



THE BLOCK

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Once again it is time to think about the winter season and look forward to the League matches and the County Competitions as well as Open competitions and friendlies. We have an early start this year on 12th September with the County Fours. The reason for this is that we cannot put competitions on any week-ends that ESMBA are using and of course we can only use the dates that are available to us at the Isca Bowling Centre. It is pleasing that there is so much competition available to us. The registration forms were sent out early this year and a lot of you have returned them making it easy for me to work my way through them in a more leisurely fashion. If any Secretaries have not returned the paperwork I would be very grateful to receive it as soon as possible as I have to send it to ESMBA during September. I would also remind any players that may be playing for the County Teams to ensure that they are registered. Last year the registration cards were very late in arriving and anyone who registered after the initial list was sent to ESMBA did not get one. The new ones are laminated and designed to last for a longer period. All being well anyone who did not get a card last year and has registered again this year should get one from ESMBA in due course. I would like to remind you that to keep publishing THE BLOCK I do need reports from the Clubs, about your Club and its history or reports from Open Competitions that you hold.

Irene Smith, County Secretary

Devon web-site (www.devonshortmat.co.uk)

If you are not already using the web-site it is a useful way of finding out all the information you need to know about the County. It is up-dated on a regular basis by Richard Ivings ivings_r@hotmail.com and if you have anything you would like displayed please contact him. There are also links to lots of other Counties, Clubs and Leagues etc.

County Committee

The Committee has remained largely the same as last year with just a couple of changes. We have a new Premier Team Manager in Richard Ivings, who was elected by the members of the previous year's Premier Team and 'A' Team and Caroline Pavey has taken over as County Competitions Secretary, co-opted on to the Committee as there were no nominations for this post. A full list of the Committee with the contact details can be found on the web-site.

News from the Clubs

Bridestowe and Sourton SMBC - This coming autumn the club will have been in existence for 20 years. We started in October 1995 in the old Parish Hall in Tanyards Close as a result of a village appraisal initiative. We were just called Bridestowe Short Mat Bowls Club. When the old hall was no longer in use and before the present village hall was built we played for 6 years in Sourton Parish Hall. Thus we became Bridestowe & Sourton Short Mat Bowls Club. Gradually over the years we developed into a club with a written constitution and became affiliated to Devon County Short Mat Bowls Association. This gave us the registration to play other clubs and we joined the Merton Charity League playing in the Winter Afternoon Triples League Division Two for about 5 years. At the end of the winter season we WON our first piece of silverware! We were runner's up in Division Two and Alan Neild our Fixtures Secretary collected a Shield which we have for a year and a cup which we keep from Merton at the Leagues' Final night earlier in April. On Tuesday 21st April at our usual afternoon meeting we had a formal presentation and photograph taken to mark the occasion. The Club is very proud of this achievement and give thanks to Alan and his team. Our newly elected Club Chairman, Brenda Johnston, presented the Trophies to Rod Summersby (Captain), Alan Neild, David Fraser and Frank Hewer. The achievement is a good start for our 20th anniversary year and we hope to have 'a bit of a do' by the way of an open day later on and will keep you all informed through BaSE. Please contact June Hewer for any further information about the club or joining the club.



FOR SALE

One medium/fast Wygreen Short Mat Bowls Carpet with carrying case. Also 2 fenders, 2 foot mats and a score stand. All in good to fair condition. - £200. Reason for sale as surplus to requirements and need the storage space.

Would prefer to sell as one lot and buyer to collect please. Contact Bridestowe & Sourton SMBC Secretary –June Hewer – e-mail: junehewer12@btinternet.com

Exeter Nomads – Our Ladies Pairs held in April was once again won by Maggie Smith and Marie Toleman of Wonford. The Charity Triples held in May was won by a team from Ottery St. Mary and the sum of £350 was raised for Hemi-Help. The Mixed Fours held in July and was a very busy day with 16 teams. The final was an excellent match between a team from Totnes Creameries and a team from Wonford. Totnes Creameries were the eventual winners. Thank you to everyone who supported our tournaments during the year.

Victoria Bowling Club, Torquay – This outdoor bowling Club have become affiliated to DCSMBA and have registered thirteen of their players to enable them to play short mat competitions during the winter months. If you are holding a competition in the area I am sure they would welcome an invite. The contact is Bob Reed 01803 e-mail: bobreed1@hotmail.com

County and National Competitions

These begin on Saturday 12 September with the Fours competition. Entries are a little lower this year for various reasons so if you are entering and enjoy the day please encourage other members of your Club to enter next year. We only get a few places at the Nationals competition because the number of places we get is based on the total membership of Devon. We could get a lot more places if we had more entries at local level.

At their AGM ESMBA decided to review the dress code. It was suggested that the wearing of black trousers could be possible, but this change could only be made at a Rules Revision meeting so therefore this decision was put on hold. In view of this the County Committee have decided to allow the dress code for County Competitions ONLY as follows:- Mid-grey or black trousers/skirts but in a team game all the team must wear the same. This does NOT apply to ICC games or National Finals and at Open Competition the rules are set by the Club holding the tournament.

Finally we were very sad to hear of the death of John Connett from Exminster SMBC. Over the years John had always taken a full part in everything in the County, from County , League and Open competitions. He will be greatly missed by his family, Exminster SMBC and all his friends. Our sympathy goes to his wife Rene and his family.

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