



DERBYSHIRE COUNTY CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION



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County Competitions Report – AGM 15th December 2024.

The Derbyshire Junior Individual Merit was held on Sunday 19th May at Hazelwood Bowls Club, with 11 entries from across the County. In the final of the main competition Louie Furniss, from Rykneld, beat James Causer, of Tutbury, 21-10. In the final of the supplementary competition last year's merit winner Sam Davies, from Bolsover Colliery, beat Max Pearson, from Rykneld, 21-17. Thank you to Hazelwood for preparing an excellent green and supplying plenty of cake and coffee for the day. Louie and James went on to represent Derbyshire at the BCGBA Junior Merit finals in August at Mosborough Bowls Club in South Yorkshire with Louie losing in the round of 32 and James losing in the round of 16.

The Derbyshire Senior Individual Merit had a total of 138 entries from the 7 county regions with the final held on Sunday 30th June at Buxton Park Cricket & Bowls Club, with 32 entries from the different sections of the County. The final was a very close game with David May, of Alvaston & Boulton, beating Chapel Park's Keith Middleton 21-20. Both players had played exceptionally well all day with local lad Keith beating a number of Derbyshire County players to reach the final. Commiserations to Keith who probably had his worst two woods of the day on the last end. We had five qualifiers at the BCGBA Senior Merit finals in July at Pennfields Bowls Club in Staffordshire. David May and Rikki Higgs losing in round of 64, Keith Middleton and George Hines losing in round of 32 and Ian Brown losing in the round of 16. David May represented Derbyshire in the

BCGBA Men's Champion of Champions in September at Owley Wood Recreation Club in Cheshire.

Dave bowled brilliantly all day, just losing 20-21 in the semi-final against Greg Smith from Warwick & Worcester.

The Derbyshire Veterans Individual Merit was held on Tuesday 21st May at Matlock Golf Club, with 29 entries. In the final, Paul Walton, from Chapel Park, beat Colin Belcher, from Belvedere, 21-20. Both players had played the excellent Matlock green all day. Paul and Colin plus Stuart Smith, from Bolsover Colliery, went on to the Jack & Jean Isherwood finals day in July at the Prees club in Shropshire. Paul and Stuart lost in the round of 16 with Colin losing in the Quarter finals.

The BCGBA 18-23 Open Championship finals were held at Florence T&B club in the Potteries on Sunday 11th August. Derbyshire had 4 players in the finals. Ben Stone-Payne, from Horsley and Alex Baines, from Alvaston & Boulton, losing in the round of 32, Owen Sheriff, from Washlands, losing in the round of 16 and Sophie Oxtoby, from Alvaston & Boulton, losing in the Quarter finals.

The Derbyshire Centenary Mixed Pairs competition was held on Sunday 28th July at Hazelwood Bowls Club, with a good entry of 17 pairs. Sharon Stevens, from Holbrook BC and Mark Stone, from Alvaston & Boulton, beat Sophie & Richard Briddon, from Peakdale, 21-15 in the final. Both pairs went on to the BCGBA pairs finals in October at the Owley Wood club in Cheshire. Sophie & Richard lost in the round of 32 with Sharon and Mark losing in the Quarter finals.

The Derbyshire County Cup had a total of 21 entries with the semi-final and final held at Matlock Golf Club on the Bank Holiday Sunday in August. Semi-final one was Littleover v Eastwood Park. After a close game after 6 ends Littleover showed their strength in depth to win 189 – 157. The 2nd Semi-final was Stretton Anglesey v Chapel Park. With 8 winners out of the 10 Anglesey were comfortable winners 206 – 146. The final started

level at 70 shots each after the first four but Anglesey then won 5 out of the last 6 to win 185 – 151.

Stretton Anglesey and Fairfield BC represented Derbyshire in the World Club Championship. Unfortunately they both lost their qualifying game at Barnsley Central on the 6th October.

Neil Pickering

November 2024.