

KEN HERBERT

SOUTH BIRMINGHAM OPEN DARTS CHAMPIONSHIP
SPONSORED BY COORS BREWERY

£1,000 PLUS PRIZE MONEY

Despite the inconsistent weather and the problems of players travelling from several parts of the country Stirchley United WMC Birmingham proved a popular venue when 119 players turned up to do battle for the £500 first prize in the second South Bham Open Darts championship.

Players from both the P.D.C. and the B.D.O. Inter County scene ensured the standard was high throughout the day.

The wide area covered included players from Cheshire, Wiltshire. Oxford, Devon & Cheltenham together with the local Midland Counties, and that was despite the snow.

P.D.C. ranked Dennis Smith emerged as champion following a thrilling 5-3 victory against his Wiltshire friend and a former News of the World champion Paul Cook in a final which contained 35 ton plusses and 3x180s. Dennis had taken a 4-0 lead and looked all set for a 5-0 winning whitewash, Paul had other ideas and in a brilliant display took three legs in a row. In the 8th leg Paul went off with 100 140 100 before Dennis woke up hitting a 180 finishing in 17 darts to take top prize.

In the semis Paul had taken out Nick Fulwell 4-1 and this was after Nick had taken the first leg. Dennis Smith also lost his first leg before emerging a 4-2 victor over Gary Stratchley.

Exciting games in the early rounds included Paul Cook defeating Kirk Shepperd. Last years winner from Bedfordshire Stuart Dutton went down to Paul Cook. A top match saw Nick Fulwell defeat "The Pieman" Andy Smith last years runner up. Another early casualty was PDC player Jamie Cavan who lost out to Gary Stratchley. Birmingham champion & Sports Argus member Andy "The Postman" Hutchings had a good run until he reached the quarter-finals and met the eventual winner Dennis Smith, Andy had 3 darts to win the first leg but missed, he then reached finishing

shots in the next 2 legs but was never given a throw as Dennis clocked out. Another Sports Argus member Tony “The Lion” Randell also did well to reach the quarter-finals before losing out to Nick Fulwell.

Results

1) (£500) Dennis Smith Wiltshire: 2) (£300) Paul Cook Wiltshire: 3-4 (£150 each) Nick Fulwell West Midlands: Gary Stratchley Wiltshire: 5-8 (£90 each) Stuart Dutton Bedfordshire: Tony Randell Sports Argus: Andy Hutchings Sports Argus: Mark Kane Birmingham:

Presentations were made by Andy Kirby representing Coors Brewery. Dennis Stokes thanked Coors and the Stirchley United WMC for helping to bring another top class Open to Birmingham and ensuring the event will be staged same week-end in 2010.

The Double16.com promotions team - Dennis, Ken, Andy, Jim, Audrey, Jean send a thank you to all who attended ensuring a successful day.

Ken Herbert