

## **Middleton Cup Manager**

Firstly, to all it's been a honour and privilege to manage the Hampshire Middleton Cup this year and with the help of my co selectors Brian Jones Barry Starks and Chris Cranham it's been entertaining for their input and understanding of the task we have all taken on tough at times but also very rewarding in players attitudes and the understanding of what we are trying to achieve the county's presence in bowls once again Work I'm progress one would like to say

The mentality of the players and team was first class the future is looking brighter and the standard off Middleton Cup bowls is improving

The group was tough once again to get out of but the squad showed what Hampshire bowls is all about playing as a team the bond in knitting together as a unit and believing in one another's ability is key to what we are trying to install for one and all.

Kent away at West Wickham was a great result for the team I'm their first group game winning 20-2

129-102 shots

But changes were made and a shuffling of the squad for the second group game away to Middlesex at Hendon which we won 18-4 Score: 127-112

Not a nice day for bowls but impressed with the team's performance

Third group game was home to Surrey

We lost 6-16 Score: 108-123

Mind you we could have won 16-6 but it wasn't to be lack of concentration and doing what is required addressed after the game lessons learned.

Last group game was home to the Isle of Wight was an excellent result for Hampshire needing to win 22-0 and a plus shot of 88 to beat Surrey to the top spot The team won 22-0 Score: 179-63.

The team spirit and attitude and ability to get through was brilliant

Quarter final against Buckinghamshire away was a good quality game that I thought capable of winning but as a team we started very poorly giving them a 28 shot start across the 6 rinks' early

But the team's character and willingness to fight was evident to only lose by 3 shots on the last word of the game

### **Balcombe Trophy**

Good result in preliminary round beating Berkshire 37-31

Regional finals Bromley BC

Semi-final beat Buckinghamshire 47-30

Final losing to Kent 40-41. After the extra end

Thanks

Colin Thresher