

# WEST SUSSEX COUNTY SHORT MAT BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Website at [www.wscsmba.org](http://www.wscsmba.org)

## NEWSLETTER No 13

October 2007

Once again the time has come for me to update you with event and information during the past couple of months.

### County Matches:

Whilst not playing myself this year due to Vi's replacement knee operation I have attempted to attend as many matches as possible in order to be able to fulfil effectively my job as an elected selector. I am also therefore able to report at first hand on many of the matches played.

Squads for the respective teams were selected at a meeting in early August and numbers in each of the squads were kept to a minimum. All three squads (P, A & B) have commenced the season with several changes to the respective teams due to retirement or unavailability through injury, of some of the more experienced players. This, whilst a loss in some respects, has presented an opportunity for other players to show their merits.

**Premier Team** -The Premier side started their Inter County season with a home game against Hampshire. The first session was almost a disaster with the Singles and Fours taking only three of the 8 points available. However the second session proved a complete turn round with our team taking the maximum 8 points. In the afternoon, the points for the third session were shared 4-4 by the Singles and Fours and the final session again saw the Pairs and Threes taking 8 points to make a comfortable match win 27 - 9 with shots going 201 to West Sussex and 149 for Hampshire.

The second game for the Premier side was away to Wiltshire and could potentially have been a hot potato as they play mat on mat. The first session saw the Singles take maximum points and the Fours share the points – 6-2 lead to us. The second session was a complete success for the Pairs and Triples winning 8-0. The third session after lunch was again won 6-2 with only one of the fours losing and the final session of Pairs and Triples was shared 4-4 giving an overall win of 26 points to 10 and 204 shots to 142 for our team.

The third game was away at Oxfordshire who are perhaps the other of the strongest two teams in the group. The first session ended badly with both the Fours and one of the Singles losing, giving us just one win in the other Singles. In the second session the Pairs and Triples suffered the same fate losing three of the four games and at the halfway stage we were 4-12 on points and 37 shots behind. Lunchtime was the rallying point and the afternoon session began better. On the third session the points were shared with one of the Fours and one of the Singles winning enabling us to share the points. The final session was the best and we took 6 of the 8 points with wins in both Triples and one of the Pairs. Final score 161-195 and 14 points to 22 which was a creditable performance away at Oxon on their slow mats.

The latest game away at Hampshire was unfortunately a further loss 155 to 186 shots and 13 points to 23. In the first session we gained only 3 points with Adrian Walter obtaining a draw against Jason McLean who has just been selected for the England British Isles Team who are playing in two weeks time. One of the Fours won 9-6 to make the three points. In the second session, the Pairs and Triples shared the points 4-4 with one Pair and one Triple winning. After lunch the 3<sup>rd</sup> session saw further losses and we obtained just 2 of the 8 points available. The final session was again shared 4-4 on points and the game was lost.

With four of the six games played West Sussex are in second place but have two home games to play, one of which is against Oxfordshire who are currently top of the table after beating Wiltshire 32-4 away at Wiltshire this same weekend. That game could prove to be crucial.

Team Name	Play	Fixtures			Shots			Points
		Won	Draw	Lost	For	Aga	Diff	
Oxfordshire	4	3		1	803	591	212	102
West Sussex	4	2		2	721	672	49	80
Hampshire	4	3		1	701	685	16	75
Wiltshire	4			4	551	828	-277	31
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>8</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>2776</b>	<b>2776</b>		<b>288</b>

**A Team** - The pattern of the A team's first game at home to Hampshire was uncannily similar to that of the premier team on that day - in the first session only two points were gained from a singles win. The other Single and both of the Fours lost. The second session was more successful with a maximum 8 points by the Pairs and Triples. After lunch 6 points were achieved in the third session with both Singles winning and only one Four losing whilst the final session saw a further 6 points added to the total by the Pairs and Triples. Overall a good 26-10 point win, 199 shots to 146.

The second game was away to East Sussex on slow mats and but for the fine performance of the Singles players could have proved to be an unmitigated disaster with most players struggling on the slow mats. The day began well enough as the first session ended with 6 points with wins by both of the Singles and one of the Fours. Unfortunately it went downhill from there and in the second session we gained no points at all with the Pairs and Triples being comprehensively beaten. Once again in the third session after lunch the Singles achieved their 4 points but both Fours lost - albeit by narrow margins. The final session again saw no points gained with the Pairs and Triples again losing all games and the overall result proved to be what is thought to be the first ever defeat away to East Sussex 14 points to 22 and 162 shots to 179. Overall a bad day out.

The third game for the A team was the fixture away at Kent against our traditional rivals who beat us in the final last year. A late injury notified early on the morning of the match necessitated a change being made at the last moment but the day then started well. The first session saw wins from both of the Singles and one of the Fours and a 6-2 points lead. The second session was a reversal 2-6 with both of the Pairs losing and only one of the Triples winning. Halfway stage level on points but 6 shots behind. The third session gave us wins in both of the Singles and one of the Fours and a 6-2 points win, so we entered the final session 4 points ahead but still 2 shots down. In the final session one each of the Pairs and Triples won and lost so the points were shared 4-4 but a further 13 shots were lost. At the end of the day we had achieved a very creditable 18 points with Kent claiming 14 points plus 4 for the highest number of shots making an 18-18 draw overall. After the previous result at East Sussex a great day out.

27 Oct saw Kent A visit Westergate for a match in the School Hall. The first session started well with both Fours winning and the Singles gaining a win and a draw. In the second session one Triple won and one lost and the Pairs both narrowly won their games. At the midway stage we were well ahead 13 points to 3 and plus 16 shots.

After lunch the Singles and Fours did not quite so well with a win and a loss in the Singles and a win and a draw in the Fours. Nevertheless a further 5 points and by now the match was virtually won as we were ahead 18-6 on points and up by 35 shots. The final session saw both Triples have convincing victories (19-3 and 25-2) but as in previous weeks, the Pairs both unfortunately lost. Overall a good solid result against a lacklustre Kent team, ending 211 shots and 26 points to us with 148 shots and 10 points to Kent.

The game on 4 Nov was away with the Premier Team at Hampshire and the A Team fared better. The first session resulted in a 7-1 win on points and set up the rest of the day. The second session slumped with only 2 points being gained by one of the Pairs but we still reached lunchtime 2

points and 10 shots ahead. In the third session the points were shared 4-4 with one each of the Singles and Fours winning one game and losing the other. The final session was again shared 4-4 and we as we picked up the 4 points for the highest overall shots we came away with a win 21-15 on points and 175 shots to 158.

Our next game is a difficult away game at Bisley against Surrey and we then finish off with two home fixtures. Like the Premier Team we are currently 2<sup>nd</sup> in the table but as Kent lost 13-23 at East Sussex the same weekend things are looking very good.

Team Name	Play	Fixtures			Shots			Points
		Won	Draw	Lost	For	Aga	Diff	
<b>Kent</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1164</b>	<b>973</b>	<b>191</b>	<b>126</b>
<b>West Sussex</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>932</b>	<b>834</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>105</b>
<b>East Sussex</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>675</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>76</b>
<b>Hampshire</b>	<b>4</b>			<b>4</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>783</b>	<b>-159</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Surrey</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>470</b>	<b>609</b>	<b>-139</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3874</b>	<b>3874</b>		<b>396</b>

**B Team** – With the first game scheduled for the B Team having been cancelled they had to wait until 13 Oct to commence their season at home to Surrey. The first session saw a win in one of the Singles but losses in both of the Fours and a 2-6 points score. The second session resulted in wins by both of the Pairs and loses by both of the Triples. Points shared 4-4, giving a halfway total of 6-10 and minus 15 shots. After lunch the third session saw a win and a loss in the Singles but a win and a draw in the Fours so with the points 5-3 the deficit was reduced to 11-13 and minus just 2 shots. Unfortunately the final session resulted in losses in both Pairs and one of the Triples with the other Triples managing a draw. Points score of 1-7 giving a total of 12-24 for Surrey with shots of 158-185.

**Competitions:** - County Competitions are now well under way and the Open Three Competition on 19<sup>th</sup> August was won by a team from Ashington with Bognor Goodwoods as runners up. The Junior Senior Competition on 15<sup>th</sup> September was won by Terry Payne and Chris Page from The with Carol Hawkins and Dan Blackman as runners up. The Unbadged Pairs on the same day was won by Ricky Norford and Pam Smith from Bognor Goodwoods with Chris Blackman and David Thorpe of Ashington as runners up. The County Triples on 20 Oct saw a fine win by the team of Ray Harding, John Heasman and Peter Whale(Lavant) over Carol Hawkins, Bernie Deeble and Keith Hawkins (The). Congratulations to all of these finalists.

Close on 100 players from West Sussex, Surrey, Hampshire and London took part in the West Sussex Open Charity Fours, which raised £500 for the Breast Cancer Care Centre at Southlands Hospital, Worthing. An excellent raffle was enhanced by prizes from a number people and we are grateful to them along with those who also made generous donations for a worthy cause.

It was a long day with the 24 teams playing six games of 7 ends, but it produced a very close finish.

Four teams finished on 10 points, so shot difference was used to find the winners. The winners were Lavant who finished two shots ahead of 'The'. A further 7 shots behind this was Ashington, and in fourth place were The Martlets.

The result was only clear after the very last bowl of the tournament, but Lavant held on to win and took the cup along with commemorative clocks for their players.

The County Triples Championship on 20 Oct was won by Lavant consisting of Ray Harding, John Heasman & Peter Whale with The as the Runners up, Carol Hawkins, Bernie Deeble & Keith Hawkins. The Semi Finalists were both from Ashington, teams being Ivor Hazlegrove, Chris Blackman & Michael Matthews and Yvonne & Allen Tolley with Gillian Weston.

### League and KO Cup

There is very little to report at this early stage of the season with only a handful of games having been played in the league and only two thirds of the first round KO Cup games having been completed. Some teams have not yet even played a fixture. Tables are included for what they are worth at the moment.

**200 Club:** The winners of the 200 club monthly draw are published on the county website and the three recent months' winners are as below:

Month	1 <sup>st</sup> Prize - £25	2 <sup>nd</sup> Prize - £15	3 <sup>rd</sup> Prize- £12
Aug 2007	Doug Haughton	Pat Garrett	Jim Saunders
Sep 2007	Alex Leggett	D & H Rogers	Jim Saunders
Oct 2007	Barbara Freeman	Jim Baylis	Ardingly

Jim Saunders has now won 4 times in the last six months!!

**Dogs for the Disabled:-** I have been asked by Carol Hawkins to include an article in this Newsletter concerning her forthcoming 'Desert Walk' in March 2008, in order to raise money for 'Dogs for the Disabled'. Carol needs to raise £2500 by the end of the year and any donation or fundraising events that can be arranged would be gratefully appreciated so if any one of you or your club, or perhaps even the company that you work for, feel that you can help in any way please do so. Actual sponsorship forms will be available closer to the time.

Being myself involved with a similar organisation, 'Hearing Dogs for the Deaf', I wish Carol every success in her endeavours and I hope that many of you will be able to assist this good cause by possibly holding coffee mornings, parties or even 'dress down' days at work.

I detail below an edited version of a letter that appeared in the local press:

" The 'Foxes' have supported 'Dogs for the Disabled' for the last two years. Last year we raised over £750, mainly from a bowls competition, and sponsored 'Zebedee', a Golden Retriever. This year we raised over £1747, by hosting another competition, sponsored head shaving and leg waxing, and were able to sponsor a 'Labradoodle' called Dougal.

Wanting to raise even more money for them, I have decided to undertake a personal challenge and do a sponsored 5-day desert trek from the Dead Sea to Petra, Jordan (approx 100km) but I need to raise £2500 by the end of the year.

We were invited down for the day and learned that the charity is also starting a program to see if a dog partnership would help autistic children. My daughter, Catherine, is a primary school teacher in Bridgwater, Somerset, and teaches autistic children in a mainstream school. She tells me of the challenges they have to face on a daily basis. She is also Godmother to her autistic cousin.

This is the first time I have considered doing anything like this but the more I can raise the more people can be helped by the charity.

For starters: Worthing Gala bingo have offered to help me and will be playing a 'free' game in November. Two local stores (B & Q and Currys) have donated goods to be raffled. Grove Lodge vets have made a donation, our sub-Post Office is holding a raffle and a friend at work, who trains dogs, is arranging a sponsored dog walk.

Please will you also help me to reach my target.

Brian Blessed has undertaken to do this same desert walk, so I am looking forward to meeting him too".

Thank you

*Carol Hawkins*

*If you wish to learn more about this charity you can view:*

[www.dogsforthedisabled.org](http://www.dogsforthedisabled.org)

Contributions to this newsletter are always welcome; these can be in the form of a match report, a competition report or just a letter. Articles for inclusion should be sent to:

Rod McBeth, 30 Manor Road, Upper Beeding, West Sussex, BN44 3TJ or emailed to [rmcb@ntlworld.com](mailto:rmcb@ntlworld.com).