

BOWLS HAMPSHIRE SECRETARY'S REPORT 2021

My first year as Bowls Hampshire Secretary and it didn't start as I had expected with the second lockdown and all its implications to deal with, certainly felt like I had fallen into the deep end!!!!

I survived and I'm happy to say that once April arrived a light at the end of the tunnel and May saw some bowling commence. Although the national competitions took place, it was under a different format which wasn't received well by many players. The good news is that Bowls England have revised the format for 2022 with the number of woods back to four in the pairs and three in the triples. Although the number of ends will be 18 for the three team competitions (pairs, triples and fours).

The culmination of the County competitions went very well, this year for the first time the quarter finals, semi and finals were all held at Banister Park with the men and ladies playing at the same time. My thanks go to Julian and Steve who ensured we had rinks and were extremely helpful when one competition was rained off at the quarter final stage.

A huge thank you to Tony Prince, our Umpires Co-ordinator who always succeeded in finding us Umpires, sometimes at quite short notice.

The National Championships also took place albeit in changed circumstances. Hampshire were extremely successful, with Alice Lovett making the final of the Junior under 25, Janet Williamson the final of the senior singles, the Alton team of Lesley Johnson, Alice Atwell, Hazel Marke and Margaret Holden the final of the Senior fours and lastly the Balcomb team lost a close fought final to Northamptonshire. In the Men's Champion of Champions Daniel Taylor lost a spellbinding semi-final by a single shot 20-21 to Jamie Chestney who went on to win the competition. Also reaching the semi-final stage were the men's junior pairs of Reece Graham and Ashley Nethercliffe, and the mixed pairs of Sharon Varndell and Peter Ward.

Our Presidents Mandy Orchard and Neil Fletcher did a fantastic job supporting all our competitors at the National Championships at Leamington attending every day come rain or shine, and this year there were certainly some very cold days.

It is with sadness that some of our Officers, Cynthia Abraham Assistant Secretary, Rosemary Corney Ladies Match Secretary and Brian Jones the West Area Men's Secretary have now stepped down, they have worked tirelessly for the County and both mine and Counties sincere thanks go to them for all their hard work.