

BOWLS HAMPSHIRE SECRETARY'S REPORT 2023

Well, another bowling season has come to an end. It has been an interesting year particularly with the amount of rain we have had. The County were extremely lucky and were able to complete all the championship quarter and semi-finals even though the rain tried to thwart the proceeding on a number of occasions. I must thank all the competitors for their resilience particularly during the two-wood quarter and semi finals when the rain came down and just wouldn't stop. The only competition which had to be rearranged was the final of the Men's and Ladies Senior fours when torrential rain and hail flooded the green.

Huge thanks go to Tony Prince the Umpires Coordinator who not only ensured we had umpires for all the competitions including doing quite a few himself. The County is still short of umpires and anyone interested and would like to know more please contact Tony of I am sure will be delighted to assist you.

Our thanks go to Banister Park who are always most helpful and flexible when changes have to happen beyond our control. My thanks go to Paul and Dee the caterers at Banister Park who are always ready to make changes so that food can be provided for everyone for all our competitions. The food is excellent and with the help of some volunteers do a fantastic job.

Our congratulations to everyone who reached the National Championships with particular congratulations to our junior players who were part of the White Rose team reaching the Final at Royal Leamington Spa and narrowly missing out on the Championship. On returning home they went one better and beat their old adversary Kent to win the Junior Home Counties cup. Many congratulations to all the players involved a fantastic end to an outstanding season.

Hampshire didn't have the best results this year at the Championships until towards the end when the Ladies Senior Fours of Lesley Johnson, Alice Atwell, Hazel Marke and Margaret Holden from Alton Social, went all the way beating four ladies from Warwickshire to win the final and the National title for a second time.

Many congratulations to everyone who represented Hampshire, which this year included a number of players attending the National Championships for their first time.

Our Ladies President Sue Lewis Parkes and Men's President Doug Nazer were at the National Championships and between them ensured they supported all our competitors at times having to move between the five greens in order to support all the Hampshire players. The weather could have been better, some days feeling more like Autumn than summer and of course we did have rain but our Presidents put up their umbrella's and continued to support.

Our West Area Ladies secretary, Kim Harris has indicated that she is stepping down and I hope a member from the West will come forward to shadow Kim with a view to taking over.

Mandy Wilde who took over the role of Membership and Yearbook Secretary, I would thank her for all her hard work and hope she has enjoyed her first year in the role.

Lastly, my thanks go to all the Officers of the County who work tirelessly in the back ground through the year. The County is always striving to move forward and 2025 will see a new system in place for affiliation, competitions and friendly matches which will enable all affiliated members to apply for friendly matches directly on the system.