WILSON GOES DOWN TO WILLGRESS

Dunedin’s Murray Wilson was unable to hold multiple shot counts on several ends due to spectacular drives from his English opponent Wayne Willgress in his debut appearance on the World Bowls Tour in the Scottish International Singles near Edinburgh on Wednesday night/Thursday morning NZDT. Willgress won four consecutive ends during the middle of the first set to eventually win it 10-3 and opened with a maximum four from a stunning result from a drive in the first end of the second set. To his credit, Wilson kept his composure to fight back with a three and 2 singles to take a 5-4 lead in the second however that was the last time he scored again dropping four consecutive ends to bow out 9-5 in the second.

This was the first time a kiwi had faced Willgress who featured well as a qualifier in the World Indoor Singles during the two years New Zealand was absent from WBT action reaching the quarterfinals and then semifinals the next year taking advantage of a home Norfolk crowd and earning himself a number 14 world ranking. The Englishman went on to beat Australian qualifier Jack East in the second round before going down to countryman Robert Paxton in the quarterfinal of this week’s Scottish event.

The next World Bowls Tour action will be in January at the Potter’s Leisure Resort in Norfolk with New Zealanders playing in the World Indoor Pairs, World Indoor Singles, Ladies Invitational Singles and World Mixed Pairs.