

## **BRIXHAM BOWLING CLUB – SEASON GETS OFF TO A FLIER.**

The Brixham Bowling Club season got off to a flier with a full set of league, friendly and internal club fixtures. After the long winter all members were raring to play.

Bowls is one of the few games where men and women can play on equal terms, where skill is the only criteria for excellence without factors such as speed, muscle power and aggression having an influence on performance. The annual Ladies v Gentlemen match is always keenly contested – a contest between male pride and ego and the determination of the ladies to beat the men. This year's match was very closely contested. Conditions were difficult, cold and windy with the occasional shower.

The ladies adapted better to the conditions early on and they built up an early lead. By the tea interval the men had moved just ahead. They were ahead on 3 rinks, down on 2 and level on the 6<sup>th</sup> rink with an overall lead of 6 shots after 11 ends. During the tea interval, men's captain David Moseby called his team together. There were stern words, which seemed to have the desired effect as his team upped their game to extend their lead. Ken Penhaligon's team turned a 4 shot deficit into a lead of 4 after just 3 ends after the interval. After 16 ends the men were still just ahead. Ladies captain Mo Penhaligon rallied her troops with mixed success. Linda Oakden's team picked up 5 shots on one end and Thelma Bunney's team won their match by a massive 15 shots. Overall, the men finished the match by 19 shots. The ladies will have to wait another year to try to get back bragging rights!

The men's B Team started their league season against Bitton Park at home on a glorious hot sunny Saturday – this was more like it! The Brixham team were outplayed by their guests losing all 4 matches. David Taylor's team came close to winning their match which was decided on the last wood of the last end. With the scores level on 19-19 after 20 ends, Bitton Park were holding 3 shots with just the skippers to bowl. The jack was literally resting on the 3 woods. The Brixham skipper fired his wood into the pack causing the jack to shoot out sideways close to a Brixham wood – Brixham 1 up with only 1 Bitton shot to go. Up strode Keith Dunn. He carefully sized up the situation, took his place on the mat and smoothly rolled his wood towards the jack. Everyone paused with baited breath. It was going to be close, very close and yes his wood landed close to the jack. There was little in it but Bitton Park had won by one shot with just cms in it. A superb finish to an exciting game.

Results v Bitton Park – Brixham skips first.

D Taylor v K Dunn   lost 19-20           K Higgins v B Smith   lost 13-24

D Stone v A Davies   lost 12-23           K Parker v C Crowther   lost 18-39

Shots for 62   Against 106   Points 14-0 to Bitton Park

Brixham also played two mixed friendly matches beating Upton Park in a very close match and local rivals Brixham St Marys. The season is now well and truly underway.