

HOT SHOT PENHALIGON'S TEAM KNOCKS TORQUAY FOR EIGHT.

Having been promoted to the dizzy heights of the Mid Devon Premier League at the end of last season, the Brixham Men's A Team prepared for their first match of the season against Torquay at home with a mixture of excited anticipation and also trepidation – was this a promotion too far?

The match started well for Brixham who were ahead after 5 ends on all 4 rinks. This helped to calm the nerves. Torquay fought back hard. By the end of the 15th rink they had gone into the lead on two of the rinks and down on the other 2 rinks – honours even!

The highlight of the match was a rare achievement of the home team composed of Bill Gray, Fred Hoare, Brian Farmer and skipper Ken Penhaligon on the 17th end on rink one in front of the spectators watching in the Furzeham pavilion. An end is composed of each player bowling two woods. The maximum score achievable on an end is 8 shots requiring the woods of all 4 players in a team being closet to the jack. It is an achievement which gives the team 'Hot Shot Status' - a rarity at any level of bowls. With Penhaligon's team winning their match by 7 shots, the 17th end score was the difference between the 2 teams.

The closest match was on rink 2 where Alan Bowden's team, 8 shots up with 4 ends to go, held off the challenge of Chris Dawes' team to win the match for Torquay 20 shots to 19. Tim Lock's team also produced a great recovery for Torquay, fighting back from 8 shots down after 10 ends to win their match 19-15. Mike Friend's team won 24-14 to ensure both teams won two matches each. When the scores on the 4 rinks were added up, Brixham took the 6 bonus points for overall better aggregate score to win the match by 10 points to 4 overall – a very satisfying start to the season for Brixham.

Brixham also won their Friendly match against touring team Cinderford from Gloucestershire and then tied their rain affected match against Topsham which was abandoned after 9 ends. This was followed by a first ever visit to Plymstock Bowling Club for a friendly match. Plymstock have superb facilities including a magnificent clubhouse, beautifully maintained green and a lovely setting. The hosts were very welcoming and the match was played in a competitive and sporting spirit. The only downside was that Plymstock won a closely contested match by 7 woods with both teams winning 3 matches – an enjoyable afternoon for all involved.

Finally the Under 55 team played their first league match against Paignton A. Both teams won one match each but Brixham lost by just one wood once scores were aggregated.