

BOWLS DEVON ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT FOR 2016

A change in the way the County play their National Competitions play-offs met with differing views and created many hours of conversation. Devon is a very large county and travel between venues will always be a problem for some. We tried the new format this year and our Competition Committee has taken on board and listened to the comments of all bowlers. Keeping within the guide lines set by Bowls England, they have hopefully come to a helpful solution for all in that the last 16 of each National Competition in 2017 will be played on mutually agreeable dates and times so that competitors only have to travel to the venue booked for the last 8 for both the men and ladies competitions with a start time of 6.00 p.m.

Once again Bowls Devon has triumphed at the Nationals which started with the County winning and retaining the Middleton Cup. A wonderful achievement under the leadership of the Middleton Cup Selectors and Team Manager, David Tucker. Our ladies Walker Cup double rink won their semi final match but lost in the final – they did the County proud and were worthy runners-up. Sophie Tolchard represented Bowls Devon in no less than 6 disciplines, the 4 wood singles, 2 wood singles, Junior singles, Junior Pairs, National Triples and Pairs. She retained her Junior Singles title, won the Junior Pairs with Harriet Stevens, won the Triples with Lorraine Hackett and Natalie Chestney and won the National Pairs with Natalie Chestney.

Unfortunately our boys playing in the Balcomb lost in the semi final this year. Kings men won the National Club 2 fours competition plus the National Top Club and the Kings Ladies lost in the final of the National Top Club. Rob Paxton lost in the final of the Champion of Champions, Stuart Evans lost in the Senior men's singles final and the Shaldon Rink skipped by Ryan Whitlock also reached the final and only lost on an extra end. James Webber, Ian Lesley and Ollie Lucas won the Triples so in 2017 both the ladies and men's triples from Devon will be representing the British Isles. Sam Tolchard won the two wood singles and the National Pairs with Louis Ridout.

Another incredible and wonderful year of achievements for not only Bowls Devon but for our very talented bowlers –the County is so proud of each and every one of you.

All these successes do not come without the County's help. Our officers work so hard for the County to organise the competitions and manage our affairs. It is a 24/7 job for everyone and I cannot thank enough all the 'team'. We were short of a Ladies Match Secretary when the season began

so extra work was undertaken by Kay and myself to ensure ladies matches ran smoothly at the beginning of the season and a start was made by us on the 2017 fixtures. We were so pleased to welcome Sue Trott on board, who volunteered for the job and she has settled in well. Also new at the beginning of the season was David Butterworth as the Men's Administrator and Edgar Melliush as the Men's Match Secretary. Both have fitted in so well and not complained about the work load!

Our Chairman Alan continues to guide us all and our Treasurer David never fails to keep the County finances on track. With all the successes we have in the nationals each year this is no easy task as the county has to estimate potential success and budget accordingly. David has never failed us in his budgeting and we continue forward into 2017 with no increase in affiliation or competition fees. Rosemarie is settling into her new role as Assistant Treasurer with the help of David. Our County Development Officer, Sue, has excelled in encouraging Clubs to take up packages from the BDA which have resulted in so many new bowling members in our Clubs. Kay, our Ladies Administrator, has been the vital link in the 'new' Competition Committee this year and been a constant source of help to me. Thank you Kay for all your help. I could not function without the guidance of our Chairman Alan and Treasurer David who are invaluable to not only myself but the County with their advice on all matters.

In closing my report for the year I also wish to thank the Sections and Clubs for all their continued support in our world of bowls – without you all we would not have such a successful County and I would make a plea for members to step forward to take on the roles of Junior Vice President for the County in 2017. At the time of writing my annual report no nominations for a male or female JVP have been received. If you enjoy bowling and if you think 'why not me' there is no doubt you would thoroughly enjoy being part of the Presidential Team – so please get in touch.

Carol

Bowls Devon Administrator