

BOWLS DEVON ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT FOR 2018

Once more Devon has done well in the National finals at Leamington with Sophie Tolchard winning the ladies singles and Louise Ridout winning the men's singles. Has a County ever won the men's and ladies singles, the most prestigious event in the same year before? The rink of Sophie Tolchard, Kelly Atkinson, Lorraine Hackett and Natalie Chestney won the fours, Sophie and Natalie were Semi Finalists in the Pairs, Zack Kidd and Harry Goodwin won the Under 25s Pairs, Louis Ridout, Jamie Chestney and Sam Tolchard were losing finalists in the Triples and Hayley James and Graham Wannacott losing semi finalists in the Mixed Pairs. Having won the Middleton Cup three years on the trot in 2015, 2016 and 2017 everyone was so disappointed that the title was not retained again this year. With the six rinks drawing after 21 ends an extra end had to be played by all which saw Leicestershire triumphant. Kings Club did so well again with both the ladies and men's teams winning the National Top Club. Devon is the envy if all - what a wealth of talent Devon has we are so lucky.

Vicky Hingston and Mike Birch came on board at the last AGM as Bowls Devon Presidents with Tony Howle and Margaret Jones as our Senior Vice Presidents. A nomination was received after the meeting from Buckfastleigh nominating Bob Dowdell as the Men's Junior Vice President giving us almost a full set of presidential Officers. All have worked so hard during the year visiting Clubs and playing matches against them and indeed against other Counties, attending meetings, competition play offs and supporting the county winners at the nationals. We are grateful to them all and in particular to Vicky and Mike who have been great ambassadors for Bowls Devon always presenting a happy, united face for the County.

Bowls Devon has a team of hard working officers many of which have been on board since unification. I cannot thank enough our team of Alan, David, Rosemarie, Kay, David, Sue, Edgar and Sue. We have continued to work and pull together as one for the benefit of the game we all love. Sadly four of our officers are not seeking re-election at the forthcoming AGM and particular thanks must go to Kay, David, and Rosemarie for the hours they have given readily to ensure our County runs smoothly. It is so pleasing that members have stepped forward to take over most of the positions being vacated ensuring Bowls Devon have a strong team to continue to carry out the work for our County. I will personally miss everyone and the work which I have loved but I will still be around to help if called upon.

Over the last 18 years I seem to make a plea for members to step forward to take on the Presidential roles every year and this year again is no exception.

At the time of writing my last annual report no nominations for a female Junior or Senior Vice President have been received. Ladies 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.

Finally in closing what is my last annual report I should like to thank you all for the opportunity you have given to serve you all as the Bowls Devon Administrator. I have enjoyed every minute and will miss you all and send my best wishes to my successor Harry.

Carol
Bowls Devon Administrator