

2023 U22 Youth Championships Report

The championships took place on Sunday 13th August at Dunstable bowl with Kent fielding two teams of U22s on the day. 6 games of qualifying, with a cut to the top 4 teams who would play out a 3-game round-robin to determine the winning county.

Team B, composed of Shea Warren, Oscar Hudsmith, Joseph Trevor and William Herbert put in a solid performance on the day. Despite the setback of being a player down for the first two games the team's spirits didn't drop and they set about the business of moving up the standings, eventually finishing in a credible 12th place out of 17 teams. Top performer on the day was William Herbert with a 182 average featuring a 201 in game 2.

The breakdown for the team scores on the day were as follows :

UNDER 22'S INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023 KENT B TEAM										
Lane	16	18	20	4	6	8	Total	Games		
Bowler	Gm1	Gm2	Gm3	Gm4	Gm5	Gm6		Ave	High	Low
Shea Warren	0	0	152	153	183	167	655	163.75	183	152
Oscar Hudsmith	119	134	154	149	135	156	847	148.50	156	119
Joseph Trevor	139	180	165	162	179	189	1014	173.75	189	139
William Herbert	177	201	187	191	161	179	1096	179.50	201	161
Totals	435	515	658	655	658	691	3612	602.00	691	435

Team A, made up of Nathan Smith, Jack Welch, Hayden Baxter and Lewis Wall were in and amongst the top four places throughout the majority of the championships, finally just missing out in the last game to finish in 5th position. Top performer on the team was grizzled veteran of the U22s Hayden Baxter with a 177 average for the 6 games, shooting a massive 255 in game 3. Honourable mention also goes out to Lewis Wall who put in a solid performance throughout the day, racking up a 200 score in game

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UNDER 22'S INTER COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS 2023 KENT A TEAM										
Lane	14	16	18	20	4	6	Total	Games		
Bowler	Gm1	Gm2	Gm3	Gm4	Gm5	Gm6		Ave	High	Low
Nathan Smith	122	124	194	151	145	111	847	150.25	194	111
Jack Welch	163	154	177	186	136	182	998	170.25	186	136
Hayden Baxyter	152	177	255	183	144	154	1065	184.00	255	144
Lewis Wall	200	193	134	184	171	155	1037	161.00	200	134
Totals	637	648	760	704	596	602	3947	657.83	760	596

Some casual observations from the days play:

- When the scoring pace is lower than expected, as it was at these championships, the focus on the spare game becomes ever fiercer. In spite of this, I was surprised at the number of competitors hooking their spares with reactive balls, many not even carrying a plastic ball with them. Lesson is this; employ a spare system, buy a plastic ball and throw straight at your spares!

- With the lanes being on the tougher side the name of the game becomes about covering fewer boards, keeping the ball safely in play to control the pocket and leaving makeable spares. It may be the testosterone raging and young age that has sadly passed me by but more often than not, on the day, it seemed that trying to physically rip the cover off the ball to produce gutter to gutter hook shots was the priority, no matter the cost!
- If waking up on time is a priority in the morning, set an alarm; it can really help!

All in all, some good performances on what turned out on the day to be challenging conditions for all the bowlers involved. With many of the players on the Kent teams with a number of years left to compete at this age division the future is certainly bright for the U22s.

The final results were as follows:

Position	County	Score	Games	Average
1	Yorkshire "A"	4517	6	752.83
2	Derbyshire	4145	6	690.83
3	Essex	4098	6	683.00
4	Warwickshire "A"	4041	6	673.50
5	Kent "A"	3947	6	657.83
6	Lincolnshire "A"	3884	6	647.33
7	Yorkshire "B"	3851	6	641.83
8	Lancashire	3778	6	629.67
9	Sussex "A"	3751	6	625.17
10	Southern Welsh	3750	6	625.00
11	Norhamptonshire "B"	3626	6	604.33
12	Kent "B"	3612	6	602.00
13	Sussex "B"	3600	6	600.00
14	Lincolnshire "B"	3430	6	571.67
15	Surrey	3425	6	570.83
16	Warwickshire "B"	3277	6	546.17
17	Norhamptonshire "A"	3095	6	515.83
The top four teams played a 3 game Round Robin final				

Joe Cooper
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