

**BOWLS DURHAM (MEN'S SECTION)
ANNUAL REPORT OF HONORARY SECRETARY**

COUNTY TEAMS

It has been an encouraging year in many respects so far as the County Teams are concerned. There was a great desire from many players to play for the County and this was shown in an improved level across the teams.

The A Team performed well in the main but that vital edge to enable the breakthrough in the Middleton Cup Matches was missing. and despite their best efforts they were just not able to qualify for the quarter finals as a consequence of a narrow defeat to Derbyshire..

So far as the Muras Trophy was concerned it was a similar pattern to the previous year when a defeat by Yorkshire cost the County the chance of the Title.

The B Team (Alsop) had a great season under the Captaincy of Dale Oram and wins in all of their matches secured the Title for the second time in three years. Well done to the Team

As reported last year the future format of the Muras Trophy Competition and indeed its future as a whole is still under consideration by the Northern Counties Association. At its Annual General Meeting in November a final ,decision will hopefully be determined and further reports will be submitted in due course.

There was no success for the County In the County Double Fours and the Under 25 Double Fours Competitions

Our thanks go to all the Team Managers and Youth Development Officers of the County for all their hard work.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

	Winners	Runners Up
Singles	D Fenwick (Elm Tree)	A. Bryden (Dunston)
Pairs	G.Farquhar D.Bolt (Silksworth)	B.Hopkins A.Kirtland (Darlington R.A)
Triples	P.Dixon G.Farquhar D.Bolt (Silksworth)	J.Deverson P.Sainthouse J.Halcrow (Silksworth)
Fours	D.Reed D.Warnaby I.Peacock G.Robson(Leadgate)	A.Greathead G.Dougherty H.Dougherty D.Oram(Park)
Junior	J.McKenna (Silksworth)	L.Macey(Darlington R.A)
2 Bowl	P.Thomson(Roker Marine)	M.Hodgson(Stockton)
Champion of Champions	D.Warnaby(Leadgate)	K.Briscoe(Houghton D.L)
Senior Fours	G.Williams C.Pearson M.Gregan M.English(Dipton)	R.Fairhurst P.Heath B.Attwood D.Gibson(Spennymoor)
Junior Pairs	K.Burton L.Macey(Darlington R.A)	J.McKenna J.Halcrow(Silksworth)

Congratulations are extended to all winners and runners up. All the qualifying players took part in the National Championships at Leamington and the Northern Counties Championships.

Of those attending the National Championships our warmest congratulations are extended to the Senior Fours Winners who were Runners-Up in the overall competition and to Patrick Thomson who reached the Semi-Final of the two bowl event.

It was a tremendous year for the County in the Northern Counties Championships with David Fenwick winning the Singles Competition,

Gary Farquhar and David Bolt the Pairs and Runners-Up in the Triples the Leadgate Fours skipped by Garry Robson the Fours and all our other entrants reaching the semi-Finals of their respective competitions

David Bolt has also earned an England Cap for the Home International Series, in 2018 and was Skip of a rink which enabled England to win the Home International Series. in 2017.

He has also been selected to represent England in the prestigious Hong Kong Classic Competition later this year and is on the short list for selection for the Commonwealth Games in Australia

GENERAL

Bowls Durham place on record their thanks and appreciation to all those clubs who have assisted in staging county competition and presidential matches or helping in any other capacity. In particular our thanks go to the Officers and members of Houghton Dairy Lane who have made their facilities available to the Association.

BOWLS ENGLAND MATTERS

So far as these matters are concerned major changes to the governance of Bowls England are to be considered later this year which if approved will see the replacement of the current committee system with the establishment of smaller but more streamlined system of Directors with a range of portfolios covering the services operated.

There are also a number of other ongoing initiatives including revised financial planning, policy, member's services, selection, rules and regulations, championships etc.

Issues across the breadth of the services provided by Bowls England including affiliation fees, membership and civil liability insurance, travelling expenses for competitors, and Rules and Regulations and changes to national championships and competitions have been concluded.

So far as affiliation and competition fees are concerned there will be no increase in affiliation fees for 2018 and this has been reflected in the information that clubs received earlier this year. However this is not to say fees may not increase thereafter. The County's representatives to Bowls England will monitor the situation and give early notification to you of any proposed changes...

With regard to the Championship Programme work is ongoing into the feasibility of possible alteration to the timeframe on which they are held. More information will be issued as and when it becomes available.

When Bowls England approved new Articles of Association and revised Rules and Regulation it was agreed that and they would be circulated to all clubs together with a Model Constitution for use by clubs. This has now been carried out and is also available on the Bowls England Website

Of particular interest and concern to Clubs will be those Rules regarding disciplinary matters and equal opportunities/discrimination in relation to membership etc. There have been a number of issues raised recently at national level where Clubs have left themselves open to challenge under these regulations. It is imperative therefore that you should take notice of these and ensure that they are included in your club's own Constitution and be strictly adhered to.

Clubs should have received information from Bowls England on a range of topics including the Equality Act 2010 and the Bowls England Inclusion Policy Statement, Club Funding and Development Loans, Anti Doping, and Children and Vulnerable Adults. These should also be taken into consideration along with the above paragraph.

You should have also received a copy of the Bowls Durham Safeguarding Policy which I circulated to all Clubs following approval by the Executive Committee.

Following the implementation of changes to the National Championship Rules that all County Championships leading to the National Championships shall be played either on weekdays in the evening with a start time of no earlier than 6pm or at weekends, the County Women's Competition Rules have been altered to reflect this requirement as are their Rules regarding reinstatement of Competitors into Championships. A further edict has been received from Bowls England on the matter which will be implemented by the County

CONCLUSION

On behalf of the Executive Committee and the Management Committees may I take this opportunity to thank all the member clubs for their support of the Association and their Officers

**F. JOHNSON
HONORARY SECRETARY**

