



THE BLOCK

AT THE CENTRE OF SHORT MAT BOWLING IN DEVON

December 2010

Number 38

Merry Christmas

Christmas is nearly upon us and most of us are already half way through our Winter League games. County Competition preliminary rounds for all disciplines have all been played and we start on the play-off part of the competition in January 2011. Thanks to the new website the results and names of those qualifying are all published and for Clubs without access to the web-site they are sent to the Club Secretary. The names of those qualifying have also been displayed at the Isca Centre during the preliminary rounds.

The new Devon web-site

This is proving very popular and we have had lots of good feed-back from you. We now have sections for each area and will endeavour to publish any news and photographs that you send to Richard Ivings. I must say it is nice to have the League results each week. The contact list is nearly up-to-date but there are still a few forms to be returned so that we can put a map-link to where your Club plays. Please return these as soon as possible. With results from Leagues and County Competitions as well as the results of Inter-County games of both the Premier and 'A' teams it all helps to keep everyone interested in what is happening in the County. Any further suggestions are welcomed.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Michael Ivings of Exeter Nomads SMBC and Lee Toleman of Wonford SMBC who were selected to represent England at the British Isles Competition held on the Isle of Man. Also to Gareth Hill of Wonford SMBC who has been included in the England Squad for this year.

Inter-County Competitions

The Premier Team has made a good start to the season winning their first three games. The home games against Cornwall and Dorset were both wins for Devon 27-13 and the away game against Cornwall was 34-6. A very convincing start for the team. The 'A' team have not been so fortunate and have struggled to find their form. With one draw and two losses they have a lot of work to do, it will be hard but it is not impossible. There are still games to play against Somerset home and away and an away match against Dorset in the New Year. We have managed to get some publicity in the local newspapers and the BBC web-site who have all published results and a short report. A report and results have also appeared, albeit briefly, on the 'red button' site on BBC television and on Radio Devon.

News from the Clubs

New Club

Welcome to Uffculme SMBC who have just registered 23 members. The Secretary is Jenny Dyson 01884840953 so please include them in any invitations you are sending out for friendlies or competitions.

Colyton S.M.B.C. held their annual Carnival Triples on Saturday 9th October in Colyton Town Hall. Twenty teams from Devon, Dorset, Somerset and Wiltshire took part. Although the games were very competitive everyone enjoyed the friendly atmosphere in which the games were played. All the teams played four games and the winning team of Bernard Tarr, John and Elsie Berry from Long Sutton were the only team to win all four games. The Exeter Nomads team of David Eastwood, David German and Martin Conabeer were the runners-up, losing just one game to Long Sutton. Next year's tournament will be on Saturday 8th October 2011. Ken Spiller Colyton SMBC.

The East Devon & District League

The Evening League is only about a quarter through so not yet time for a balanced view. Current leaders, West Hill and Colyton in second place can take confidence from their good start to the season, the latter in their first season back in the top division. They have however played one more game than last year's top three, Beer, Musbury and Awliscombe so many tight fixtures yet to come. In Division two Sidbury and Awliscombe's 'B' team have maximum points including two away wins and hold the top two places.

This League will end early February and will be followed by the Knock-out cup which was successfully introduced last season. Hopefully some of the evening teams which did not take part last year will join us this time; invitations will be extended to Afternoon League teams, as well as those who are in the area but not in the leagues.

The Afternoon League also reflects the vagaries of the early fixtures; Beer have taken over the top place which they held throughout last year. Behind them in second place newly promoted Awliscombe 'B' have started well. Division 1 has always been competitive with just 2 or 3 points covering 6 or 7 teams so shot difference is normally crucial in deciding relative positions. A side-effect of this is that newly promoted teams take a while to acclimatise, but Colyton and Lyme Regis are still well in touch.

In Division 2 Musbury have been in the top part of the table since they returned to the Afternoon league three years ago, and currently lead followed closely by Sidbury and Seaton Cliff 'A' who are looking to return to their last season's division 1 status. Combe St. Nicholas and Sidford have also started well. But a long way to go yet!!

Finally why the "and District"? Our leagues also include teams from Somerset, Combe St. Nicholas and Chard, and Dorset, Lyme Regis and our open events are supported by teams from well outside East Devon. They are all welcome participants.

Chris Young

Christmas Hamper

Once again this proved very popular and the winner of the Hamper this year was Mary Wakley of Christow S.M.B.C. and the bottle of Single malt whisky was won by Myrtle Glanvill of Exeter Nomads S.M.B.C.. Thank you to everyone who supported this draw. All the profit raised goes back to the County to help with the cost of hiring the venue at Isca Bowling Centre for all County Competitions and getting information out to all the Clubs.

Devon Under-18's Singles competition

This took place at Isca Bowling Centre on Sunday 7th November and what a delight to watch. We only have 20 under 18's in the County at the moment so it was nice to see six of them take part this year with ages ranging from. Those taking part were Oliver White (Loddiswell SMBC), Nick Wyatt (Bow SMBC) and Mathew Avery, Mark Avery, George Main and Elliott James (all from Yarnscombe SMBC). Their ages ranged from Oliver White aged 12 years to Elliott James aged 17 years. There were two groups of three so each player had two games in the round robin with the top two going through to play a semi-final. All of the youngsters put up excellent performances but experience played its part and the semi-finalists were Mathew Avery and Elliott James, both from Yarnscombe SMBC who were drawing after the tenth end and had to play an extra end with Elliott coming through as the winner and George Main from Yarnscombe SMBC and Nick Wyatt from Bow SMBC in the second semi-final where George came through as the winner. Elliott and George will play the final on AGM day (16th April) at Isca Bowling Centre. If you want to see the future for our County come and give them your support. Well done to all the boys - we are very proud of you.

Rule Books

I hope by the time you read this I will have received a new supply of Rule Books. I apologise to those of you who have had to wait for supplies but ESMBA had to reprint this edition and we have had to wait for delivery. The cost is £2.00 plus postage - available from Irene Smith.

"BBC Radio Devon Air Ambulance Appeal"

On Thursday 20th January, BBC Radio Devon is holding another of its 'Test the County' nights in aid of their ongoing Air Ambulance Appeal. The aim of the appeal is to raise £600,000 to complete the purchase of a brand new Air Ambulance for Devon. I have been asked to pass this information on to Clubs in Devon. If you or your Club wish to take part you will need a Test the County Pack for each team of up to four players. Each pack cost £5. Simply send a cheque payable to BBC Radio Devon Air Ambulance Appeal along with your team name(s) and address to Test the County, BBC Radio Devon, PO Box 1034, Exeter EX4 4DB and they will send you everything you need. More information can be obtained on the BBC Radio Devon web-site.

Short Mat Double Rink Open Competition

This is being held on Sunday 20th February 2011 at Wey Valley Indoor Bowls Club, Lido Road, Guildford GU1 1HB. Entry Fee £10 per player (£80 per team) with £800 prize money (subject to entries). Closing date 31st January 2011. More information is available from craigburgess@btinternet.com or 07525448814.

International Open Competition

This is being held on 23rd and 24th April 2011 in Essex. It will consist of fours on the Saturday and Pairs on the Sunday and there are cash prizes for successful teams. Further information available on www.shortmatplayerstour.com

Open Pairs Competition (Wales)

This is an Open Pairs competition being held at Cardigan Indoor Bowls Centre on 26th March (9.30a.m. start) Prize money available for first four places. For further information visit www.csmba.co.uk/county.html

Bowls Development Alliance

This is a new venture being run in conjunction with all other bowls disciplines (long mat, outdoor etc.) The aim is to increase the number of bowlers in the country and to make it possible to have coaches if there are enough people who wish to take courses. There is a meeting being held in Exeter on 7th December at 2p.m. (venue not specified at the moment). If anyone is interested in joining a Committee to further this please contact Susan Cooper, who is the Bowls Development Alliance Manager (e-mail: susancooper@bowlsdevelopmentalliance.com) It would mean attending regular meetings probably every two months. There is more information available on the ESMBA web-site under Development.

Stop Press

Congratulations to Michael Ivings of Exeter Nomads SMBC and Lee Toleman of Wonford SMBC on winning the Individual Pairs for England at the British Isles Tournament held in the Isle of Man. Teams from Ireland, Wales, Scotland, England and the Isle of Man took part on the week-end of 21st/22nd November. England also won the individual Fours and England were runners-up to Ireland in the team event. Well done lads.

Send any items you have for inclusion in the next edition by 18th February 2011 and I will do my best to include them in the March edition.

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