



It had been the perfect day. Pretty much everything had gone right, and now both the boy's and girl's Under 19 teams had a player in the Masters final.

Rachel Mulligan and Kevin Wattimena had performed like champions all day on Sunday, but they still both went into their respective finals as underdogs.

Mulligan took on Emily Allen, while Wattimena would face Brandon Roberts. Both players represented England, and both players are considered the future of English bowling. But this had been Ireland's day.

Mulligan's match took place first, and quite simply she blew her opponent away with a stunning performance, shooting 265 to win the Masters.

Next it was Wattimena's turn. There had been lane breakdowns and various delays, and by the time the two young men took to the lanes for this final every other match had been completed, and every other player and spectator was fully focused on this one match.

Both players started well, but Wattimena stumbled first with an open frame in the third. Meanwhile Roberts looked unaffected by the pressure of the situation as he paced 279 going into the tenth frame.

It looked done and dusted, but you can never underestimate the pressure of a situation. Roberts amazingly opened the tenth frame, and suddenly Wattimena had a lifeline.

The situation was simple: three strikes for a single-pin victory. Wattimena stepped up, all eyes on him and no-one else.

The first ball was perfect, and he had the first strike. The tension and suspense was ramped up another level as the second ball struck with a perfect pocket hit.

And this was it. One ball, one chance to take the Masters title. The shot was far from perfect, but somehow there was only ever going to be one result. Crossing over the headpin, the ball smashed through the Brooklyn and carried all ten pins.

Dunfermline Bowl erupted as Wattimena was met by Under 19 team coach Dave English for a strong embrace, both letting out screams of joy at the conclusion of a magical day for Irish junior bowling.

Congratulations to Kevin and Rachel for their achievements, and to all those who competed in Dunfermline at all ages.