BOWLS HAMPSHIRE SECRETARY'S REPORT 2025

As we close the season for another year, we have had a particularly hot summer which certainly caused problems with many of our green.

Although the good weather enabled all the County quarter, semi and finals to be played without any interruption. Our successful representative sent to the National Championships at Royal Leamington Spa arrived to sunshine and very high temperatures but of course from previous experience it never lasts but we're hardy bowlers and just carried on

The beginning of the Championship started with some exciting bowling on the Friday and wonderful success for Jojn Keat and Chris Daniels, winning the Over 60's Men's pairs. We once again had success with the under 17's with Matthew McLoughin playing rally well and reaching the semi final before losing out to Louie Hodges. Perry Martin also had a great run in the two wood singles reaching the semi-finals before losing to the Kent player.

On Saturday it was the turn of the Walker Cup and Balcombe Teams from Hampshire, first out was the Hampshire Men who played Leicester, unfortunately it wasn't to be this year. The Hampshire Ladie Walker Cup Team started their campaign at lunchtime in the Quarter Final against Northamptonshire and won all three disciplines in a 50 shot to 30 victories. In the Semi Final we faced Durham and whilst we lost the Triples and Four's discipline, we won the Pairs very comfortably to reach the Final with a 58-47 win

This put us into the evening Final against Devon which was always going to be a tough match. We lost the pairs 13-19 but won the Triples 20-12, so it came down to the result of the fours. Unfortunately, its wasn't to be losing 5 -17 and overall, by 38-38 but a fantastic performance to reach the National Final and get so close to winning our second National Title of the Championships

In the new County Over 60's Mixed competition, after last year we had hoped to go all the way but it wasn't too he when we lost our last match to Sussex by just 4 shots. Team all played well and I am sure next year will be our turn.

To everyone who represented Hampshire, which this year included a number of players attending the National Championships for their first time, many congratulations on reached the National Championships where we saw some super bowling over the 19 days

Our Ladies President Marian accompanied by Bill her husband was there for 12 days supporting our players and the Men's President Tom Regan Atkins joined them to ensure Hampshire were supported through to the end. Some days they were both there which ensured all our competitors who could be on any of the five greens had lots of support.

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. It's been a difficult year with the greenkeeper working hard to ensure the green was playable in the difficult weather conditions

My thanks go to Paul the Club Manager and Bar Steward particularly after having to spend some time in hospital he came back with the help of volunteer Dave to ensure we had great service as always. This year we had the new caterer Jo who provided us with a ready supply of good food and our thanks go to her volunteers do did a fantastic job.

With the second year of the new online system, although still some extra work for myself and the treasurer Carl at the beginning of the season things are definitely settling down and it is hoped next year will go even better.

Lastly, my thanks go to all the Officers of the County who work tirelessly in the back ground throughout the year and it is hoped that the new online system has assisted to reduce their workload.

Hope everyone winters well.

Hazel Marke