

O.I.B.A. – 2025/2026 COUNTY SINGLES FINAL

The 2025-2026 O.I.B.A. Men's Singles final was played on Wednesday 1st April at Oxford & District Bowls Club. The final was contested by Martin Shepherd and Chris Charles both of Chipping Norton.

The first five ends there was some excellent bowling by both players who were only scoring one on each end, Martin was 3 – 2 up on end 5. This looked like it was going to be a long night. Chris brought the mat up and with the jack on the T bowled a yard pass the jack. Martin drew his first, second woods on the jack. Chris was through the head with his second and third woods. Martin added a third to win the end by 3 shots now 6 – 2 up. Martin gained three shots on the next two ends, now 9 – 2 up on end eight. End nine saw Chris bowl a very close wood to the jack which how the end remained, Chris gaining 1 shot, 9 – 3 down.

Chris was suffering from a recent hospital treatment and was struggling with his game.

Ends ten to fourteen went to Martin picking up 12 shots to win the game.

Well done Martin, who is the 2025-2026 O.I.B.A. Men's Singles Champion.

Commiserations to Chris Charles, who on another day it would have been a different game, get well soon.

At the start the game this was a very competitive match with some fine bowling by Martin & Chris. As the game went on you could see Chris was not right however he has to be commended for turning up and playing it, thanks Chris.

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.

