

# HOLDERS SAFELY THROUGH TO SEMI-FINALS

Defending champions Alison Merrien MBE from Guernsey and Paul Foster MBE from Scotland started where they left off in last year's final - bringing their 'A' game to the portable rink as they got their campaign to retain the @Imagine Cruising World Indoor Mixed Pairs Matchplay title up and running against newcomer Clare Hendra from New Zealand and England's Jamie Chestney.

The challengers though were the first to put a score on the board – chalking up back-to-back singles. However, the holders bounced into life scoring four shots in a row. They then dropped a single but pushed through with a treble and a further single to take the set 8-3 with an end to spare.

Hendra and Chestney once again started well in the second set – scoring a single, but in a repeat of the first set, Merrien and Foster reeled off four shots to lead 4-1 after four ends.

This time though Hendra and Chestney struck back, scoring three shots over the fifth and sixth ends to square the set at 4-4, but once again the defending champions nailed the shots over the closing stages, scoring a treble and double to put the result beyond doubt at 9-4 with an end in hand.

Hendra will be in action again at the Potter's Leisure Resort in Norfolk, England at 11pm tonight NZDT in the Ladies Invitation Singles against England's Katherine Rednall. Coverage will be available on the World Bowls Tour Youtube channel.