



THE BLOCK

AT THE CENTRE OF SHORT MAT BOWLING IN DEVON

March 2012

Number 43

DEVON 'A' TEAM WIN THE ICC FINALS (see below)

Spring is nearly upon us and another season is nearly finished. I hope you have all had some enjoyable bowling during the last few months whether at your Club, at County Competitions, Inter-County matches or England competitions. We are very lucky as a County to have some excellent bowlers at all levels. The AGM will be held on 21st April at the Racquets Centre in Plymouth. Secretaries should have received the paperwork together with this edition of The Block. If you wish to stand for the County Committee then ask your Secretary for a nomination form. It involves a few meetings during the year and help at competitions plus an input into the running of the County. Clubs around the County have been busy with local competitions and there are reports on a later page. Congratulations to Uffculme Short Mat Bowling Club who only affiliated to the County in 2010/11 season and have made their mark by taking short mat bowling into the local school (see report on page 3). Perhaps we can encourage more youngsters if we follow their example.

County Competitions

The competitions run at the Racquets Centre have been very successful this year and all matches progressed smoothly to the Finals which will be held on AGM day. A change of venue is always viewed with mixed feelings but I think for the people that have taken part this season it has been enjoyable, so if you did not take part why not think about it for next year, it is particularly encouraging when new entries are received.

Inter County Competitions

The Premier Team had some excellent games against Cornwall, Dorset and Somerset and went on to the knock-out stages as winners of their group. They played a preliminary round against East Sussex and won 36-4. They then travelled to Northampton to play the quarter final against Cheshire. The day started well and after the morning session Devon were 10-6 up but in the afternoon games Cheshire, five times winners, put the pressure on and Devon lost 16-24.

The 'A' team had some very successful round-robin games and also went through as winners of their group. They were lucky enough not to have to play a preliminary round and played West Sussex in the quarter-finals in Bedford. They won this game 22-18 and then went on to play the 'A' team from Cheshire in Northampton. They also won this with a nail-biting finish having to play off three 'one-end' singles, winning two out of three. They were now through to the final to play Buckinghamshire and another trip to Northampton. Once again they pulled out all the stops to win 21-19. This was a great team effort by everyone. They won every match they played this year - Well done.

The Brian Medland Memorial Trophy (Mixed Fours)

This was a mixed Fours Tournament held on 11th February 2012.

I would like to thank the Devon County S.M.B.A. Committee for making this event possible and I am sure Brian would have been thrilled. I am very grateful to Irene and John for making it a day to remember and most of all the bowlers, because without them this event would not have been possible. My congratulations go to the winners, Wonford S.M.B.C. and to Abbotskerswell S.M.B.C. the runners-up. Once again many thanks to you all.

Pam Medland.

Merton S.M.B.C.

The Merton Short Mat Bowling Club's 2011 Clinton Gates Tournament was held at the Clinton Hall on Saturday 3rd December and was sponsored by W.H. Bond. Unlike last year, the day proved OK for travelling but we did unfortunately lose one team to illness. In order for the tournament to proceed we made up the sixteenth team from our kitchen volunteers; thanks Jeanie for sparing them from their duties! The winners were Goodleigh who won all four games assuring them of victory. Second place was awarded to Wick who narrowly beat Beaford and Westward Ho! all three clubs having won three and lost one game. The final decision was made based on match points. Our next tournament will be held on 30th June 2012. Please make a note in your diary.

Julie Stacey Merton SMBC.

Bradworthy SMBC

On Saturday 12th November Bradworthy Short Mat Bowling Club hosted their annual tournament in the Memorial Hall, for the Charity Shield which has been sponsored for 17 years by H.J. Wickett & Co., Motor Engineers of Bradworthy and raises funds for local good causes. The Tournament attracted an entry of 16 teams from North Devon and North Cornwall Bowling Clubs, namely Beaford (2), Bishops Nympton (2), Christ Church Barnstaple, Fremington, Hartland, Holsworthy (2) Topsy (Stratton), Torrington, Westward Ho! (2) Wick (2) and Woolsery. The Chairman welcomed all the players and after two minutes silence for Remembrance Day play commenced. The bowling was, as usual, very competitive but played in a friendly spirit with the result in doubt until the final wood had been delivered. The winners were Topsy (Stratton) with Torrington as runners-up. Lunch was provided by the ladies of Bradworthy SMBC followed by an afternoon tea. The presentation of the Shield and trophies to the winners and runners up was made by Keith Prance of H.J. Wickett, who thanked Bradworthy SMBC for organising the tournament and hoped everyone had a good days bowling and said he would be pleased to sponsor the tournament again next Year. Bradworthy Short Mat Bowling Club is pleased to advise that in 2012 they will celebrate their 20th Anniversary having been members of the North Devon & North Cornwall Short Mat Bowling Federation (formerly the Tony Stephens League) since April 1992. We hope that clubs who have supported our tournaments over the last 17 years will do so again in our 20th year.

Brian Cunnold, Chairman, Bradworthy SMBC

New Club

Welcome to Bishops Nympton who are now affiliated to Devon County S.M.B.A. the contact at the Club is Colin Lincoln 07505524218 [e-mail:-colin.lincoln@te.com](mailto:colin.lincoln@te.com)

Uffculme SMBC Short Mat Bowling initiative with Uffculme Primary School

The future of any sport lies in engaging with the youth of today. This is a familiar mantra and bowls is no exception, sadly being perceived by many as only suitable for 'oldies'!

In Uffculme, we have attempted to address this and introduce Short Mat Bowling to children from the Primary School in the village. Last September the PE co-ordinator was approached to see if we could come up with a scheme to engage the older children as part of their PE curriculum. This idea was greeted with great enthusiasm and three of us went into the school to talk to the children involved and explain a little about Short Mat Bowls. As the Bowling Club is only a short walk from the school, two staff have escorted a crocodile of youngsters, comprising half of the Year 6 class for a 45 minute 'lesson'. Four of us have been involved in the coaching with each half of the class attending for four consecutive weeks.

The whole programme has been amazingly successful - thoroughly enjoyed by all involved - and, of course a great skill for the children to develop which will stay with them for life. It has had a 'knock-on effect' of raising awareness of the existence of the club within the local community.

We have now started a Sunday afternoon 'children and family' session, running from 2p.m. to 4p.m. which is well supported and will hopefully lead to having a Junior Section. So, if there are any other clubs who are interested in liaising with us so that we can arrange friendly matches, please get in touch.

We are hoping that our youngsters will give Lawn Bowls a try during the summer as we are engaging with the BDA in their programme of Bowls-4-Free as part of a recruitment drive to coincide with the Centenary of Uffculme Bowling Club. This has been extensively advertised in the local area so we hope it will lead to great things for the future of the Club.

Christina George, Chairperson, Uffculme Short Mat Bowls Section Bowls Development Co-ordinator, Uffculme Bowling Club.

Woolsery SMBC

The annual Charity tournament sponsored by Albery & Shute Funeral Directors took place from 12th to 14th March. Fifty-one teams from North Devon and North Cornwall were involved in this triples event, which is continuing to grow in popularity. After elimination rounds to bring the number of teams down to 48, preliminary rounds were hosted at eight different venues on the Monday and Tuesday, culminating in a Grand Final at Woolsery on the Wednesday. Successful teams through to the final were Great Torrington, Langtree, Braunton, Fremington, Shebbear, Yarnscombe and two from Woolsery. The evening was run as a straight knockout and, emerging triumphant for the final match were Great Torrington (C. Cargill, R Kent and P. Weekes) and Woolsery (M.Cann, C. Davey and S., Davey). After a close fought match with some very skilled play, Great Torrington were the eventual winners. Many congratulations to them. We were delighted that Mr. David Albery, the sponsor, was able to be there to present the prizes.

We would like to thank all the teams who took part in this friendly tournament and hope they enjoyed their matches. Special thanks, too, must go to those Clubs who generously offered their time, venues and equipment for the first round (Shebbear, Winkleigh, Goodleigh, Shirwell, Langtree, Hartland, South Molton and Westward Ho!) With their help, we were able to raise £418 for the Devon Air Ambulance.

Sally O'Neill, Woolsery SMBC

Why not send in a report on your Club or your League and if you are holding a tournament tell us all about it.

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