

Bowls England National Competitions 2021 Review

Bowls England Men's Club Two Fours (2 rinks of Fours)

Last year our Two Fours teams did well in this competition. We started with a good win at Hailsham 31-23, then in the next round, we were up against a determined Eastbourne side, who we saw off, with a convincing 32-19 victory. We knew that we were up against it, when we had to play an evening game against the youngsters of Sidley Martlets, from Bexhill at their green. Out of their 8 players they had 6 players who were Middleton Cup standards, with four of them England trialists, so with that in mind, our defeat by 37-10, although inevitable, wasn't too crashing.

Bowls England Men's Top Club (2 rinks Singles, 1 rink Triples 1 rink Pairs, 1 rink Fours)

We could have gone further in this competition, had luck been on our side. First up we came across Hailsham again, although we beat them 3 rinks to 2 rinks, we made hard work of it. Our next round game required us to travel to Woodingdean. We put in a solid performance against a talented team, especially a stand out game of singles played by Colin Hunt, who beat a strong County player. Despite our best endeavours we went down 3 rinks to 2 rinks, in a rainy game on an unfamiliar green.

Bowls England Women's Top Club (1 rink Singles, 1 rink Triples, 1 rink pairs, 1 rink Fours)

Our Women's team stole the show this year by being successful in this competition. A first round convincing win of 3 rinks to 1 rink against Eastbourne, then an even better display to gain a 3 rink to 1 rink win, against the favourites Polegate. Both of these teams were full of County players who were outplayed by our determined ladies. The next round which was the area final and had to be played on a neutral green, this was Newick BC. Our opponents were Worthing Pavillion, again a club known for having players of quality and at County standards. This turned out to be a closely fought game, which depended on the result of the outcome of one rink, which we won. The final score was a great win 66-63, this secured a next round game, which meant that the team advanced into the last All England 32 teams left in the competition. Only four games to the final at Leamington but first of all we had to play a team from Bembridge, Isle of Wight. These ladies were veterans when it came to Bowls England Competitions, having regularly played in the last rounds of the competitions. They had a strong squad of players and it was soon apparent, once the game got under way at Arundel the neutral green. The ladies did not play to the high standards that they set themselves in the earlier stages of the competition and were outplayed, by going down 4-0. Overall the ladies should be proud of the fact that they were the Bowls England Top Club Women's Champions, having won their area final, in addition to taking the Sussex County Top Club Champions in the same year.

Bowls England Men's Champion of Champions (Men's Club Singles Champion)

Our entrant this year was John Morris, who won our Club Mens Championship. He was up against probably the best bowler we have in the County, on his day, Nigel Hooper from Sidley Martlets. John put up a good show but was beaten 24-14. a no mean achievement considering that Nigel went on

to win a further four rounds getting into the last All England round of 32 players in this competition, only four more games to the final. Unfortunately Nigel went out in this round, but looking at some of Nigel's opponents and the scores, John should be pleased with his performance.

Bowls England Women's Champion of Champion (Ladies Club Singles Champion)

The Club did not enter our Ladies Singles Champion this year.

Bowls England Mixed Pairs

An individual entry, saw Roz and Duncan Pickering come unstuck in the first round game of their Mixed Pairs Competition. On a rainswept and ultimately flooded Staplehurst BC green, Roz and Duncan's best efforts came undone, on the last end of the game, when they were holding shot, only to drop a couple of shots to loose the game 18-17.

Bowls England Women's Senior Pairs

An individual entry, saw Marilyn Doust and Ellen Strevens come up against the very experienced player Gillian Hill and partner from Eastbourne, in the first round. Unfortunately the Eastbourne team proved their class and run out as winners 21-3. It has to be said that the Eastbourne team maintained their quality by sailing through all four Sussex rounds in this competition, to reach the last three rounds before the National finals in Leamington.