



News

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Skelton named Cyclo-ssage/Taylor Bowls Bowler of Year

Derbyshire's Simon Skelton was named Cyclo-ssage/Taylor Bowls Bowler of Year during the Bowls England Men's Annual Dinner held at the Walkers Stadium, Leicester, on Friday 26th February.

The 37-year-old from Stute BC was rewarded for his achievement in winning the 2009 Bowls England Men's National Singles Championship – just 12 months after being defeated in the final.

He picked up the award ahead of several other strong candidates including Suffolk's John Rednall, winner of the Champion of Champions, and Leicestershire's Andy Irons who skipped his Blaby rink to the National Fours Championship.

Skelton's recognition marked a memorable double for Derbyshire after Jean Baker (Blackwell BC) scooped the equivalent women's award just three months earlier.

David Rhys Jones, who presented the award on behalf of the bowls press, said: "We felt that following the disappointment of defeat in the 2008 final, Simon hit back emphatically. In the final last year he looked destined to be the bridesmaid again when Steve Tuohy led 20-16, but the last few ends, full of tension, saw him score five shots without reply to win 21-20."

Tony Allcock MBE, Bowls England Chief Executive, added: "Simon is not just a terrific singles player, but widely regarded as a great team player too. I am delighted that he has received this award as further recognition of his achievements."

Skelton received the handsome Rose Bowl, a Magnum of Moët & Chandon Champagne and a special present from Taylor Bowls.

ENDS

Notes to Editors:

The eleven previous winners of this award are Les Gillett, Graham Ashby, John Ottaway, Richard Coates, Martyn Sekjer, Stephen Farish, Mark Walton, David Catton, Greg Moon and Sam Tolchard.