

BRIXHAM BOWLING CLUB – WEEK 10 REPORT

The headline news from Brixham this week must go to the two Ladies Over 55 pairings who played against teams from Paignton in the quarter finals of the South Devon section of the County trophy. Thelma Bunney and Jane Inett took on Val Northall and Jane Wray in a remarkable match that was almost too close to call. Matches are decided on the scores after 21 ends of bowling. The match meandered in favour of one pair and then the other. Neither team was able to take a commanding lead. Paignton were 2 shots ahead with just one end to go. They looked home and dry – but no the Brixham ladies were not to be denied bowling superbly to level the match. Sudden death followed – what a dramatic 22nd end. With just one wood to bowl, the woods on the green were clustered near the jack. It was very difficult to decide who was holding the lead. The Paignton players gathered round the woods looking at their positions from all angles. Depending on the angle of observation either team could be ahead. In bowls the tape measure cannot be used to decide who is holding until the end is over. Val Northall had a dilemma. If she bowled she might move the Brixham wood closer to the jack and give them the game. If she decided not to use her last wood and went for the measure she might lose. It took several minutes of careful deliberation before she decided to go for the measure. – so much at stake! The tape measure came out. It was close – very close. It had to be checked several times before it was confirmed that Paignton had won by just millimetres and were through to the semi final. That's bowls for you. Matches can be decided by the finest of margins. Well done to Paignton and commiserations to Brixham.

In the 2nd quarter final on the next door green Linda Oakden and Mo Penhaligon also played a close match against Paignton's Val Kendall and Linda Trewin. Again Brixham were two shots up with one end to go but held on to win their match – honours even between the two clubs!

One of the club highlights of the season is the all day annual Bodyworks Mixed Pairs Tournament sponsored by Brixham Bodyworks Company . This is an unusual competition based on Australian rules. !8 teams took part, each pair played 3 matches of one hour duration bowling 4 woods each. Bowler number one in each team bowled 2 woods followed by bowler two sending 4 woods down before bowler one bowls their last two woods. The two bowlers swap roles on alternate ends giving all bowlers a chance to lead and to act as skipper. For this the 9th year of the competition the weather was the best ever – Australian style conditions to match the Australian rules. The dry greens were running true but very fast testing the participant's skills to the limit. Only 2 pairs won all three matches. The runners up were Anne Goring and Bill Gray who were beaten on aggregate scores by this year's champions Paul Harris and Linda Oakden who were presented with the magnificent Bodyworks trophy by Mark Cook. Many thanks also to Mark and Katherine Cook and their daughter Nicole who provided an excellent lunch for those taking part.

League bowls can be cruel at times. The men's A team played their latest home Premier League match against a very strong Kings team. On three of the four greens the scores were very close with Ken Penhaligon's team winning their match by 5shots and Chris Dawes' team losing by just one shot on the final end. When the scores were totalled up, Brixham lost by 10 shots gaining just 2 of the 14 shots on offer. Ah well, you win some you lose some!

The Men's B team continue to struggle at the bottom of the league having lost heavily in their latest match away to Totnes by 12 points to 2. The ladies B team however are beginning to climb their table after an impressive win against Kingsteignton B at Furzeham. With wins on two greens and a draw on the third they took 9 of the 10 points up for grabs.