the singles ... outstanding.

Scotland's men took the overall gold medal.

The seasoned pairs combination outclassed a plucky Guernsey duo of Rose Ogier and Lucy Beere winning on the 16th end 17-4 after not conceding a shot for the first 12 ends.

Playing at HQ, Penylan, the green and gold duo were in top form, something they had shown throughout the gruelling qualifying rounds and the quarter and semi-finals. They repeated their efforts from the last Atlantic event in Cyprus.

But it was England who then took centre-stage.

Their action man Jamie Walker won a second gold of the championships – added to last week's pairs with Steve Mitchinson – when he outgunned Scotland's Darren Burnett to win the blue ribbon singles in a repeat of his 2015 success in Cyprus.

The English women began the rush when their triples team coasted to victory in the morning, beating a gallant Scotland trio by 10 shots.

England was imperious when they powered to victory in the women's triples final, winning 23-13. Although the brave Scots Hannah Smith, Claire Johnston and Caroline Brown gave their utmost, England's Jamie-Lea Winch, Lorraine Kuhler and Sian Honnor were simply too consistent. Orchids to England's Jamie-Lea Winch, who gave a flawless display in the lead position, while Kuhler and Honnor flew the St George's Cross with pride.

Scotland's mighty quartet of Ronnie Duncan, Derek Oliver, Paul Foster and Alex Marshall were wallowing in the mire at 13-7 down - with two to play - against Jersey's Derek Boswell, Scott Ruderham, Greg Davis and Malcolm De Sousa, the defending champions.

Scotland counted four and two on ends one and two, then added a single on the seventh – Jersey, with skipper Malcolm De Sousa in scintillating touch, claimed the other 10 ends.

On the 14th end De Sousa made what appeared to be a strategic blunder and Marshall pounced – driving the jack into the ditch to claim a six. Scores were 13-13, and when Paul Foster nestled one up against the jack on the final end and the Jersey boys were unable to dislodge it.

Gold medal play-offs:

Men's singles: Jamie Walker (England) bt Darren Burnett (Scotland) 21-19.

Men's fours: Ronnie Duncan, Derek Oliver, Paul Foster, Alex Marshall (Scotland) bt Derek Boswell, Scott Ruderham, Greg Davis, Malcolm De Sousa (Jersey) 14-13.

Women's pairs: Colleen Piketh, Nici Neal (South Africa) bt Rose Ogier, Lucy Beere (Guernsey) 17-4.

Women's triples: Jamie-Lea Winch, Lorraine Kuhler, Sian Honnor (England) bt Hannah Smith, Claire Johnston, Caroline Brown (Scotland) 23-13.