



THE BLOCK

AT THE CENTRE OF SHORT MAT BOWLING IN DEVON

March 2011

Number 39

We are nearly at the end of our Winter season and the County Competitions and League competitions are all but finished. The AGM is on 16th April at Isca Bowling Centre when the Finals of the Singles, Pairs, Triples, Fours and Under-18's competitions will be played. Despite the bad weather conditions we did not have to cancel any competitions this year. The paperwork for the A.G.M. will be with your Club Secretary either by post or e-mail during March. We hope to see a few more members from Clubs at the A.G.M., last year there were only 23 Clubs represented from over 100 affiliated Clubs. The Finals are played in the morning and the games are always worth watching. If you register during the morning and stay for the AGM then a roast lunch is provided free of charge.

Next season will see our move to Plymouth and there will be news shortly of our Open Day when we hope you will come and see for yourselves. Details of this will be sent to your Club Secretary in due course.

County Competition Finalists

Singles – Gareth Hill (Wonford) v Tony Main (Yarnscombe)

Pairs – Caroline Thompson/Eric Pavey (Sidbury) v Mike Avery/Tony Main (Yarnscombe)

Triples – Mike Knight/Pauline Knight/John Lyon (Upottery) v Geoff Stone/Colin Tims/Gordon Tremlett (Beer Mariners)

Fours – Elliot James/George Main/Mike Avery/Tony Main (Yarnscombe) v Gill Evely, Sue Cockerham/Alan Evely/Maurice Kibby (Bow)

Under 18's – Elliot James v George Main (both from Yarnscombe)

Devon Inter-County Teams

The Premier Team had great success in the round-robin games and by the time they had to play the last game had already qualified for the Quarter Finals. On 27th February they travelled to Northampton to play Kent, always a hard team to beat, and unfortunately lost 30-10.

The 'A' Team did really well after a poor start to this season. At the half-way stage of the round-robin games they were still looking for their first win but with a few changes and great spirit they managed to dig deep and qualified to the next round. This involved a preliminary round against Herefordshire played in Bristol on 6th February. They won this with the magnificent score 36-4 and went on to play a quarter-final match against Surrey in Northampton which they won 24-16. A game against Kent followed on 6th March once again in Northampton. This was a keenly fought match with the scores all level at the half-way stage and in the afternoon session it was still level. This meant there was all to play for and the game went right up to the wire but unfortunately Devon missed out on the bonus points available and were eventually defeated 21-19. It was an excellent performance by the 'A' Team considering the poor start they had to the season. Well done to both teams on qualifying and better luck next year.

News from the Clubs

The Merton Short Mat Bowling Club's 2010 Winter Tournament was held at the Clinton Hall on Saturday 4th December and was sponsored by Clinton Gates in association with W.H.Bond.

It was a somewhat anxious time building up to the day and unfortunately two clubs had to withdraw due to the weather. We were unable to fill the places as the cancellations came in too late, so the tournament had to go ahead with only 14 teams competing.

The winners were Woolsery who built up a strong lead from game one. Second and third places were exceptionally close, both clubs having won three and lost one game. The decision had to be made based on match points. Second place was awarded to Braunton with a score of 23 and third place to Christchurch whose score was 22.

In all the years this tournament has been running, this is the first time that adverse weather conditions were an issue. Thank you to all, both members and visitors, who made the effort to attend and so ensured a successful day.

A note for your diary - our next tournament will be on 25th June 2011. Julie Stacey Merton SMBC

The East Devon & District Leagues

The Evening League is almost complete with just a couple of matches to go. Honours this season go to Colyton who in their first season back in the top division have secured the Division Championship edging Beer in the runner-up place. Awliscombe 'A' and West Hill will be in third and fourth places with the last match to be played deciding; if West Hill do not lose but have at least a seven shot margin they will be third.

Joining these four next season will be Sidbury and Upottery who were winners and runners-up in the second division. They return to division 1 at their first attempt.

The evening teams will now focus on the Knock-out cup which was inaugurated last season; so far just one match as been played with Hemyock in their first season in the competition winning their first leg 8-0.

The Afternoon League still has four rounds to go so nothing definite as yet. Last season's champions, Beer, have a 5 point margin over the following teams. The two Awliscombe teams, Seaton Cliff 'B', Upottery, St. Teresa's and Lyme Regis are all within striking distance but given Beer's margin and current performance it is probable that one of these five will take the Afternoon runner-up place.

In the second division Seaton Cliff 'A' who are aiming to return to Division 1 at their first attempt have a 4 point margin over Musbury, and 5 points over Sidbury, Hemyock and Combe S., Nicholas, the latter have a game in hand. With 4 or 5 rounds to go it is still open and any two of these five could be enjoying Division 1 games next season.

Outside the league our Open Pairs event in April will have the maximum attendance as the 64 places are already reserved and a number of teams are standing by in case any drop out. Given our geographic position this event has long attracted interest from teams from Somerset and Dorset with last year's winners coming from Cerne Abbas. This year 16 or the 64 entries will come from Somerset or Dorset League clubs and 10 pairs are from East Devon clubs who are not league clubs. Disappointing that a further 16 pairs, so far, could not be accommodated, but encouraging that there is interest to be harnessed for future events. It will be interesting to see whether the winners will be a 'club' pair, in only 2 years have county players managed to claim the winners' trophy.

We welcome a new Club to our number this year – Bere Alston SMBC. The contact is Mrs Brenda Dunnett (01822 841544). If you are nearby please get in touch with them if you have any competitions coming up or would like a friendly match.

Where are all the Club Champions?

The Champion of Champions competition was held on 12th February and after some interesting matches the semi-final was between Richard Whiterow (Shebbear) and James Trott (Musbury) and Tim Thompson (Anstey) and Tony Main (Yarnscombe). The Final was between Tony Main and James Trott with James coming through as the overall winner.

However the question must be asked as to why only 24 players attended. This competition was first held in 1993/4 and after some years the numbers declined so it was decided not to hold it in the following year. However, many of you were disappointed and expressed a wish that it be brought back. We did this but unfortunately the same thing has happened. So come on everyone send your Club Singles Champion next year and if you do not hold a competition within your Club you can still send a representative.

**FORMAT FOR PLAYING WITH
ONE PLAYER MISSING
E.S.M.B.A. RULING
"Absentee Players"**
"A Triples or Fours game will commence with the missing player being considered as the 'Second' and a definite order of play will be maintained.
It shall be;
LEAD, LEAD,SECOND
LEAD, LEAD,SECOND
"A" is the team with a Player short

"A" Going First	"B" Going First	
A LEAD	B LEAD	
B LEAD	A LEAD	
B SECOND	B SECOND	
A LEAD	B LEAD	
B LEAD	A LEAD	
B SECOND	B SECOND	
A THIRD	B THIRD	
B THIRD	A THIRD	
A THIRD	B THIRD	
B THIRD	A THIRD	
A SKIP	B SKIP	
B SKIP	A SKIP	
A SKIP	B SKIP	
B SKIP	A SKIP	

Rules

Players often ask about the rule for playing triples and fours with a player missing. It can be confusing when you try to read the passage in the rule book. Our Umpire Manager, Ken Griffiths, has produced the following format to make it easier for everyone.

If you have any other queries on the rules let us know and we will endeavour to answer them for you. Our Umpires attend most of our County Competitions and they will be only too pleased to give advice.

Have you visited our new web-site yet.? Lots of you have and from what you say you like it. League tables and news from all three areas are being published and results from Inter County competitions as well as the results from County Competitons. The draw for the County Competitions will also be on there so you will be able to see the day and the start time for each discipline. We can put lots more information on there so keep sending items that you would like to include to Richard Ivings ([e-mail:-ivings_r@hotmail.com](mailto:-ivings_r@hotmail.com))

Insurance

We often get asked about insurance so for some of the newer Clubs and members here is a précis of what is covered.

Devon County Short Mat Bowling Association takes out an annual insurance for public liability up to £2.5 million pounds to cover all **registered** members playing against other **registered** members. Your Public Liability insurance cover is not valid if you play against an unregistered player in games other than a Charity Tournament. This is one of the reasons why the ESMBA membership rule is that you may only play against other registered players. This cover is included in the registration fee. This does not cover the Club's equipment or premises, for which a separate insurance should be taken out. Your Village Hall may have insurance cover for your equipment whilst it is on the premises but this will not cover you if mats are ever moved to another venue temporarily. Neither of these insurances will provide personal accident cover if a bowler is negligent which is why there is a rule that players must always nominate weight verbally and visually before playing the bowl.

The fee at present is £4.00 and £2.50 of this amount goes to ESMBA and £1.50 to Devon County Short Mat Bowling Association.

LOOKING FOR BOWLING EQUIPMENT?

Worthing Bowls have asked me to announce their new web-site at www.worthingbowlscentre.co.uk. This company supplied our Verde County Mats last year. At the moment they are offering free delivery.

Good luck to all the players taking part in the National Competitions taking place at Bedford in April.

Please send items for inclusion in the next issue to Irene Smith 40 Winslade Park Avenue, Clyst St. Mary, Exeter EX5 1DA. Tel:- 01392 874416 e-mail: jandismith@tinyonline.co.uk.