

## **Brixham Bowling Club – Report 11**

Just occasionally you get a week when everything seems to go right for you. For Brixham Bowling Club it was such a week with all of its teams winning their matches in the various League and Cup competitions.

The Men's A team started the week fighting hard to avoid relegation in the Premier League. With 5 teams locked in the battle to avoid the drop their home match against fellow relegation rivals Bitton Park took on extra importance. Every point is crucial. With the teams led by Chris Dawes and Mike Friend gaining sizeable wins on their greens and Ken Penhaligon's team losing, all attention was focussed on the very close match being played on the 3<sup>rd</sup> rink. With 1 end to go David Hayden's team was two shots down. They held their nerve bowling magnificently to pick up two shots to level the match. With a ten shot advantage overall, Brixham won by 11 points to 3 to lift themselves closer to safety.

The Men's B team have been going through a remarkable change of fortune. Sitting well adrift in division 4 they have suddenly put a good run of results together including a remarkable victory by 10 points to 4 against second placed Newton Abbott. Their latest visitors were third placed Torbay Country Club who beat Brixham heavily on their own ground. They talk about momentum in sport and here was a classic example. The Brixham team after their recent successes were fired up and playing with confidence to win three of the 4 greens and the match overall by 93 to 79 shots. Their 12 points to 2 victory takes them off the bottom of the league – what a turnaround in form. Marldon are their next opponents!

In the Riviera Knockout Triples Cup competition, Brixham were drawn against arch rivals Brixham St Marys A at home. The upbeat mood in the club spread to the Riviera team with Mo Wilmott, Sandra Sutton and Paul Harris all leading their teams to victory although St Marys did run them very close on two rinks. Paul Harris' team did seem to be cruising 17-11 up with 2 ends to go, but on the 17<sup>th</sup> end they lost 7 shots to go behind by 1 shot. Earlier in the season Brixham heads might well have dropped but not on this occasion. Paul Harris gathered his team together – put that end behind you, we can win this was his rallying cry. They did just that picking up 2 shots to take the match and ensure that Brixham took all 10 points. They go on to play Paignton Torbay in the quarter final of the competition.

With Brixham's Over 55 team beating Brixham St Marys and the Ladies A Team winning against Bitton Park, it rounded off a rare perfect week for Brixham Bowling Club.

Next week the Ladies 4-3-2-1 team take on Torquay in the South Section Semi Final of the County Tournament at Torbay Country Club. We wish them luck- watch this space for the result next week!

Every year the Club Captains decide on a charity for which the club will raise money. This year Jenny Hopkins nominated the Marie Curie Care and Support Through Terminal Illness Charity. The first big fund raising event took place on Sunday. A lot of hard work went into organising the day which involved a range of Target Bowls challenges on the green, a cake stall, raffle, a buffet and a number of indoor fund raising activities. The weather forecast looked dire in the morning but the rain clouds broke up and the sun shone through to avert a potential disaster. Members turned out adorned in a range of yellow outfits (the Marie Curie charity colour) and a good afternoon was had by all. The Charity day was closed by the Riviera Ukulele band who took us all down memory lane performing songs catering for all age ranges from the 1950s to the 90s. There was concern that a couple of members might dislocate their ageing joints when trying to dance the twist but overall everyone was in good voice. Many thanks to the Ukulele Band who performed free of charge to support this popular charity. Money raised so far is £431 with more events to go.