



Devon County Indoor Bowls Association

Devon Colts Managers – Interim Report for Exec Meeting 29-Jan-2024

I start our midterm report on the Colts with some grim statistics. October's get together, we lost nine players for one reason or another, and gained three in return. This cannot continue if we have another year like this, then next year I see that it will probably be the Colts last until new squad members are integrated and committed to playing.

We have tried to do things differently this year with more training days/get-togethers and less friendlies. Ian Turner has been helping with coaching some of the new players at our training days and giving up his time to help the Colts, for this we are truly grateful. Of the 17 players we have available to us, at best we have been able to muster on anyone day is 10 and the worst we've had is six. Sometimes our dates have clashed with club competitions and nationals causing us to lose squad members, therefore the overall fixtures calendar will need to be looked at due to the older players being picked by their individual clubs to play in the bigger fixtures.

So far at the time of writing, we have currently played one friendly against the Presidents at Plymouth Life Centre and a friendly against Dawlish. We have had to cancel the friendly against Somerset at home because we could only raise a team of six colts, this is totally embarrassing for us as Managers but even more so as a County!

We struggle to have nine players for any games and yet again we are calling upon parents etc to make up our numbers to fulfil fixtures.

We have also played the under 21 singles tournament, and once again numbers were down, only six players participated in this year's competition. Winners of the semi-finals George Demuth and Connor Fielder, both from Plymouth Life Centre, will contest the final later this year.

Going forward, the County may need to look at this tournament having the age increased to try and encourage the older players in the squad to participate! We have kindly been donated a trophy for this, which we are very grateful for!

We are due to play our National under 18s triples with the first match on 4th February against Somerset but at present we are contemplating whether to go ahead with this fixture, due to not having a strong enough squad and really don't want a repeat performance of the Under 25's.

I will finish with something that I began with once again ever since Heidi and I have been team Managers of the Colts, we have asked you the clubs directly for your help. You need to let us know if you have any young players available. Without your help, then the Colts will cease to exist.

Adam & Heidi Fielder - Devon Colts Managers - January 2024