

O.I.B.A. – 2025/2026 COUNTY OVER 60's SINGLES FINAL

The 2025-2026 O.I.B.A. Men's Over 60's Singles final was played on Wednesday 1st April at Oxford & District Bowls Club. The final was contested by Paul Costin of City & County and Dave Freeman of Chipping Norton.

Dave got off to a good start by taking the first two ends for three shots. Paul had now found his line & weight and took the next two ends with a 1 and a 4. On end four Paul was in front 5 – 3. Ends five and six were shared, 2 shots to Dave and 1 shot to Paul, the gap had narrowed 6 – 5 to Paul. End seven, with the majority of the woods very close to the jack, Dave picked up 1 shot to level the game to 6 all. The next three ends went to Paul picking up a total of six shots to go ahead 12 – 6 on end ten. Dave took ends eleven and twelve and Paul took end thirteen. On end thirteen Paul was leading 13 – 9. The game changed, Dave was finding it and he took two shots on the next two ends to close the gap 11 – 13. End sixteen with a full length jack Dave drew shot 3 inches from the jack. Paul's first wood passed the jack to go 5 feet behind. Dave drew his second and third wood close to his first and now holding 3 shots. After much thinking by Paul he played controlled weight narrowly passing the head on the left side. Dave drew his last wood 12 inches behind the jack, now holding four. Paul again used controlled weight but unfortunately passed the head on the right side. Dave picked up four shots to go 15 -13 up. Dave picked up a further three shots on ends seventeen and eighteen going 18 – 13 up. End nineteen Dave drew shot however Paul drew shot right on the jack and that's how it remained, Paul picking up 1 shot. Paul took the next end, the score now was 18 - 15 to Dave. End twenty one saw Paul bring the mat up and put the jack on the T. There were a few short woods, which both players were colliding with; it was a measure for shot. Dave's last wood drew into head for shot and won the measure for the 2nd wood. Dave was now 20 – 15 up. End twenty two the mat was up two yards up and jack on the T. Dave drew, slightly tight, but was adjacent to the jack. Paul was 2nd wood six inches short of the jack on the opposite side to Dave's wood. Dave 2nd wood a yard through the back followed by Paul's wood which was short. Dave's third wood was 30 inches short and Paul drew a yard behind. Dave last wood was short. Paul then drew to the head and gently rolled through without touching anything for 2nd wood. Dave picked up 1 shot to win 21 – 15. Well played to both players, congratulation to Dave Freeman who is the 2025-2026 O.I.B.A. Men's Over 60's Singles Champion and commiserations to Paul Costin.

Final Result: Dave Freeman of Chipping Norton 21
Paul Costin of City & County 15

The game was a very competitive match with some fine bowling by Paul & Dave. Both players had been in front at some stage, the game could have gone to either of them. Thanks to Bill Turner & Oxford & District Indoor Bowls Club for hosting the final and the O.I.B.A. President Paul Saxton for presenting the trophies.

