



THE BLOCK

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After a pleasant summer our winter season starts at the end of September. The first County Competition is the Triples on 27th September and it all begins once more. Most Clubs have returned the registration forms but I would remind everyone to check with their Secretary that they are registered before any competition is played. Membership is fairly stable and I am glad to say we have a few more under-18's who will be the future of our game, please do encourage them as much as you can. Although not all Clubs play short mat during the summer there have still been lots of open competitions (news of some of these later). The County Committee has also met during the Summer to keep everything running smoothly. The names and contact numbers of the Committee can be found on the web-site and they are always ready to help in any way they can. We now look forward to another enjoyable season.

Irene Smith, County Secretary.

Inter County Competitions 2014/15

James Smith has decided to stand down for personal reasons and Eric Pavey has been appointed as the Premier Team Manager for this year until the post is due for re-election for a three year period in 2015. Robert Ivings, the 'A' Team Manger, has two more years to serve. Following a Practice Day in August both the Premier and 'A' Teams are selected. Each team has twenty players but there is always a need for a pool of others to fill gaps in the teams from time to time. The Inter County Competitions start on 28th September with the first match away to Cornwall, followed by matches both home and away against Dorset, Somerset and Cornwall. The home matches are played at the Isca Centre in Exeter and it would be nice to have support and maybe some people will feel they could make themselves available to play another year. Eric and Robert are always ready to talk to anyone who is interested so please have a word with them if you feel you would like to take part in the future. Putting a team together is not easy and everyone would choose a different one if asked. Choosing people that gel together, playing people in certain positions and availability are only a few things to take into consideration. When playing in a team it is very important that everyone plays as a united team and gives lots of encouragement to their fellow players. With a membership of over 2,000 in the County there must be lots of players who would like the chance to prove their ability.

It is with great sadness we report that Sally O'Neill passed away on 22nd August after a short illness. Sally was well known throughout the County having played for Merton SMBC and in recent years as Secretary for Woolsery SMBC. She was also a previous member of the County Team. She will be sadly missed by her family and throughout the bowling community.

News from around the County

- Back in March Sidbury SMBC had a social evening of target bowls to raise money for Sport Relief 2014, a very worthy cause. This included putting the two mats together, with three blocks, and tactically placing targets for which (if your bowl landed on the target) you gained points. It was great fun and good practice for drawing to the target. Thanks to all those who supported this event, and for the very grateful donations. We raised a total of £132, so thank you all very much. Caroline Pavey
- In April Exeter Nomads held their Annual Ladies Pairs Competition. This was won by Margaret Smith and Marie Toleman from Wonford SMBC.
- In May Nomads also held a Charity Tournament in aid of Multiple Sclerosis South West and raised £500 for this local organisation. This was won by Val Streat, Pam and Marie Toleman.
- On Sunday 18th May, Eric Pavey and David Summers, accompanied by 'A' Team Manager Robert Ivings, took a 10 strong team of under-18's representing Devon to Comeytrove Village Hall, Taunton to play a return fixture against Somerset. At the start of the event during the line up, all the Devon Under 18's were presented with a Devon County badge. The teams of two triples and a four played on fast mats. On the first session Devon had a clean sweep winning on all mats. After a break for tea and cake Somerset had a further player arrive, so to make up the numbers Steven Perris, one of the Devon parents stepped in, so thank you to him. After a change around in the teams Devon did not have this session all their own way, but did win over 4-2 so very well done to all of them. Both teams enjoyed the afternoon and hopefully they learned a little more about playing competitive bowls. A big thank you to Somerset for hosting the event and thanks to Christina and Alan George for their help in getting the communications going with the Somerset team. The next competition is a three-way affair between Devon, Somerset and Dorset on 31st August at Bere Regis. It is hoped that some of the under 18's will take part in trials for the County A team in the summer. Eric Pavey
- On Saturday 19th July an 18 strong team headed off to Wincanton to take part in the annual Blackmore Vale League President's Cup. This being the second time we have taken part. The competition comprises 5 leagues and they play each other in three disciplines, three wood pairs, triples and fours. In the first session East Devon were up against Mendip League on three mats. They had three wins and gained six points. Blackmore Vale were next and this time East Devon had 5 wins and 10 points. Against Yeovil there were 4 wins and 8 points. Final opponents were Taunton playing in two different halls. Only three wins would be enough to clinch victory. 5 wins out of six games were achieved. This made East Devon League the winners with 34 points against their nearest rivals Blackmore Vale, the current holders, who had 28 points. The standard of bowling was very high from everyone so this was a fantastic result for East Devon League. Eric Pavey, Captain

- Also in July Exeter Nomads held their Mixed Fours Competition (two ladies and two men). The entries were very high this year and it was eventually won by Wonford who had an excellent game against Gnomeless, a team from Somerset.
- As a result of Silverton SMBC Charity Triples held earlier this year the Club were able to donate £140 to FORCE and £50 to a local youth club, which is operated by one of the churches in the Village. Thank you to everyone who participated. Danny Gooding
- The annual Merton Short Mat Bowling Club Summer Triples Tournament took place on Saturday 28th June 2014. It was a very close run tournament. Last year's winners, Bishops Nympton retained the trophy, winning all four games and amassing a points difference of 34. The 2nd prize was taken by The Drifters: they also won all their games and gained 33 points. All in all a very successful day, all teams arrived in good time of the "off" and the tournament ran very smoothly. Thank you to Jeanie and her helpers in the kitchen, I am sure the delicious food served up helps to make this annual tournament the success it is. The presentation of the trophies was made by Jeanie Sheppard, Chairman of Merton SMBC. Please note the date of our next tournament will be 22nd November 2014. Julie Stacey

The observant amongst you will notice that most of the above took part in the East of the County so come on the North and South let us hear more about what is happening in your Area. Send details of any competition or news items to Irene Smith (details at the bottom of this page).

www.devonshortmat.co.uk

The web-site continues to grow and for those of you that have not visited it yet please do. There is lots of information and links to other sites and it is updated by Richard Ivings on a regular basis. The results of League matches are on there as well as news of the County Competitions, dates for Open Competitions and the Inter-County Matches. Make it your first stop for keeping up with County information.

Change of date for Buckfast Novices Tournament Please note that the date of this competition has been changed from 7th February 2015 to 21st February 2015. Contact Jan Young 01364 369132 or Mike Anderson e-mail:- mike.andy@live.co.uk

Stop Press – On Sunday 31st August six Devon Under-18's went to Dorset to play a three way match against Somerset and Dorset. The overall scores were Somerset 12 pts, Devon 8 pts and Dorset 5 pts. Well done to everyone and thanks for all the support from parents and grandparents. It is hoped to make this an annual event.

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