

2021 MEN'S SECRETARY REPORT

Well, what a season 2021 has been. Covid 19 has affected sport throughout. A late start, shorter season, potentially too many games, cancellation of fixtures or a reduction in numbers of players, limited catering etc etc. Yet despite all this our clubs and their members continued to play bowls. Congratulations to everyone for persisting in these difficult times.

National Championships:

This year proved to be different from previous years due to the championships being squashed into 2 weeks instead of four and the formats of each competition being shortened, which was not to everyone's taste to ensure everything can be completed within the 2 weeks. As for Leamington itself there being only one entrance in and out of the venue was a problem and could have easily been resolved, also the clubhouse being used for 6 VIP days caused long queues at the café. The live streaming of games was a positive and will hopefully be used again. Once again Phil Russell of (Wel & District) reached the Semi Final of the Senior Pairs with Jerry Rumball of Garston along with many other fine performances during the fortnight.

Gerald Scott Memorial Gala:

This annual event was postponed for 2021 again due to the pandemic. It will be back for 2022 **on 10 July at Hatfield.**

Inter Division League:

This year the Inter Division League did not take place due to the lack of nominations received by the South Division (only 5) and a small outbreak of Covid in the West reducing the numbers available for the West. It is hoped this can be played in 2022. **Unfortunately it has been decided to not continue with this due to the lack of nominations from all divisions**

Club Team Events:

The Club League Champions are Buntingford. The Team Ten Champions were Royston and the Club Championship winners were Garston.

Competition Entries

It is apparent there was a major drop in entries, due to worries over the pandemic as shown by the numbers below. Hopefully people will feel more comfortable next year and return to competitive bowls.

Nationl Champs	2021	2019	2018	2017	2016	County	2021	2019	2018	2017	2016
2 Wood Singles	87	101	103	92	89	Unbadged Singles	92	94	97	97	80
4 Wood Singles	143	178	163	151	150						
Pairs	154	204	158	157	167						
Triples	96	109	109	114	108						
Fours	63	68	69	69	75						
Senior Fours	50	42	32	29	14						
Junior Singles	6	15	14	13	14						
Total	599	717	648	625	617		92	94	97	97	80

County Finals

The semi-finals were held at Welwyn & District B.C. during July with the finals hosted by Bishops Stortford B.C. on Sunday 1 August when the players produced some tremendous bowling with the following results:

SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP (*Owen Cup*)

Winner: M Coppen(*Royston*)

Runner Up: G Williams(*Garston*)

TWO WOOD SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP (*Poole Cup*)

Winner: G Williams(*Garston*)

Runner: R Murphy(*Buntingford*)

PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP(*Haynes Cup*)

Winners: S Wake & M Plume(*Buntingford*) Runners Up: V Greenberg & C Frostick(*Buntingford*)

TRIPLES CHAMPIONSHIP (*McKelvie Cup*)

Winners: R Murphy, T Keeling & G Warrender (*Buntingford*)Runners Up: G Walton, G Avery & J Avery(*Welwyn Garden City*)

FOURS CHAMPIONSHIP (Paskell Cup)

Winners: N Sharp, J Osborn, N Muir & T Muir(*Harpenden*)Runners Up: R Murphy, S Wake, C Frostick & M Plume (Buntingford)

SENIOR FOURS CHAMPIONSHIP (Sayers Salver)

Winners: I McKinnon, M Roberts, P Haskings & R Dempster(*Baldock*)Runners Up: T Maynard, A Adkins, D Large & M Towers (Hoddesdon Rye Park)

JUNIOR SINGLES CHAMPIONSHIP (Simmons Cup)

Winner: J Bunting(*Hemel Hempstead*) Runner Up: D McKenzie(*Bishop Stortford*)

JUNIOR PAIRS CHAMPIONSHIP(Dunstone/Marriner Salver)

Winners: T Bunting (*Hemel Hempstead*) &S Andrews (*Baldock*) Runners Up: D Martin(*Garston*)&J Bunting(*Hemel Hempstead*)

UNBADGED SINGLES (Tingey Cup)

Winner: M Casotti(*Abbotts Langley*) Runner Up: G Walton(*Welwyn Garden City*)

Friendly Match Programme:

HB Men played 12inter-county games. However, I would like to give thanks to all the Match Officers, for all the hard work they put into getting teams to play, due to the large number of withdrawals and lack of nominations. Hopefully this will change in 2022 with people feeling more comfortable to play, along with the proposed changes to the points system to be mentioned later.

Presidents Matches:

The Presidents played 20 matches this year.

County Badges:

Badges were awarded to 7 players in 2021.

Eastern County Bowls Association Finals:

Only representatives were Ross Murphy (Buntingford) who lost in the semi-final of 2 Wood Singles

Scott Wake & Mark Plume (Buntingford) lost in the Final of the Pairs.

Mike Poole (Wel & Dist) & Steve Kilford (Royston) won the Bedford Cup.

Thank You's:

Finally, I would just like to thank the Executive for all their support during the year.

Steve Kilford

Hon. Men's Secretary