

MIDDLETON CUP

Bowls Hampshire travelled to Canterbury BC for what was expected to be the toughest, and possibly deciding, match against Kent for the third match of their 2011 Middleton Cup campaign.

With three changes in the team due to unforeseen circumstances, strong winds and a flooded green, these were hardly a recipe for success but Hampshire again started strongly and by the 5 end stage had an eleven shot advantage at 39 shots to 28.

Leo May's rink continued their dominance and by halfway had a healthy seven shot advantage and, with a similar position on Richard Shelley's rink, the Hampshire lead was still a healthy 13 shots.

The start of the second half of the match was not quite so good and Hampshire did not improve on any rink, adding only 17 shots against a Kent rise of 38. So with 6 ends to go the lead had swung to Kent who were now ahead by 91 shots to 83.

The next 3 ends up to 18 saw our usual push and the Kent lead dropped to just 2 shots thanks mainly to unanswered gains by the rinks skipped by Leo May and Peter Ward.

The score could not be closer and it was all down to the last few woods on Russell Morgan's rink with a one shot Hampshire lead overall on the match. The Kent skip played a great last wood to set up a match winning lie of three shots but Russell's last wood secured second shot an overall draw at 120 shots each with Hampshire winning on four rinks to two by Kent and a points win of 13 points to 9.

A tough opposition and a great performance to leave us 22 points ahead of Kent who still have a game in hand next Saturday away to Oxfordshire.

Skip's scores were as follows:

Leo May	27 - 17
Peter Ward	20 - 13
Chris Daniels	24 - 22
Richard Shelley	22 - 18
Paul May	10 - 30
Russell Morgan	17 - 20

Hampshire's last game is at home to Middlesex in 3 weeks by which time we will hopefully still be ahead with it all in our own hands.