

JOHNS TROPHY CAMPAIGN GETS UNDERWAY

This time last year Hampshire Ladies played Middlesex County WBA in the first round of the Johns Trophy at Pyestock and won very comfortably by 50 shots so having been drawn against Middlesex again Bowls Hampshire Ladies travelled to Yateley BC this afternoon full of confidence.

They started very well to be ahead by 26 shots after just the first five ends with Kay Kerley's rink picking up a five to lead 12-1 and, with a similar haul of five from Brenda Plumpton's rink during the next five ends, the strong start continued. Reaching the halfway stage the score was 63 shots to 39 with Hampshire up on four rinks and only one shot down on the other two.

Over the next five ends Middlesex began to slowly reduce the lead and by 15 ends the difference was down to 16 shots but we were still up on 4 rinks with just the two outside rinks of Allyson Flint and Margaret Holden down.

Both teams scored 23 shots between ends 16 and 18 and with just three ends each to go it was still looking comfortable with Hampshire ahead by 107 shots to 91.

But then it all changed scores were being dropped across the green and the momentum was with Middlesex whose supporters were now beginning to realise they could win this match. The Middlesex electronic scoreboard was earning its money and suddenly the lead was down to single figures with just nine ends to go across the green and Hampshire ahead by just 8 shots.

Yet more pressure and Middlesex were level with just three ends to go across the green and then for the first time all afternoon the board went negative with just one end left for the rinks of Kay Kerley and Margaret Holden and Middlesex up by one shot.

Having last wood on both of the two remaining ends being played was crucial and Kay took the shot to level the scores at 112 each all down to the last few woods on rink 1 and Hampshire were holding two shots.

Thankfully, for Hampshire, the Middlesex skip couldn't change the position and we scrambled over the line to win by those two shots!

Skip's scores were as follows:

Margaret Holden	12 - 20
Kath Patrick	17 - 16
Kay Kerley	22 - 16
Linda Haywood	23 - 18
Brenda Plumpton	30 - 17
Allyson Flint	10 - 25

A great result in the end but too close for comfort!

Next up we are at home to Surrey with the match scheduled for two weeks time on Tuesday 28 June