



THE BLOCK

AT THE CENTRE OF SHORT MAT BOWLING IN DEVON

September 2010

Number 37

Here we are again at the beginning of a new season. The summer was very pleasant in June and early July and for those of you that play outdoors it must have been nice after last year's rain although August has more than made up for it. Leagues and County Competitions will be starting soon and as usual the County season kicks off with the Area Challenge. We have two new Area Representatives this year for the South and East areas so I am sure they will be looking to get a win for their players. This is a chance for some of the players who have not played for the County, along with some that have, to take part in a tournament held at Isca Bowling Centre. There is a shield to be won, but it is played in a "friendly but competitive spirit". The draw for the County Competitions was made at the August Committee Meeting and should be with your Club Secretary by now. I wish you all a good season and let me know some of your local results either League or open competitions and I will print them in future copies of The Block.

Irene Smith, County Secretary

Brian Medland – County Chairman

It is with great sadness that we report that Brian finally lost his battle 'to be back' in his words as our County Chairman – he will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him. Pamela and her family would like to thank everyone who sent cards and good wishes. His funeral in May was attended by a large number of people who came from all the activities in which Brian had participated over the years. We look forward to seeing Pamela playing in the months to come.

It is with great sadness that we have also learnt of the death of Martin O'Neill of Woolsery SMBC. Martin was a well known figure at many friendly, league and County competitions and will be sadly missed by everyone. Our thoughts are with Sally and her family at this time.

'2010 Technology'

This is my third year as County Secretary and since I started the number of e-mail addresses for Club Secretaries has increased from about twenty to seventy-five. This makes my job so much easier and saves the County a great deal of money in stationery and postage. The Internet is also widely available to most people now and by the time you read this we hope to have the Devon Website up and running again. There have been some problems in changing over the ownership of the website but we hope you will bear with us if things do not go to plan as quickly as we would wish. We will endeavour to publish the results of County Competitions and the Inter-County results and local area news. The whole site will have a new name and a new look and in future it should be possible to show league tables and results if you send them in. We will keep you informed of the progress on this. There will, in time, be links to other sites as well. The web address will be as follows:-

www.devonshortmat.co.uk and you can contact Richard Ivings on the following number 01392 210268 or you can e-mail him at ivings_r@hotmail.com. For facebook members the address is <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Devon-County-Short-Mat-Bowls-Association/102688753125715>. There is also a twitter account <http://twitter.com/DCSMBA>.

News from the Clubs

Yarnscombe SMBC

Once again a brilliant year at all levels. At the ESMBA National competitions representing Devon were Tony Main, Mike Avery, George Main and Elliot James in the fours and George Main in the Under-18's where he reached the quarter finals. These four have all played in all Devon County team games. Congratulations! Tony Main and Mike Avery also won the County Pairs Competition and in the County Under 18's George beat Elliot by 2 shots on an extra end. The Club also won the County Tens competition.

North Devon & North Cornwall Area. The Eagles won Division 1 and the Knockout Cup, The Alan Wright team trophy was won by the Club, Tony Main, Jay Shaw, Denys Crocker and Alan Flood won the Albery and Shute trophy and the Falcons maintained their place in the league despite 3 members having operations.

Merton Charity League. Kestrels were winners of the Presidents Cup and the Knockout Cup and were runners-up in Division 1. The Hawks kept their place in the same division. 14 year-old Mathew Avery who has been part of the Kestrel team has been a star in the making, also Mark Avery who has played his first season.

Two very successful tournaments were held with £401.80 going to the Childrens Hospice.

Very well done to everyone for a club of only 19 members. Thank you to all of you for your help during the season.

Denys Crocker, Yarnscombe SMBC

Merton SMBC League results

At the conclusion of the 2009/10 short-mat playing season, the league knockout cup final was played between Langtree and Yarnscombe Kestrels, Kestrels winning 24-12.

The President's Cup played on an home and away basis was also won by Yarnscombe Kestrels, with Winkleigh 'C' runners-up.

Other League results as follows:-

Afternoon Triples Division 1:- Winners - Langtree, Runners-up - Winkleigh 'B'

Afternoon Triples Division 2:- Winners - Wick Wrens, Runners-up - Sutcombe

Evening Division 1:- Winners - Four Seasons, Runners-up - Yarnscombe Kestrels

Evening Division 2:- Winners - Hatherleigh 'A', Runners-up - Winkleigh 'B'

Evening Division 3:- Winners - Wick Wrens, Runners-up - Sutcombe

Lord Clinton, President of Merton SMBC presented the trophies.

The Charity League has so far raised in excess of £1,000 for the Devon Air Ambulance Fund and welcomes entries from Clubs within a 15 mile radius of Merton.

Merton Short Mat Bowling Club Summer Triples

This took place on Saturday 26th June and was sponsored by many local businesses. Due to their outstanding generosity we have been able to donate £50 to Cancer Research U.K. Thank you all for your support, and to those who donated raffle prizes. The results was that first prize went to Winkleigh who won every game making them the clear winners, the second prize was taken by Beaford who won three games and lost one, earning 15 shot points and the third prize went to Woolsery who won three games and lost one, earning 11 shot points. All in all a very successful day. We look forward to seeing you all again soon. A note for your Diary:- our next tournament will be held on 4th December 2010.

Julie Stacey, Merton SMBC

Exeter & District League

Division 1 Winners – Wonford ‘B’, Runners-up – Wonford ‘C’

Division 2 Winners – Silverton ‘A’, Runners-up – Broadclyst ‘A’

Knock-out Cup Winners Nomads ‘B’, Runners-up Broadclyst ‘A’

Win Graham Shield Winners Nomads ‘1’, Runners-up Silverton ‘1’

Open Pairs Champions – Irene and John Smith, Runners-up – Jane Parkhouse and Alan Shere

Exeter Nomad’s Mixed Fours Tournament

Our annual Mixed Fours Tournament took place on 25th July and this year we were up to twelve teams playing from all parts of the County plus two teams from Somerset.

The three groups of four teams each played a ‘round-robin’ so that every team got three games with Winners and Runners-up plus the two highest third placed teams going through to the last eight knock-out stages.

This truly is the most open tournament that we run, since over six years there are five different winners names on the trophy. It was to prove another year for a new name.

In the semi-finals although “Shebbyton” (two ladies from Shebbear and two men from Colyton – a great combination) played really well together all day they just could not hold their form against last year’s winners Winkleigh. In the other semi-final Totnes Creameries were just too strong for the Lydford (Somerset) four who had done so well to reach this stage in their first visit to Nomads.

So a great final took place between two experienced teams who had played consistently well all day. Although the early ends were “nip and tuck” by the sixth end Totnes were building a solid lead and this they held to the end to be well deserved winners.

As ever our kitchen team did us proud with a good lunch and all day refreshments and the lovely sunny day meant that players could relax sitting outdoors when not playing. All in all a most enjoyable day and our thanks to the good fellowship of all the bowlers taking part.

John Smith, Exeter Nomads

Inter County Competitions

The first match for this season is at home to Cornwall on 16th October at Isca Bowling Centre. The members of both the County Teams would welcome any support. On the 23rd October the teams will be home to Dorset. The games start at 11.a.m. and will finish about 4p.m.

Rule Books

The rule book has been reprinted this year and copies are available from the County Secretary (Irene Smith) at a cost of £2.00 each. I will have them if you are coming to any of the events at Isca Bowling Centre or I can send them with an added postage charge.

New Club

Welcome to St. Matt’s SMBC who have joined the ranks of affiliated Clubs in Devon. We have a couple of Clubs that are struggling with finding enough members but we hope this situation will improve in the near future. We still have the largest number of Clubs in the Country.

Send any items you have for inclusion in the next edition by 15th November and I will do my best to include them in the December edition.

Please send to:– Irene Smith 40 Winslade Park Avenue, Clyst St. Mary Devon EX5 1DA.

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