

### BRIXHAM BOWLING CLUB REPORT 3

Brixham Bowling Club's season continued the trend of exciting close finishes in the latest round of matches. Last week it was the Men's and Ladies A teams matches that went to the wire,. This time the Men's B team played two remarkable matches that went both to the last wood on the last end. Their first match at home to Torbay Country Club D team was completed in the gloom at 9.15 pm in the most dramatic fashion. The 2 evenly matched teams took it in turn to take the lead throughout the match. With the four teams fighting for two points each on their green, every point scored was vital with 6 points at stake for the team with the highest aggregate score when the team scores were added together. Andy Caunter's team had a big win on their green (32-10) while Roy Nash's team lost 20-14. With Graham Oakden's team looking comfortable 17-7 up with 6 ends to go Brixham were odds on favourites for a win despite David Borrett's team struggling on rink 1. Credit to the Country Club, led by Ken Thorpe they clawed their way back to draw their match 17-17. With the other three matches over, David Borrett's team still had 2 ends to go in the gathering gloom. They were losing 26-10. The message went out that the overall scores were level. Despite losing heavily they could still win the match for Brixham. Both teams were straining their eyes to see what was happening on the green it was that dark. On the 20<sup>th</sup> end the Country Club picked up another shot – 1 up with one end to go. There was an eerie hush around the ground. Brixham's Roy Tuttle put one of his woods close to the jack through the crowded green. The Country Club skipper was able to match his shot. There was nothing in it. The whole match result depended on the measurement of these two woods. After a couple of attempts to measure the shot went to Tuttle by the smallest of margins. The match was tied 74-74 and the 6 bonus points were shared. The country Club won the match 8-6 – what a finish!

Three days later Brixham were playing away at Paignton – another evening game. Remarkably this match proved to be just as close. The match saw sawed back and forth over the 21 ends. Andy Caunter and Mick Stephens' teams both won their matches (24-14 and 19-13) while Graham Oakden's team lost narrowly 20-14. David Borrett's team were still playing with one end to go. They were losing heavily 30-18. The message went out – scores level with one end to go. By his own admission Roy Tuttle had not had a good evening but yet again he became the team hero putting one of his woods close to the jack. Paignton's skipper Brian Billingham had bowled superbly all evening. Everything depended on his last shot. Again you could cut the atmosphere with a knife. He fired his shot straight at the jack, hit it cleanly but it moved close to a Brixham wood behind. It was still Brixham's shot and they had won by one shot to take the 6 bonus points and the match 78-77 and 10 points to 4. Bowls can be a game of narrow margins – they don't come any narrower than this. The moral of the story – never give up even if you are losing heavily. Every shot can count !!

The Ladies A team followed up their victory of the previous week with another away win at Abbrook Park. They were 11 shots down at half time but recovered strongly after tea with Mo Thomas' team turning a 3 shot deficit into a 5 shot win while Dot Langford's team won their match 24-13. Jenny Moore's team lost 20-13 but Brixham took the match 56-51 and by 8 points to 2.

Congratulations to the Men's over 55 team who are sitting proudly at the top of the league after 3 matches and commiserations to the Riviera triples team who have fought hard but lost all three of their matches - there is a win on the way!

Friendly matches against local clubs and touring teams are always popular at Brixham. It gives new members and novice players a chance to experience competitive bowling. These matches are always taken seriously while played in a good spirit. The weather was set fair as Brixham took on teams from Windsor (in Wales) Chepstow, Honiton, the Devon Patrons and Bowls Devon Presidents. It's a case of you win some, lose some. The Presidents squad is composed of experienced members of clubs from all over Devon. They tour the county taking on all comers. The standard of bowling and banter was of high quality with Brixham just winning a closely contested match by just 8 shots over 6 rinks.