

Evans is under-21s Champion

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Gavin Evans secured his maiden English National Championships under-21 title with victory in the final over David McBeath sealing what was an outstanding day's performance.

Evans throughout the day looked the sharpest player on show and duly capped off the day with a powerful final performance that merited his crown against a spirited McBeath.

Having seen off Aaron McKibbin (3-0) Anthony Kent (3-1) and Gabriel Achampong (3-0) in his qualifying group fixtures, he reached the quarter-finals with another fine performance to beat Emran Hussain 3-1.

Evans superb 3-0 (11-3, 11-3, 11-7) win over Tom Maynard was only topped by his giant-killing of English number one Liam Pitchford in the semi-final. Although Pitchford looked out-of-sorts, Evans never let him settle and thoroughly deserved his 11-3 first game.

He kept the momentum going for the rest of the semi-final to win 3-1.

McBeath meanwhile had beaten Laurence Sweeney (3-0), Nick Gilmour (3-0) and Jake Meikle (3-0) in the qualifying groups before recording another 3-0 win over Lewis Gray in the first round.

He reached the final with a 3-2 (4-11, 11-8, 11-5, 4-11, 11-9) win against Matt Ware in the quarter-finals and a 3-0 (11-7, 11-2, 11-5) win in the semi-finals against Garth Kinlocke.

The final itself went to form with Evans keeping up his run of fast starts and powerful attacking play by taking game one 11-4. He cemented that lead with an 11-6 second game and it appeared nothing could stop this juggernaut.

However, McBeath fought back in the third game to claim it 11-6 and re-kindle hope in turning the tide but, as it proved, Evans was not to be denied and upon winning the match 3-1 with an 11-7 fourth game triumph he hit the floor in exaltation.

Surely after the 2008 European Youth Olympic Champion's performances today, he becomes a big threat for the senior matches that begin tomorrow.

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