

## **BRIXHAM BOWLING CLUB WIN BACK THE ROSE BOWL TROPHY FROM BRIXHAM St MARY**

The keenly contested annual match between the two bowling clubs of Brixham for the prestigious Rose Bowl trophy is played on 6 rinks (3 ladies and 3 men's teams) with the cumulative shot difference achieved over 21 ends deciding who wins the trophy. It was the turn of the trophy holders Brixham St Mary to host the match in almost perfect conditions on a warm balmy August evening.

The game was played in a competitive but sporting spirit complete with humorous banter and friendly exchanges over a period of 3 hours. To the casual observer the sight of 48 bowlers dressed in white rolling their woods and striding purposely up and down the greens was a typically British iconic scene.

On the men's rinks, the hosts started strongly and after 6 ends they were up in 2 matches and 6 shots ahead overall while the Furzeham ladies started strongly – up in all 3 matches and 15 shots ahead. By half time Furzeham were well ahead, with the men now up on 2 rinks and 5 shots up while the ladies had retained their big lead. There was no time for the usual formal tea break at this point. It was drinks on the green in the race to complete the match before it got too dark to play. In the second half the men's match swung one way and then the other. With 5 ends to go Furzeham were up on one green and down in the other 2 and just 3 shots ahead. However, the Furzeham ladies were surging away 21 shots ahead. It looked odds on that they would win back the Rose Bowl. In the fading light the matches were coming to an end. The St Marys men finished winning two of their 3 rinks and 7 shots ahead thanks to some large scores on the closing ends. In contrast the ladies romped home 80 shots to 35. Mo Thomas' team fought back at the end to try to make it a clean sweep for the ladies. They snatched back 6 shots in the last 5 ends to lose by just one shot. Overall 4 rinks were closely contested but the two ladies teams skippered by Thelma Bunney and Sally Hoare ensured Furzeham won the match quite comfortably. A good team effort. with the men's teams ensuring the big lead achieved by the ladies was not squandered.

Back in the clubhouse it was celebrations and commiserations as the two teams tucked into an excellent buffet and chatted over drinks. The Rose Bowl was reluctantly handed over by the host's captain Tug Wilson to Furzeham's proud captain Jenny Hopkins. St Mary then produced a stunningly decorated Rose Bowl cake to celebrate the occasion. It was cut with aplomb by the winning captain and distributed to all players.

Well done to St Mary for being such generous and welcoming hosts. We can look forward to the next challenge at Furzeham next year.

## Results

	Brixham St Mary		Brixham Furzesham	
	<i>Skip</i>	<i>Shots</i>	<i>Skip</i>	<i>Shots</i>
Rink 1	G Sims	11	T Bunney	30
Rink 2	J Sanders	6	S Hoare	33
Rink 3	V Biles	18	M Thomas	17
Rink 4	J Bird	22	K Penhaligon	16
Rink 5	S Wilson	16	D Moseby	20
Rink 6	R Sanders	18	D Farley	13
Total Winning Rinks		3		3
Total Score		91		129

**Brixham Furzesham won by 38 shots**