



THE BLOCK

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The winter season is coming to an end now so I hope you have all had some good results whether in local leagues or County Competitions. All the County competitions have now finished and I hope that everyone who entered enjoyed their games at Isca Bowling Centre. This year we did have some bowlers who came for the first time and really enjoyed it. Why not get more of your Club members involved as it really does help to improve their game with competitive bowling. I am pleased to say that this year the number of under-18's that were registered has increased which can only be good for the future. Thirteen of them entered the under-18's singles competition and all of them put on an excellent performance. For those of you that play outdoors I hope the weather is kind to you and for those Clubs that play short mat all year I hope you get lots of enjoyment and practice for the new season which will start again in September. Don't forget you can keep up-to-date with everything on our web-site www.devonshortmat.co.uk.

DEVON COUNTY SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION - A.G.M.

THIS WILL TAKE PLACE ON 29TH MARCH 2014 AT THE WONFORD COMMUNITY HALL AT 2P.M. ALL THE DETAILS HAVE BEEN SENT TO CLUB SECRETARIES AND WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING MANY OF YOU ON THE DAY.

INTER COUNTY COMPETITIONS

The County Premier Team and the 'A' team had a hard task this year. For various reasons certain players were not available and the teams had a new look with quite a few new players. Both the Managers tried to take the positive view that this was good for the game but it always takes time for a team to gel and so this year the Premier team just missed out on qualification for the main knockout rounds. The Committee took the decision not to take part in the Consolation Cup due to the high cost to the players and the County of travel and overnight accommodation. The 'A' Team did qualify but lost the preliminary game before the knockout stage.

OPEN COMPETITIONS

SILVERTON CHARITY TRIPLES COMPETITION

Sixteen teams played in four groups of four, with group winners and runners-up going through to the quarter finals. After the group stages, Winkleigh 1 and Anstey just missed out on a quarter final place, only being eliminated on shot difference.

The first quarter final between Colyton and Wonford 1 produced a close match with Wonford winning on the last end. In the second quarter final Sidford beat Winkleigh 2 by 12 shots to 4. The third quarter final needed an extra end to separate Christow 2 and Beer Mariners, with Beer going through. The fourth quarter final was again a close match with Sidbury beating Christow 1, 11-7.

In the semi-finals Sidbury beat Wonford 10-5 while Beer beat Sidford 13-6.

The final proved to be a good match, both teams played well and the match could have gone either way, however the Sidbury team of Tony Evans, Caroline and Eric Pavey edged out the Beer team of Geoff Stone, Colin Tims and David Kay 9-6. Silvertown S.M.B.C. will be making a donation to FORCE from profits of the event.

Danny Gooding, Silvertown SMBC

MERTON SHORT MAT BOWLING CLUB 2013 WINTER TOURNAMENT

This tournament was held at the Clinton Hall on Saturday 23rd November 2013.

The winners were Woodbury who were leading throughout, eventually winning all four of their games and gaining a points total of 28, narrowly beating Okehampton in 2nd place; they also won all their games and gained 14 points. Thank you to all, both members and visitors, who helped to make this an enjoyable day.

Notes for your diary – our next tournament, the Summer Triples will be held on Saturday 28th June 2014 and the next Winter Tournament has been provisionally arranged for Saturday 29th November 2014 (to be confirmed).

Julie Stacey, Merton SMBC

IT WOULD BE NICE TO INCLUDE MORE REPORTS OF OPEN COMPETITIONS SO PLEASE LET ME HAVE A SHORT ACCOUNT OF ANY COMPETITIONS YOU HOLD. CONTACT DETAILS ON PAGE 5.

DEVON UNDER-18's V SOMERSET UNDER-18's

Uffculme Bowling Clubs and Christina and Alan George played host for Devon under-18's against Somerset on Sunday 2nd March. The afternoon got underway in front of approximately 50 guests including parents, grandparents and families of all the under 18's from both Counties. David Summers and Eric Pavey (Area Representatives for East and West Devon) put together teams of 4 from the 12 from all over the County. The teams played on 2 mats, giving them the opportunity to show they were prepared for any challenge that Somerset put in front of them. Whilst waiting for a couple of the team from Somerset, they played a Triple and a Four, from which both Devon teams won over 7 ends. After a short break for refreshments play continued with both games being fours, resulting in 2 more wins for Devon. Whilst the tea continued to flow for the adults, teams were readjusted and the final 2 games were tighter affairs with a win to each County. The overall result for the afternoon bowls was 5 games to Devon and 1 to Somerset, 49 shots to 28. So a very successful afternoon and we all felt that it was a win for both Counties in as much as it was good for the under 18's to play competitive bowls. Hopefully this will continue on into the future and maybe for organiser's to look at similar events with other bordering Counties. These under 18 bowlers are the future of the game, so we want to encourage and support them as much as possible. In talking to all those who took part today, they said they had really enjoyed the afternoon, and they gave thanks to those who had put the time into the organisation.

Eric Pavey, Area Representative for East Devon.

OPEN DAY On 15th March 2014 an Open Day was held at Isca Bowling Centre in Exeter for members to join players from the County Team to learn more about the tactics of the game. The response we had was tremendous and I hope those of you that came felt the day was worthwhile. If any Club would like further help please contact any member of the Committee who will be happy to arrange help in any way they can. James Smith, the County Team Manager and the Area Representatives are always willing to visit a Club.

The Isca Centre is where all the Internal County Competitions are played and maybe some of you will now feel you can enter these competitions next year. They take the form of Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours and under-18 singles. There are also two other competitions, a pairs for bowlers who have not played for the County in the previous year and a Mixed Fours. For those that wish, entry can also be gained to the National competitions. The entry forms are sent to all Clubs during the summer and the closing date is usually around the end of July. If you need further details please ask your Club Secretary who will have the forms, or contact anyone on the County Committee. There is a list of Committee members on the Devon web-site (www.devonshortmat.co.uk) and the entry forms will also be on the site.

AREA CHALLENGE 16TH MARCH 2014

On Sunday ISCA Bowling Centre hosted the annual Area Challenge. The event sees each of the Area Representatives pick 1 Singles, 1 Pairs, 1 Triples and 1 Fours from their area these players are all non county players. These teams then play all the other areas as well as the Devon County 'A' team. Each win is rewarded with two points and the team with the most shots after all the disciplines had played in each match is rewarded with an additional 2 points.

In the first session of the day the East faced the County 'A' team and came away with three points. These were gained from a 10-10 draw in the Singles and a 14-11 win the Pairs. The North faced the West and the North won the Pairs 20-9, the Triples 14-9 and the Fours 14-6. With a superior shot difference the North also gained 2 additional points, giving them 8 points from the match.

In the second session the North faced the County 'A' team with the Pairs winning 21-8 and the Fours winning 13-3. With the shot difference equal after the four games the 2 bonus points were shared. The East dominated the match against the West winning a total of 8 points. The Pairs won 11-10, the Triples won 12-4 and the Fours won 22-5. The one bright spot for the West was the 18-8 win in the Singles. With a much superior shot difference the East picked up the bonus points.

In the final session of the day the West area played the County 'A' team. The West Singles player continued his fine form throughout the day and made it three wins out of three after winning 15-8. However that was the only win of the session for the West. The East faced the North in the match that would decide the outcome of the day. The first two games were shared with the North winning the Singles 15-13 and the East winning the Pairs 19-8. However the East dominated the last two games with an 11-7 win in the Triples and a 9-6 win in the Fours. At the end of the day the East had won. After all the points had been added up the County 'A' team had 20 points. It was another thrilling Area Challenge with the destination of the shield only being decided in the last game. West Devon had 6 points, North Devon had 15 points but the winners were East Devon who had 19 points.

We also had Devon players taking part in competitions held outside the County during March. Eight of our players calling themselves the 'Devon Destroyers' beat an Essex team to win the Double Rinks Competition organised by the Short Mat Players Tour. Some of them also joined players from the South of England to play against a team from the North in the St. George's Cup and once again were on the winning side as the South retained the Cup.

COUNTY COMPETITIONS – WINNERS

Singles - James Smith (Wonford)

Pairs – Bronagh Malone/Lee Toleman (Awliscombe)

Triples – Bronagh Malone/James Smith/Lee Toleman (Wonford/Awliscombe)

Fours – Marie Toleman/Michael Ivings/Paul Pomeroy/James Trott (Wonford/Nomads/Musbury)

Under 18's – Matt Avery (Yarnscombe)

Brian Medland Mixed Fours – John and Shirley Parnell/ James and Maggie Smith (Wonford)

Margaret Elliot Pairs – John and Shirley Parnell (Wonford)

County Tens – Yarnscombe

NATIONAL COMPETITIONS ALL PLAYERS LISTED WILL REPRESENT DEVON AT THE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS IN APRIL 2014

Singles - James Smith (Wonford) and Mike Avery (Yarnscombe)

Pairs – Bronagh Malone/Lee Toleman (Awliscombe) and Caroline and Eric Pavey (Sidbury)

Triples – Bronagh Malone/James Smith/Lee Tolman (Wonford and Awliscombe) and Graham James/John Horsham/Lorraine Axtell (Winkleigh and Yarnscombe)

Fours – Marie Toleman/Michael Ivings/Paul Pomeroy/James Trott (Wonford/Nomads/Musbury) and Elliott James/Bronagh Malone/James Smith and Lee Toleman (Wonford/Awliscombe/Yarnscombe)

Mixed Fours – Bronagh Malone/Rose Morrison/James Smith/Lee Toleman (Wonford/Totnes/Awliscombe)

Under 18's – Andrew Smith (Wonford)

Please send items for inclusion in the next edition to Irene Smith, 40 Winslade Park Avenue, Clyst St, Mary, Exeter EX5 1DA 01392 874416 e-mail:- jandismith@talktalk.net