

Secretaries Report for September 2018

At the Northern Counties meeting last November it was agreed that the Stella Logan league should be restored to 6 rinks but with matches against Lancashire reduced to five rinks. It was also agreed to reduce the points available in both the Stella and Northern Counties to 10. At the end of last year 53 players nominated to play for the County. By the beginning of this season our numbers had reduced to 50 .

The results have been mixed in both leagues. The final league table for the Stella Logan put us in 4th position. The last match of the season in the Northern Counties between Durham and Cumbria was cancelled when Cumbria couldn't raise a team but the outcome of that match would not have affected the league table as Yorkshire had played their match early and won the league. It has once again been difficult to field teams for the Stella Logan matches and on four occasions, A team players were required as well as the reserves. Once again it has been stressful organising teams especially when players do not turn up for matches and do not even let me know.

This year we were unsuccessful in both the John's trophy and Walker Cup matches.

John's trophy aside, on the positive side we played in some glorious weather which lifted everyone's spirits.

I would to thank all those clubs who hosted County matches and provided lovely teas and hospitality. Without those clubs we could not enter the Northern Counties and Stella Logan Competitions.

In the National Finals, I must congratulate Glynis Morgan and Joan Rodgerson from Houghton Dairy lane for winning the National Senior Pairs at Leamington. A wonderful achievement. Praise must also go to Jackie Carson and Teresa Parnell from Stockton for just missing out on a semi-final place in the National Pairs. All our girls seem to have been given difficult draws and all of the players did their best. Once again I had the pleasure of watching some remarkable bowling.

The issue of County tops has been discussed at length and decisions have yet to be made. Joan still has a stock of existing tops which is a major consideration when asking players to buy new shirts.

Thanks must go to Eileen for being our President this year. She has been fully committed to the job and has been an ever present supporter at all the matches and competitions, as well as hosting a very enjoyable Presidents Day at Bishop Auckland. Many thanks, Eileen for your enthusiasm, warmth and support. We all appreciate everything you do.

Particular thanks must go to Fay who organises and runs all the competitions and makes sure everything runs smoothly. We couldn't manage without you. Many thanks also to Ann for acting as treasurer and to Joan for being in charge of the uniforms. Thank you also to the Area Reps who have supported me along the way.

This year will be the last year that Gill Jones plays for the County. Gill has been the main stay of our County for many years and her standard of play has never diminished. Once again her rink was top rink in the Northern Counties. Gill, thank you for your support over the years. You are a tremendous competitor and we wish you a long and happy retirement.

I would like to wish everyone a healthy and restful close season and look forward to seeing you on the green in 2019.

Sue Almond,

Bowls Durham Ladies Secretary