

BOWLS DEVON ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT FOR 2017

Following the outstanding success of our bowlers at the Nationals in 2016 the year started off with no less than three Bowls Devon members being named Bowls England Bowlers of the Year, almost a full house for Devon. Sophie and Sam Tolchard were presented with the Senior Ladies and Men's Bowler of the Year Awards and Harriett Steven with the Junior Ladies Bowler of the Year. Wonderful accolades for each of them and for Devon. Our success over the last decade has been incredible and as I start to write my report for the year I wonder how we can better what has gone before.

Three extra national competitions were put into the schedule for 2017, the Over 55s rinks for both men and ladies and the under 25s men's pairs. A challenge to include more final days into the programme for our competition committee with these new competitions proving popular.

Probably the pinnacle of results for Devon this year was in the winning of the Middleton Cup, for the third year in succession, the White Rose and the Amy Rose. Disappointingly in quite a few competitions this year so many of our players lost out in the semi final/final by just one shot! Nevertheless 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.

We were all shocked at the loss of our Lady President Ruth so early on in the season. Ruth was so happy when she took on the role fulfilling her ambition to become a President of Devon. President Colin has had the unenviable task of leading our county throughout the season as our only President, never failing to undertake any task with the help of the SVPs and JVPs. A wonderful ambassador for Bowls Devon and we are indebted to Colin for his enthusiasm and leadership. Vicky Hingston and Mike Birch came on board at the last AGM as Senior Vice Presidents and Ciss Jones as Lady Junior Vice President. Unfortunately Ciss had to step down from the role during the summer but Margaret Jones and Tony Howle both stepped forward to join the presidential team. We are all particularly indebted to Vicky who supported Colin every step of the way after we lost Ruth and I sincerely hope she will enjoy her own year as Lady President.

Bowls Devon has a team of hard working officers many of which have been on board since unification. The day to day running of our association is a 24/7 job for us all and I cannot thank enough our team of Alan, David, Rosemarie, Kay, David, Sue, Edgar and Sue. We work and pull together as one for the benefit of the game we all love.

My end of year report to you all gives me a chance to not only reflect over the past year but also to look to the future. I took over as Secretary of the old ladies association, the DCLBA, at the 1999 A.G.M. and when in 2008 thoughts turned to maybe becoming a unified association, I helped with the negotiations and formation of Bowls Devon. I was honoured to become Bowls Devon's first Administrator in 2010 when the DCLBA and DCBA joined together as one body. I do feel it is now time someone took over the role of County Administrator as I would like to step down at the 2018 AGM. Gordon Thomas, Secretary/Treasurer of the Patrons association has indicated that he will be standing down at the end of the 2018 season.

Finally in closing my report for the year I wish to thank again my fellow Officers and also all those who work so hard in their Sections and Clubs for all their continued support in our world of bowls – without you all we would not have such a successful County. Every year I seem to make a plea for members to step forward to take on the Presidential roles and this year is no exception. 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, I am sure, you would thoroughly enjoy being part of the Presidential Team – so please get in touch.

Carol
Bowls Devon Administrator