



THE BLOCK

DECEMBER 2014

NUMBER 53



Is it really possible that nearly half the season has already passed! By the time you read this we will have played most of the preliminary rounds of the County Competitions and the round robin rounds of the Inter-County Competition will have been played. The entries for the County competitions have been higher this year which is very rewarding. There have been a few new faces playing including some of the under-18's. I hope that those of you that played for the first time have really enjoyed taking part and if you didn't make it through this year will be even more keen to try again next year. The forms always go out in May/June time and the closing date is near the end of July so make sure you see the entry forms. They are sent to all Club Secretaries and are also published on the web-site (www.devonshortmat.co.uk). Thank you to all Club Secretaries who have helped me during the year to make everything run smoothly. Irene Smith, County Secretary



REGISTRATION CARDS

I know some of you have been asking what has happened to the registration cards this year. ESMBA have decided to make the cards more permanent by laminating them, hence the delay. They will be sending them out when the registrations from all Counties have been received which should be by the end of the year. These will then be sent to Club Secretaries either by post or in some cases by hand to keep the cost down.



RULE BOOKS

ESMBA held a Rules revision meeting in the summer and the Rules books will be re-printed to include the changes made. When this is completed every Club will receive a free copy of the rule book for every registered member. These will be sent directly to the Club Secretary by ESMBA.



INTER COUNTY COMPETITIONS

This year both the Premier and 'A' Team have had a new look. The Premier Team has a new Manager until the end of the season and several new players. The 'A' Team have looked to the future and there have been **five** under-18's playing in this team. They have really done the County proud and have conducted themselves in an excellent manner, the support from their parents and the other team members has shown in the results from the team. The Premier Team started the season well with a win away against Cornwall and followed this with a win at home against Dorset. In the third game Dorset proved just a little bit too good and Devon were defeated but bounced back again when they played Cornwall at home. With two more games to play both against Somerset the teams went to Taunton on 9th November. Unfortunately both teams lost their matches and this left the Premier Team in second position looking at a very tight finish but the 'A' team held on to top place and would qualify in either first or second place. On 30th November Somerset came to the Isca Bowling Centre where the Premier Team managed a draw with Somerset Premier Team meaning they qualified in second place. Cornwall held on to the top spot by beating Dorset. The Devon 'A' Team won their game which meant they finished in top position, Somerset finished second. Both teams now wait until the New Year to find out if they will have to play a preliminary round before the chance to play in the quarter finals.

Congratulations

Congratulations to James Smith, Bronagh and Lee Toleman who as winners of the National Triples last spring, represented England in the British Isles Championships in Wales in November and finished as winners.

Congratulations also go to Michael Ivings and James Smith who won the Short Mat Players Tour World Pairs played at Bromsgrove on 23rd November 2014.

MARGARET ELLIOT PAIRS

This competition was played at Isca on 16th November. The competition is held every year and is specifically for non-county bowlers. With some good matches played during the day the semi-final was between Alan and Carol Turner from Fremington and Richard and Oliver White from Loddiswell. Alan and Carol won 11-8 and went on to play Lucy and Dave Brown from Winkleigh. The Winkleigh pair went on to win the Trophy for the second time.



NORTH DEVON AND NORTH CORNWALL SHORT MAT BOWLING FEDERATION

JOHN CROSSMAN SINGLES TROPHY

This is an annual competition with the preliminary rounds being played at eight venues around the area and the finals at Woolsery Sports and Community Hall. One player qualified from each of the preliminaries and the results at the finals were 1st round John Richards (Woolsery) beat Steve Davey (Woolsery), Jeff Hobbs (S. Molton) beat Hilary Iley (Christchurch), Matthew Avery beat Eric Heard (Hartland) and Bill Brook Winkleigh beat Andy Kerse (Wick). Players then moved to the other mat to play the semi-finals where John Richards defeated Bill Book 11-5 and Jeff won a close encounter with Matthew Avery 9-8. After a brief interval when the mat was moved to a different position, an exciting final resulted in a win for Jeff 9-7. The matches were followed by the presentation of the trophies followed by a presentation of Dartington glass by Federation President Alan Colwill to John Crossman who had recently retired after 23 years as Chairman.





We are sad to report the passing of Sue Down who was the Secretary of Ivybridge SMBC for many years. Our condolences to the family and the Club.

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