O.W.I.B.A. – 2025/2026 COUNTY LADIES PAIRS FINAL

The 2025-2026 O.W.I.B.A. Ladies Pairs final was played on Saturday 4th April at Chipping Norton Bowls Club. The final was contested by Margaret Morris (lead) & Dawn Hewitt (skip) of Banbury Cross and Carol Gaskins (lead) & Zoe Pratley (skip) of Oxford City & County

This was always going to be a good match with some of Oxfordshire finest Ladies bowlers playing for the title. The first end went to Carol and Zoe scoring 1 shot. End two Carol was holding two shots when Dawn drew a close 3rd. Zoe with her 1st and 2nd woods drew shot and 3rd wood shot making it four shots. Dawn went into the head but did not get anything out of it. Zoe with her 3rd and 4th wood drew two more shots picking up six shots, score on end two 6 – 1 to Carol and Zoe. They picked up a 1 on end three going ahead 7 – 1. It looked like an upset was on the cards however Margaret and Dawn were not having none of it and got stuck in to take the next six ends scoring a total of 9 shots to go in front on end nine 10 - 7. End's ten and eleven went to Carol and Zoe picking up 3 shots and levelling the game at 10 shots each at eleven ends. End twelve with the jack on the T, a number of short were woods bowled however Margaret with her 4th wood drew a perfect drawing wood trailing the jack back near the ditch for shot. Zoe loss her first two woods in the end ditch. Dawn drew second wood and subsequent 3rd wood to score 3 shots. Score 13 – 10 on end twelve to Margaret & Dawn. Carol & Zoe took 2 shots on end thirteen. End fourteen with the mat up and the jack short Margret drew two shots although Carol was not far away. Zoe drew into the head going through the narrow gap between the jack and shot wood without touching anything for 3rd wood. Dawn turned a short wood of Margaret's in for 3rd wood, now holding three. Zoe using controlled weight took her own woods out to drop a five. End fourteen Margaret & Dawn 18 – 12 up. Ends fifteen and sixteen were shared with 1 shot each, score 19 – 13 to Margaret & Dawn. End seventeen with the mat 2 yards up and the jack on the T Margaret put her first wood right on the Jack, a toucher. With both Carol and Margaret bowling close to the jack and Margaret holding Dawn put a back wood in as best back. Zoe fired and put the jack in the ditch but was still one down with Dawn's back wood. Dawn drew another wood to her shot wood at which point Zoe fired and took both Dawns woods out. Zoe holding 1 shot drew to the edge of ditch close to the jack and picked up 2 shots, an excellent draw. Going into the last end Margaret & Dawn were 19 – 15 up. The final end, with the mat up the green and the jack three yards off the T, Carol moved the jack nearer to her previous through wood with a Margaret having a wood close by. With her third wood Zoe, using controlled weight, took her own second wood out but was still holding 1 shot. Dawn drew her third wood 4 inches from the jack which was shot. Zoe with her last wood fired hitting Dawn's shot wood which in turn hit the jack to the very edge of the rink but still in play, Carol and Zoe were still one down. At this point both teams shook hands.

Final Result:	Margaret Morris & Dawn Hewitt of Banbury Cross	20
	Carol Gaskins & Zoe Pratley of Oxford City & County	15

This was an excellent game; which had to be seen to appreciate the high standard of bowling from all four players. Well done to Margaret and Dawn who are O.W.I.B.A. County Ladies Pairs Champions for 2025/2026, commiserations to Carol and Zoe you both played exceptionally well. Thanks to Indoor Chairman Tony Wright and Chipping Norton I. B. C. for hosting the final and the O.W.I.B.A. Vice President Dulcie Smith for presenting the trophies. Both teams were well supported which was good to see.