

BRIXHAM BOWLING CLUB – WEEK 6 REPORT

In any sport, the test for any team is how they react when the going gets tough. This is particularly the case for Brixham Bowling Club's Riviera Mixed Triples team. They got off to the worst possible start to the season, losing their first 5 matches heavily. They were cast adrift at the bottom of the league table having won only 3 of their 15 rinks having obtained only 6 out of a 50 possible points while boasting an overall deficit of a mammoth 111. Did they let their heads go down – not with captain Sandra Sutton at the helm. In their next two games Brixham turned things round dramatically. Away to Paignton Victoria they pulled off a tremendous performance to win on 2 of the 3 rinks – (51-37 woods overall) to take the match by 8 points to 2. In their next match away to Kings in Torquay they pulled off an even more stunning victory. With 2 ends left on each green Brixham were 9 shots down. Thanks to the 17 wood advantage on Keith Parker's rink, Brixham were just about in with a chance. Paul Harris' team were down by 16 shots while Brian Muirhead's team were down 10. To their credit they kept on fighting. With Harris' team picking up 6 shots on their last 2 ends (lost 25 – 10) and Parker's team finished 25-8 up, all attention was focused on Muirhead's green. They needed two woods to draw the match overall and 3 to win. Sally Lees and Mike Holbrow bowled superbly -4 woods up with just the skippers to bowl. Brian Muirhead picked up another shot – 5 up! Kings skipper Lynn Baker had two woods to go. Twice she fired at the Brixham cluster to try to split them up. On both occasions she missed by a hair's breadth. Despite losing their game 19-15, Brixham were home on aggregate score by 3 shots, winning 55-52 to take the match by 6 points to 4. Who says that bowls is a slow boring game? This was pure drama! Even when you are losing on your rink, every shot you can score can be vital.

Meanwhile, The Men's A Team followed their opening victory against Torquay in the Premier League with another win away to Bitton Park after a closely contested match. Both teams won 2 rinks but Brixham won 76-68 to win 10 of the 14 points. So far so good but can the new boys keep this up!

One of the joys of playing bowls is the opportunity to tour and to play visiting touring teams from all over the country. One regular visitor to Brixham is the Monmouth Trundlers – always a lively and memorable encounter. This year was no exception. Labelled a 'Friendly Match' both teams are more than determined to win. Brixham won on two rinks, one was tied and the Trundlers won 3, with the visitors claiming victory by just 4 woods. Hostilities over, the celebrations moved into the clubhouse. The beer flowed and the hosts were entertained by the stand up comedy and the dulcet tones of the Monmouth Welsh choir which included music from the shows and the Welsh National Anthem – beautiful harmony and so professional – a great way to complete a memorable day!