



THE BLOCK

MARCH 2015

NUMBER 54

Once again the season is reaching its conclusion. All the county competitions have now been played with the exception of the County Tens which will be held on 22nd March 2015 at Isca Bowling Centre in Exeter. This year the trophies for all County Competitions will be presented after the Final of the Tens competition. The Area Challenge between the three areas will be held on 15th March at Isca Bowling Centre and this will be followed by the AGM. This edition of **THE BLOCK** is slightly smaller than usual but I have not received any reports regarding competitions or Club activities. If you would like this newsletter to continue it would be helpful if you tell us what is happening in and around the County, so 'come on everyone' let's hear the news from the local level.

Irene Smith

INTER-COUNTY COMPETITIONS

Both the County Teams played preliminary matches after qualifying from the round robin games. The Premier Team travelled to Guildford in Surrey to play a West Midlands Team and after some hard-fought games finished on the losing side. However the 'A' team travelled to Didcot in Berkshire to play Buckinghamshire and they were triumphant with an excellent win 26-14 despite some adverse conditions at the venue. They went on to play Kent in Bristol on 15th February. This proved to be a highly successful day with a great performance from the team with a win of 29-11. The next match was against the West Midlands 'A' team and involved another journey, this time to Derbyshire. This resulted on another excellent win 28-12 so they marched on to the Final hoping to repeat the win they had in the 2011/12 season. The Final took place in Daventry against the Essex 'A' team. The Devon team proved far too strong for Essex and won 26-14. Once again the Devon 'A' team are the ICC champions. Well done to everyone who played and to the support received from everyone during the season.

COUNTY AGM

15TH MARCH 2015 5P.M. AT ISCA BOWLING CENTRE

SUMMER LANE, EXETER EX4 8NT

This will take place after the Area Challenge Match which will be played throughout the day. If you are playing or a spectator please stay for the meeting. The Committee are your representatives and we welcome any comments or feedback.

UNDER 18's COUNTY SINGLES FINALS

This competition took place on Sunday 4th January and for those of us that were there it was a real treat. There were 10 youngsters taking part and their bowling was some of the best we have seen from anyone this season and the manner in which they played was excellent. The format was played as two groups of five, all playing each other followed by a semi-final and a final. The winners from each group were Benny Bass from Uffculme and Jayden Dyer from Exeter Nomads, they were joined by the runners-up Georgina Cleave from Christow and Oliver White from Loddiswell. Jayden played Oliver in the next game which was very close with Oliver emerging as the winner. Georgina won the other semi-final against Benny and went on to play against Oliver. This was an excellent game and was eventually won by Oliver. The support from the parents and families of the youngsters was great and it was nice to see everyone stay to watch the semi-final and final. Four of the 10 players that took part have been playing for the County 'A' team this season and certainly showed they had earned their place.

Irene Smith

TRI COUNTY JUNIOR COMPETITION

This was held on 7th February 2015 and this time was hosted by Devon at the Isca Bowling Centre in Exeter. Each county, Somerset, Dorset and Devon put out two teams of four players. In the first session Devon got off to a good start with two wins, Somerset took the points in one game, leaving Dorset to get off the mark. They did this in the second session with two wins, one game going to Somerset and nothing for Devon. This left the scores all equal. After a short lunch break the third session saw all points remain equal with all three counties winning a game each, but Somerset had a slender lead on shots. The fourth and last session saw Devon take control and win both games with Dorset winning just one. The overall scores for the day, Somerset 3 points 66 shots Dorset 4 points, 64 shots and Devon 5 points 71 shots. A very hard fought day's bowling by all young members, the games were played in a good positive spirit and they are a credit to their counties. Thanks to both Somerset and Dorset for coming and to the parents for their support. We also had a visit from the England under 21 Manager, who was delighted with some of the bowls played, and he was very keen for some of the young people to think about trialling for England. These are the future of our sport, so if you are under 21 and have not been involved with County and would like to play in future please contact me through your Club Secretary, or you can find my details on the Devon web-site (www.devonshortmat.co.uk). I would be very pleased to hear from you. Eric Pavey

REGISTRATION CARDS

These should all be with Club Secretaries by now but there are some issues that need resolving. They are designed to last 5 years but there are some mistakes in names so if you could all bear with me I will endeavour to sort out this out with ESMBA over the coming weeks. Please e-mail me with any items that need to be changed but I have a feeling this could take some time!!!

Please send any items for inclusion to Irene Smith 40 Winslade Park Avenue, Clyst St. Mary, Exeter, EX5 1DA. Tel: 01392 874416 e-mail:- jandismith@talktalk.net