

BOWLS HAMPSHIRE ARE JOHNS TROPHY CHAMPIONS!!!

After a 4 shot win in the morning over Cumbria, in the semi-final, Hampshire faced Devon in the final of the Johns Trophy.

Devon, with 2 senior internationals in their team, Liz Smerdon and Natalie Melmore, looked to be favourites but Hampshire started well and after the first 5 ends the scores were level at 25-25.

Winning on two rinks, drawing on two and losing on the remaining two, things were close but it was Hampshire who went ahead as we approached the half way mark with a 13 shot advantage at 55 shots to 42, with Allyson Flint's four leading the way with a 16 - 5 score over Devon skip Tina Thomas.

Things continued to look good for Hampshire, and at the 15 ends mark, were still ahead by 9 shots. Now with three rinks winning, and the other three down by no more than 4 shots, Hampshire continued to hang onto their lead.

At 18 ends the gap had increased to 12 shots, and it was looking like Hampshire would go onto to clinch the title and once we had stretched the gap even further to 22 shots with just 10 ends remaining the supporters were beginning to relax.

However Devon had other ideas and picking up two very quick hauls of five shots were suddenly right back in it, bringing the gap to just 12 shots with four ends to go.

But Hampshire held firm, and with the help of their very noisy supporters, they picked up shots and with just two ends to go had pulled further ahead with only the rinks skipped by Kay Kerley and Brenda Plumpton still left to finish. A wonder last bowl by Brenda Plumpton made it impossible for Devon to win and another win for Kay Kerley's rink of Jean Arnaud, Carolyn Ford and Muriel Sadler, to go unbeaten throughout the campaign, gave Hampshire the win by 13 shots (112 - 99) to become **Johns Trophy Champions for the 2nd time in 4 years!**

Skip's scores were as follows:

Linda Hayward	18 - 18
Margaret Holden	16 - 24
Allyson Flint	29 - 15
Brenda Plumpton	13 - 20
Kath Patrick	18 - 8
Kay Kerley	18 - 14

CONGRATULATIONS HAMPSHIRE...

2011 JOHNS TROPHY CHAMPIONS!!!