

Walker Cup Report

After some very hectic days preceding this Regional Final battling with “the leak”, the club was ready. The gardens were at their best, the greens had been cut, the rinks and equipment set out. The food was waiting in the kitchen, the bar had stocked up with plenty of water and soft drinks, the cards had been written up and the laptop with the Bowls England live spreadsheet turned on and (apart from some glitches in the software) “ready” to go.

And 8am on Saturday saw the first players, team managers and umpires arrive for two full-on days of play.



Devon got off to a brilliant start taking all 24 points in their first match, 6 points clear of Somerset. By the end of the day, Devon were still top with Somerset still 6 points behind in 2nd place. There had been a couple of “bumps” on the top green, and as one of the Umpires noted “This is to be expected on outdoor greens”, but in the Madeira ethos of “we always go that extra mile” Mark and Sue were still down first thing Sunday morning to turn the rinks around. Indeed, everyone who has contributed to the weekend, either on the actual days or beforehand showed that same ethos.

And it did not go unnoticed. All the Umpires and Team Managers emphasised at the end of the weekend how impressed they had been with absolutely everything at Madeira and wanted me to pass that message on to everyone who had worked so hard.

But back to Finals....

The format of the Round Robin meant that Devon played their final match on Sunday morning against Dorset. Devon won on rinks and won the match overall giving them 18 points.



Another 3 points would have assured them of victory.....



At the end of the morning Devon were 24 points ahead of Somerset with a shot difference of 16, but Somerset were playing in the afternoon and if they won all 4 disciplines, they would be equal on points and likely to win on shot difference. Bit tense.

As it was "Arch Rivals" Cornwall had an absolutely brilliant match against Somerset, winning on 3 of the 4 disciplines to leave the final results as:

1 st	Devon	67 points
2 nd	Cornwall	60 points
3 rd	Dorset	55 points
4 th	Somerset	46 points
5 th	Wiltshire	10 points

Devon are off to Leamington

**THANK YOU TO EVERYONE FOR
SHOWING MADEIRA AT IT'S VERY BEST.**

Jude

Photos: Terry Dowrick and me