

ENGLAND REPRESENTATIVES SHOW CLASS ON AND OFF GREEN AT EVENTS IN HONG KONG AND CHINA

Bowls England's endorsed representatives have shown their class both on and off the green following their recent trip to Hong Kong and China for the Tiger Bowls World Invitation and One Belt One Road World Invitation events.

These prestigious events, hosted jointly by the Hong Kong Lawn Bowls Training Centre and Shenzhen Zhong Ti Shi Dai International Sports Development Company, saw England send its largest contingent of three men's teams and one woman's team to compete in the three events this year.

The men's rinks each won one of the three events, with the women's rink securing two bronze medals.

England A, consisting of James Fuge (Essex), Ross Murphy (Hertfordshire), Glenn Williams (Hertfordshire) and Charlie Souter (Surrey), became England's first full rink of winners of the Tiger Bowls event since Lee Haywood, Ben Sherwen, James Webber and Phil Downs in 2008.

The second event, the Zhuhai Tour section of the One Belt One Road World Invitation, saw play commence on the greens in Hong Kong before moving to the two-rink indoor green in Zhuhai, China, for the latter stages. England A again impressed, reaching the final and earning a silver medal, before they were defeated by England B, consisting of Jason Parkinson (Lancashire), Mark Plume (Hertfordshire), Robert Stirling (Lancashire) and Ashley Caress (Lincolnshire).

England B's achievements were admirable, taking into account the strengths of each player and changing their formation to Stirling, Plume, Caress and Parkinson for the matches that took place on the indoor surface.

The Tour then moved to Shenzhen, China, for the final part of the One Belt One Road World Invitation and it culminated into a dream finale for England's male representatives.

England C, made up of Northumberland bowlers Josh Minto, Steve Pallas, Simon Richardson and Chris Yeomans secured a clean-sweep for England with some great performances on the picturesque outdoor greens and secured a convincing 14-4 victory against a Malaysian quartet in the final.

The England women's rink, featuring Kent's Emily Ferguson alongside Surrey's Teresa Orriss, Steph Crates and Margaret Smith, put in some fine performances over the eight days of competition, reaching the semi-finals of both the Tiger Bowls event and the Zhuhai Tour.

At the Closing Ceremony, in recognition of the achievements of two young male and female Malaysian teams, the England representatives collectively aided their further development within the sport of lawn bowls and presented a donation of £600 from their own pockets – a brilliant gesture that was appreciated by all present.

Bowls England sends its congratulations to the 16 endorsed representatives and thank them for demonstrating great kindness towards the eight Malaysian youngsters.

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