

Report from Johns' Trophy Manager 2024

This is my first report as Manager of Bowls Hampshire Johns' Trophy

This year we hoped to have had three trial games but unfortunately there was not enough time to fit them in. However, with help and guidance of the four area selectors we managed to see a great many of Bowls Hampshire's best in the two trials.

Our first game was away on the Saturday 1st June against Kent at Borough Green BC at 12 for 12.30, a bit of an early start considering the long journey. We won comfortably on three rinks, with the other three just missing out on the 18th end. We won overall 102 – 96. A good boost for the team on their first outing.

Our second game on 15th June was against Buckinghamshire at home. However, it was demanded that we play closer to them so it was agreed to host our match at Alton Social BC. The weather was relentless almost from the start of the game. It was a close game with one rink winning 21 – 9 but unfortunately, we lost overall 91 – 107.

Our final game was away on 6th July against Sussex at the Worthing Pavilion BC. This was an important win for us with only one rink sadly going down. We beat them 117 – 97 on 5 rinks ensuring our 20 points to their 2.

The highlight of the day was to award Alison Flint (Cove) her 100th cap!

We finished the group in 3rd place having won 2 of the 3 games, with only 4 points between us and Kent.

JT badges were awarded to Kate Fyfield (Alton Social) , Alice Lovett (Oakley), Molly Firth (Milton Park Ladies), Charlie Crook (Banister Park), and Carol Bloomfield (Ringwood)

On 9th June was the first game in the Walker Cup (Double Rink) against Berkshire at Caversham BC. Unfortunately, they had a severe case of Dollar Spot so the match was rearranged at Didcot BC, an excellent game where we had a clear win 42 – 31 winning on both rinks.

This put us into the regional finals at Egham BC against Kent. Margaret Holden held off Sian Honor, just, to win 26 – 25, but the other rink could not match their opposition, so we lost overall.

Walker Cup badges were awarded to Rose Beynon (Lee on The Solent), Jackie Kingston (Andover), Lesley Taylor (Andover), and Sue Hurley (Lymington)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Selectors, Officers, and all the players for their support and commitment for my first year as manager. Let us look forward to a successful 2025.

There has been a complete change in groupings for the Johns' Trophy 2025/2026, we now are together with Berkshire, Isle of Wight and Wiltshire. Draws not available at present, but go live on October 15th.

Maxeen Fletcher