

MIDDLESEX MEN SUCCUMD TO MIDDLESEX LADIES IN "FRIENDLY" DEFEAT.

Sunday 19th May saw Middlesex Men and Woman gather at Brentham Bowls Club for the annual friendly between the two sections of the Middlesex Bowling Association.

In recent seasons this fixture has taken on various guises with it being used as an Invitational game to provide opposition for the Ladies in a John's Trophy Trial, to recent seasons, when it was a President's fixture and he raised the team for the men. The game is now technically a fully fledged friendly on both sides but neither side wants to lose!

Both sides fielded a range of players from hard working Officers, through those will friendly level experience right through to those who have played in the Walker and Balcombe Trophies. A keenly contested game was expected and so it proved with the biggest winning margin for either side being 5 shots.

Sadly for the men, the overall result was a defeat by 3 shots, 118-121, although the rinks were split 3 each. This means the men, especially those who actually supported the game and played, will have to suffer some friendly banter for the rest of the season!

Now we have all heard the phrase lies, damned lies and statistics. So after the game and in the days that followed the result was discussed at length especially as to where to lay the blame for this defeat. The conclusion was without doubt to lay the blame at the feet of the Presidential chain!!

The rationale, well Tommy Lawford's rink won by 2 to make up for Tony Waller's rink who lost by 2 (lord knows how we kept it that low as we were completely outplayed!). Steve Gibson's rink won by 1 to make up for Andy Knott who's rink lost by 1. So those four cancelled each other out.

Of the remaining 2, Junior Deputy President David Todd's rink lost by 5 but no worries Senior Deputy President Brian Hearn and President Andy Docker were still on the green, ends behind everyone else and slightly in front. So all they needed to do was win by 6 and all was well. Sadly they failed, despite their best efforts as whatever they did Ladies skip Jo White countered and ensured the margin stayed below 5.

So you see it was therefore the President's fault!!!!

Anyway congratulations to the Ladies on a hard fought win, recruitment for next seasons revenge mission begins now!

On the bright side the friendly squad have only 24 hours to get back on the winning trail as they face Leicestershire BA at Winchmore Hill on May 20th.