

Report from Johns' Trophy Manager - 2023

This is my final report as Manager and a rather sad moment as I have been involved in the John's for over 30 years, both as a player and finally the Manager. Although we have not been successful, I have thoroughly enjoyed being Manager.

This year we should have started with three trial games, so that all those who had been successful in the 2022 competitions, would have the opportunity to be considered for selection. Unfortunately, the first one at the beginning of May had to be cancelled as it clashed with the Coronation. Next year it is hoped that there will be a trial match against Jersey.

The Johns trophy went back to being a round robin and our first game was against Kent played at Banister Park. The game was played in the morning, at the request of Kent, and we thank Banister for being so accommodating. Our game was followed by Hampshire Men playing the Middleton Cup, again against Kent. We lost 124-103, although at one time we were ahead of Kent by a couple of shots but lost too many shots over the last few ends.

Our second game was away to Buckinghamshire played at Burnham the green of former International Mary Price who sadly passed away earlier this year. We won 116-103.

Our final game was against Sussex, again played at Banister Park. In a very close match, we went into the last end winning by 2 shots and holding second wood which would have secured the win. However, the final wood of the match from Sussex turned our wood out and they picked up the double to draw the match 117-117. As neither side could qualify for Leamington the extra end was not played and the points for the result were shared. As Sussex won on 4 rinks to our 2 they won 13 points to our 9. We finished the group on 29 points second behind Kent.

JT badges awarded to Rose Beynon (Lee on the Solent); Kay Stockley (Rowner) and Lesley Taylor (Andover).

The Walker Cup (Double Rink) was played away at Cambridge Park against Middlesex which we won 46-39 which took us to the Regional final at Egham on an exceptionally hot day, where we beat Oxfordshire 43-31, but unfortunately we were unable to reach Leamington losing the second match 28-45 to Berkshire, the eventual runners up.

My thanks go to the Officers and all the players who showed commitment and supported me in what was again a challenging season. My best wishes go to my successor, Maxeen. Let us hope a change of Management and new thinking will see Hampshire again lifting the John's trophy.

Kay Kerley

Bowls Hampshire Amy Rose Report 2023

This year we were drawn to play in the Preliminary round on 28th May against Oxfordshire at Kidlington Bowls Club, where we were made most welcome. The weather was ideal.

Charlie Crook's rink of Grace Read as Lead, Chloe May as Two, and Keira Patel as Three had a slow start, until the 12th end when they drew 10 all. Charlie then picked up 10 shots in four consecutive ends and never looked back, beating Jazzmin Alder, Katie Bland, Hollie Ormond and Jess Richens 21-16. Meanwhile Emily Chadwick's rink with Lorna Devonish as three, Heather Butler as two and Molly Firth as lead, lost a 4 on their first end, but gathered momentum and took it back on the 6th end. They had a consistent game scoring on 13 ends to win 22-16.

The Regional Finals were held at Cranleigh Bowls Club in Surrey on Sunday 11th June where we once again faced Kent B at 10am. The weather was perfect, and the hospitality second to none.

The Hampshire girls faced:

Leah Bamford
Paige Dennis
Emily Ferguson
Natalie Harrison

Imogen Jenner
Olivia Moulton
Leah Saxton
Jennifer Southby

It was a hard-fought game as often said the score does not show the true game. We lost 51–27. It was a really tremendous effort by our Hampshire team, a proud moment for each and every one of the team, we have come so far and almost there.

The one thing that we can take from this is that Kent B went on to win the Amy Rose Bowl in the final against Devon (just) 38 -37.

Maxeen Fletcher