



THE BLOCK

AT THE CENTRE OF SHORT MAT BOWLING IN DEVON

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By now most of you will be half way through your winter League Season and those of you that enter the County competitions will have played all the preliminary rounds. The results of these rounds are published on the web-site, along with League results and reports of the Inter- County games. I know that this is proving very useful for those of you that have internet access. As time goes on it is becoming more apparent that this is the way information will be conveyed to everyone. One county has decided not to send competition information by post at all and the only way to get it is from the web-site. If your Secretary does not have an e-mail address perhaps someone else in the Club could be responsible for receiving information but it is important that whoever it is at your Club that has internet access, checks the site at least once a week and preferably more frequently, as it is always being up-dated. I hope you all have a very Happy Christmas and that the weather is kind to us in the New Year when we return to competition.

Irene Smith, County Secretary

ESMBA Information Pack

This is now in disc form and has replaced The Green Book, which some Clubs will have had in the past. The County Secretary has copies of the disk if any Club would like one of their own. Just contact her at the telephone number or e-mail address at the end of this edition, you will need to send £1.50 in postage stamps to cover the postage and packing. These discs can also be collected free of charge at County Competitions that are held at the Isca Bowling Centre but please make sure Irene will be there on the said day. The Information disc will, in time, be published on the Devon web-site as well. Any changes to the Information Pack will be published on the ESMBA web-site (www.esmba.co.uk) so once again it is a case of checking for any up-dates.

The rules that are on the disc **are not** the latest ones but ESMBA say they will put the most recent publication on their web-site for anyone to download.

Club Competition Dates

If you have a tournament at your Club over the next few months let us know. We are aiming to put a list on the web-site in the New Year to help with the planning of your future Club competitions. Please let Richard Ivings know at ivings_r@hotmail.com or Irene Smith at jandismith@tinyonline.co.uk.

County Competitions

We would like to make a plea to all Club Secretaries to bring the County Competition information to the attention of all the members of your Club. This season we had calls from members who had missed the closing date because they had not seen the entry forms. Some Clubs do not meet in the summer and unfortunately this is the time the paperwork is forwarded to all the Clubs either by e-mail or post. It has to be sent then, with a closing date sometime in July, so that the Competitions Secretary has time to sort out the entries, make the draw in August and send details to the Clubs Secretaries for the competitions to start in September or October. The entry forms are published on the web-site in early summer and these can be downloaded but if you do not have internet access then you will be reliant on the Club Secretary informing members. If you do not meet during the summer may we suggest that before you close you ask your members if they wish to enter the County Competitions during the following season and then pass this information on to Club members when it is received, either by post or maybe a telephone call to those members wishing to enter the County competitions.

The players that have entered the competitions this year have told us that they enjoy coming and appreciate the work that goes into running them. It is a shame that some people miss out because they do not get to hear about them.

Inter-County Competitions

The Premier Team made a good start to the season with two superb wins. They won 38-2 at home to Somerset and 32-8 away against Dorset. The 'A' Team however struggled in the first two games, drawing the first against Somerset and losing the second against Dorset. The third set of matches saw the Premier Team win 32 - 8 at home against Cornwall but the 'A' Team still could not manage to get back to their former glory and lost 15-25. At the beginning of November both teams played away against Somerset. The Premier Team continued their winning streak with a score of 22-18 but although the 'A' team improved their performance they still lost by a narrow margin 19-21. The following week both teams travelled to Cornwall where the Premier Team enjoyed another win 23-17 but once again it was defeat for the 'A' Team. With only one more game to play the Premier Team will go on to the knock-out rounds and it is likely that the 'A' team will play off for the consolation event. It will be disappointing for the 'A' team players but they have tried hard this year and must now take all the positives from their game and look forward, not back.

Umpires

On behalf of Devon SMBA, I would ask for your help in the Association's attempt to increase our Umpire numbers. I would be willing to give a 'coaching session' to assist the process of the application, but it would have to be a minimum of 4 people to run an event. However, if we fail to attract 4 people, I would endeavour to assist someone who is really keen to undergo an Umpire Examination. If you are interested, contact me in the first instance to discuss your interest and I will help out as much as I can.

The process is that you would have to apply to Terry Matthews ESMBA Umpire Director, and he will send you a 50 'Theory Question' paper to complete. You would be expected to pass with a rate of 90%

Once you have completed the questionnaire, (and passed) you will then be invited to attend a practical measuring and oral questions examination by myself, perhaps at your Club or other local venue. You will need to ensure that you know the rules with some confidence, ideally if you have already taken the Devon 'Marking Course', you should have an advantage.

So, "Would YOU like to give something back in our wonderful sport?" Well if you think you know the 'Rules of The Game' inside out, why not consider becoming an Umpire.

If you ARE interested in becoming an Umpire, speak to your Regional Umpire/Manager Ken Griffiths and I will explain the process to you.

Contact details:- Ken Griffiths, 8 Glanvill's Close, Pathfinder Village, Exeter, Devon. Tel: 01647 270036

What is happening at your Club. Are you playing League or Internal Competitions. A report from your Club could fill this space next time !!!

**Please send items for inclusion in the next issue to Irene Smith
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