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BERKSHIRE BA V MIDDLESEX BA MIDDLETON CUP GROUP GAME 2

BERKSHIRE BEATEN AS MIDDLESEX BOUNCE BACK INTO CONTENTION

Saturday 15th June saw Middlesex travel to a cold and windy Suttons BC to play the Royal County of Berkshire in their 2nd group game of this season's Middleton campaign.

Defeats for both Counties in their previous group games meant that in all likelihood the side defeated in this game would be out of contention to progress.

Middlesex's selection showed a number of changes from the Kent defeat and in his pre match talk team Manager Darren emphasised that there was still everything to play for in the 2019 campaign.

Middlesex started well leading 28-21 at 5 ends. Nick Edwards's rink stormed off to a 10-0 lead out on rink 6 against Lloyd Sabatini. Berkshire though steadied their ship and hit back, at 10 ends Middlesex were 12 behind, 47-59. Edwards still had a 9 shot lead but all the other rinks were down.

Positively the team spirit across the green was good with the players encouraging each other and celebrating the successes of rinks either side of them as well as focusing on their tasks at hand. This spirit saw Middlesex narrow the gap to 4 by 15 ends, 74-78.

The momentum was definitely now with Middlesex and with 18 ends played the gap was 1, 93-94 and Middlesex led on 3 rinks. Crucially the struggling rinks were keeping things close not allowing their opposition to build momentum. Berkshire seemed to sense the game was slipping away and Middlesex struck for home picking up 29 shots over the last 3 ends to Berkshires 12. Last end counts of 5 and 6 were royally cheered by the Middlesex contingent in the crowd.

With the last wood bowled Middlesex had won by 16 shots, 122-106 and claimed 18 points to Berkshires 4.

Top rink for Middlesex was Chris Ryan (West Ealing), Allister Frankland (Hendon), Darren Gosnell (Poplar) & Craig Hill (West Ealing) who won 24-12.

There were also winning rinks for Glen Adams, Alfie Hill, Norman Worley (all Hendon) & Nick Edwards (Bounds Green) 23-13; Ashley Tanner, Rob Hackwell (both Ashford), Chris Dunkley (Poplar) and Matt Larman (Ashford) 22-21 and finally Jay Head (West Ealing), Jack Fisher (Rosedale Park), Chris Harris (Ladygate) and Jason Rowlands (Rosedale Park) who got a last end 3 to beat Robert Newman's rink by 1, 19-18.

The two defeated rinks only went down by 3 and 5 emphasising how the side was working right across the green for a positive outcome. A great all round performance and team manager Darren struggled to conceal his delight at the end.

In the days other game Surrey beat Bucks by 5 shots gaining 15 points to Buck's 7.

This leaves Surrey top of the table with 36, Berkshire 2nd on 26, Bucks 3rd on 25, Kent 4th on 23 and Middlesex still bottom with 22. Surrey and Berkshire have both played 3 of their 4 games though.

Finally a few thank you's. To all the supporters who travelled to Sutton's to cheer the side on, your presence was very welcome and provided great encouragement especially to the struggling rink 1!! Also to the volunteers of Suttons who laid on glorious bacon rolls and cakes before the game and then a welcome buffet afterwards.

Next up for Middlesex, on June 22nd, is a home tie with Surrey at Hendon BC. Preview to come.