

MIDDLETON CUP CAMPAIGN GETS OFF TO A WINNING START

Bowls Hampshire made a good start to the 2011 campaign in beating Bowls Oxfordshire by 18 points to 4, and by 126 shots to 116.

With 2 new players in Daniel Taylor and Tony Nixon, wearing their new shirts, and playing on the Atherley 'top green' Hampshire were keen to break their habit of struggling in the first match of the round robin league but were slow out of the traps and found themselves 14 shots down overall at the 5 end stage.

During the next 5 ends a good comeback by the end rink skipped by Leo May saw them pull back to just 3 down but Chris Daniel's rink was struggling and reached half way at 1-15. Overall Oxfordshire were in the ascendency and at the midpoint we were behind by 45 shots to 64.

But then usual the Hampshire push started and, buoyed by a perfect wood from Paul May to remove the only close Oxfordshire wood to pick up a score of 7, Peter Ward's rink adding 12 unanswered shots and Richard Shelley putting the last trial match result behind him by also adding 11 shots over the next 5 ends, the master scoreboard (if there had been one!) turned red with Hampshire now ahead by one shot at the 15 end stage.

5 of our 6 rinks had a 'winning' second half and helped to increase our lead to 11 shots at 18 ends which we held until the finish.

Skip's scores were as follows:

Leo May	22 - 19
Peter Ward	31 - 9
Chris Daniels	8 - 23
Richard Shelley	29 - 17
Paul May	22 - 18
Russell Morgan	14 - 30

All in all a great start and we can look forward to next Saturday, 11th June, when we face Sussex at Worthing Pavilion BC where hopefully we will have another success!