

Q&A - James Shillingford - 2015

Q1. Nicknames?

A few....Shilly, Tank, Boat, the big guy

Q2. When why and how did you start bowling?

I started bowling at the age of 14....I think that was 1999...I got injured playing football and only played cricket in the summer so I started playing bowls indoors after watching dad play since the age of 4/5...

Q3. Who was your bowling hero in the early days?

Geoff Woodger was the local hero for me....

Q4. Who supported you and how?

Dad, my biggest supporter and always will be. Took me with him to bowls/cricket all the time! Love him to bits.

Q5. Were there any turning points that spurred you on?

I suppose being the only youngster at the time playing at Camberley indoors, I got a lot of crap off older members telling me I shouldn't be here, your too young to play bowls etc....so my determination to get better and beat these people was obvious!

Then Len Iggulden and Brian Binding created the junior section a couple of years later....I've met some top boys and girls that I am proud to say are friends for life now!

Q6. The most memorable early games?

1st ever bowl on beginners course was a toucher!

Playing in the surrey junior league and Camberley juniors being unbeaten at u18 level for 2 years.

Winning my first club competition in my first year outdoors in 2004...winning the club handicap (close cup) beating Trevor prentice after being 7-0 down.....coming back to win 21-7!

Q7. Highs and lows?

As with many bowlers...a lot of highs...plenty of lows....low points when being dropped for bad form at Camberley and Wey Valley....losing games at national finals after all the hard work in qualifying....not getting a junior international trial....high points....fighting my way back in to teams...most notably...after getting dropped from Wey valley Denny cup team the year we won the competition....I deservedly got dropped after playing poorly in previous rounds....yes I got upset...but I bucked my ideas up...put the practice in and got back into the team and went on to not only win the Denny cup...but also get to 3 county indoor finals and win the club singles and triples championships at Wey valley. Winning and defending the county 4's title indoors was special because it meant more doing it with friends!

Q8. Places been bowling and memorable experiences?

Australia was unbelievable....i still feel like I have some unfinished business over there!

Denny Cup win was amazing! The underdogs all the way through...team was too young to win it, heard it all....we smashed it, such an amazing team performance in the quarter final against the reigning champs....but the semi final win against the favourites who had 14 international players in there team....then the final when we were 25 shots down after 7 ends....to turn it around and they gave up 17 ends when we were 40 shots up was amazing!

Q9. Recent high points?

Getting to the National Semi finals with Camberley Outdoors....an amazing achievement by a small old,club in Surrey....we will win that competition soon...I strongly believe this!

Being Camberley BC club captain....was very unsure at first when I was nominated...but it has been a good experience and I am looking forward in not only pushing and winning on the green for the club...but also pushing the club on and off the green also!

Q10. All time biggest win?

58-2....they got a two after I trailed the jack too far.

Q11. Favorite Bowls?

Indoors- Drakes Pride Professionals....outdoors- Taylor Ace, looking forward to using my aero revolutions for the foreseeable future though!

Q12. All time most satisfying matches?

Anytime improve someone wrong....anytime winning with friends!

Q13. Bowling characters met?

Far too many...some close...some from a far! Heroes in our sport...I've shared a cider with David Bryant...I've had a few beers with Alex Marshall...I speak to world and commonwealth games champions regularly! Then we can go to local legends...Arnie Lewis, Paul Vamvacopolous, Graham Noades, Robert Palser!

Q14. Future aims for yourself?

To bring success to Camberley Indoor and Outdoor Bowls clubs.

Q15. Future aims for bowling?

To win National Titles...County titles....indoors and out...play for my country one day....help people and pass my knowledge onto them and push them and bring there games on!

Q16. Top 5 achievements indoors and outdoors

Indoors-

Winning the Denny Cup 2012-2013

World pairs qualifying finalist 2009

Home Counties league winner w/ Surrey x2 2008-09 and 2013-14

London and Southern Counties Shield winner- 2010-2011

Surrey County 4's winner x2- 2011-2012 and 2012-2013

Outdoors:-

National top club Semi Finalist 2014

National u25 Double Rink Semi Finalist w/Surrey 2007

Surrey Unbadged Singles Champion 2011

Clevedon Open Singles winner 2012

Aldershot and District BA singles champion 2012

Q17. Likes?

Favourite food - Indian/Mexican

Favourite drink - Cider

Favourite catchphrase - #Woofbitch

Favourite song - Seven Nations Army - The Whitestripes