

FROM THE DESK of the AREA SECRETARY.

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KENT COUNTY TEAM

It's a closed shop! Same old faces year after year! (See Article on Page 4). It costs too much!
Even the top bowlers get ignored! The captain's never change! Even if you get in the squad you don't get to bowl!
These are just a few of the criticisms of the County Team that get thrown at us year after year, but some of them are made in ignorance of the facts and often deter bowlers who would prosper in the County Team. This article is intended to explain the current organisation and hopefully encourage more players to attempt to achieve County Honours.

The steps to achieving County Honours can be identified as:

1. Are you qualified to bowl for Kent?

If you were born in this County or have resided here for over one year the answer is YES.

2. How do I put myself forward for selection?

Quite simply by entering the Trial.

Each County throughout England is required to hold a Trial in order to select its County Team. The format is largely left to the County to decide. In Kent we hold a six game Trial, where the top 13 bowlers (separate sections for men and women) are immediately entered as members of the Kent squad for the year. In addition to this the County Organiser has two personal selections available to him to make the total squad up to 15 players in each section. The reason behind this format is to allow for the situation where a top class player is injured at the Trial date and is unable to perform to their usual standard.

BTBA rules state that the players finishing in the top three positions must play at least two games each for the County in the competition proper.

PLAYERS CANNOT COMPETE FOR THEIR COUNTY IF THEY HAVE NOT TAKEN PART IN THE TRIAL.

3. I've played in the Trial and qualified will I now play for my County?

The answer here depends on whether or not you are selected for either of the two rounds of the Tournament. The format for this event consists of regional rounds where each County plays a round robin series of one game five person team, scratch. Rather than take all fifteen players to the qualifying round, most Counties reduce the numbers taken to around seven or eight. From which five are selected to play each game. The team can be changed at the end of any game. Generally we play eight games in the round.

In the past we have had Challenge Matches against other Counties, in which all 15 players from the squad have played. However the increasingly congested Tournament Calendar has made these difficult to arrange, although it is something we would like to reintroduce.

4. Who picks the teams?

The County Organiser, currently Alan Petherick, picks the teams along with his nominated Team Captains.

5. What do you look for in picking the teams?

Everyone has their own ideas on picking any sort of team, you only need to look at the press before an England football match to realise how much we can disagree. Generally however for our County team we would be looking for bowlers who can maintain a good average, bowl under pressure, have experience of bowling in Tournaments and on different conditions, and who enjoy the Team atmosphere.

6. Who selects the five to bowl?

This is usually left to the Captain although he or she may seek advice from others.

7. Who selects the Captain?

The County Organiser selects the Captains of the two Teams. For last season they were Christine Conner for the ladies and Keith Hodge for the men, both of whom have achieved many honours in the game and are generally well respected players, important ingredients in building a Team. New Captains can be chosen at any time although as in any sport, the captaincy brings special pressures to the player and is not enjoyed by all bowlers. The Organiser could also pick a non-playing Captain, even someone who did not compete in the trial.

8. Who selects the Inter County organiser?

The elected Council of KTBA following the Annual General Meeting, held in February each year.

I hope this answers some of the questions, but if it doesn't please talk to either Alan or the County Captains or one of the KTBA Council Members and I'm sure they will be only too happy to help you.

At the very simplest level, if you believe you're good enough to bowl for your County then enter the Trial. This year it will be held at MARGATE on 16th & 23rd FEBRUARY 1997 and Entry Forms will be available in January. Just remember if you don't play in the Trial, you can't play for your County.

NEWS of the JUNIORS in the COUNTY.

KTBA INTER-CENTRE CHALLENGE - MARGATE.

The latest Inter-Centre Challenge Match was held recently at Margate and the results were:-

Singles Event.

| | | <u>Scr.</u> | <u>Tot</u> |
|----|--------------------------|-------------|------------|
| 1 | James Hopkins WHI | 485 | 694 |
| 2 | Duncan Wood MAR | 552 | 676 |
| 3 | Joanne Hill WHI | 475 | 648 |
| 4 | Nicholas Cobleby CLI | 471 | 642 |
| 5 | Ian Abrol BEX | 538 | 642 |
| 6 | Andrew Wraight WHI | 531 | 637 |
| 7 | Michael Davenport MAR | 498 | 633 |
| 8 | Nathan Clark WHI | 550 | 631 |
| 9 | Lisa Digby WHI | 450 | 630 |
| 10 | Helen Perkins WHI | 548 | 627 |
| 11 | Phillip Press BEX | 531 | 626 |
| 12 | James Bax MAR | 494 | 618 |

Doubles Event.

| | | <u>Scr.</u> | <u>Tot.</u> |
|---|-----------------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| 1 | Kevin Franks & Andrew Wraight WHI | 1025 | 1257 |
| 2 | Robert Joy & Steven Rixon MAR | 902 | 1246 |
| 3 | Robert Collins & Richie Loney CLI | 869 | 1231 |
| 4 | Joe Cooper & Richard Waters WHI | 961 | 1229 |
| 5 | Nathan Clark & Darren Hatton WHI | 1061 | 1225 |
| 6 | Jennifer Beale & Anna Symes WHI | 949 | 1224 |

Team Event

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----|
| 1. WHITSTABLE | 839 |
| Joanne Hill, Nathan Clark, Andrew Senior & Andrew Wraight. | |
| 2. BEXLEYHEATH | 819 |
| Annalisa Edwards, Phillip Press, Liam Reed & Nicholas Weston. | |
| 3. CLIFTONVILLE | 776 |
| Damien Ackhurst, Robert Collins, Daniel Hicks & Evan Johnson. | |

KENT "BOYS" TEAM come close to reaching the FINAL STAGES OF THE JUNIOR INTER-COUNTIES.

by David Percival.

In September, the Junior [Under 18] Inter-Counties were held at Coventry over two days. With two new Managers, myself and Lucy Cudmore, an eventful and enjoyable weekend lay ahead.

The Boys were away to a good start scoring 918 in their first game but could not maintain this form in their other two morning games. In the afternoon, they performed mildly better with games of 958 and 928, the noticeable scores being Andrew Senior [246 & 228] and Daniel Harman with 225. On the Sunday in their final two games Kent bowled 937 and 974 which put them in with a possible chance of making the six-team final. Special congratulations are due to Tim Beale with a personal best high game in the last match of 265.

In the event, the Boy's Team finished in eighth place, missing out on the Final by 75 pins. However, this is the best finish by a Kent Junior Team in recent years. The Individual scores were:-

| <u>Bowler</u> | <u>Pins</u> | <u>G</u> | <u>Ave.</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Tim Beale WHI | 994 | 5 | 198.8 |
| Andrew Senior WHI | 1193 | 6 | 198.8 |
| Daniel Harman CLI | 940 | 5 | 188.8 |
| Ben Marsh MAR | 1258 | 7 | 179.7 |
| Daniel Marsh MAR | 816 | 5 | 163.2 |
| Jeff White BEX | 613 | 4 | 153.2 |
| James Pateman BEX | 435 | 3 | 145.0 |
| TOTAL | 6249 | | 178.5 |

The Girls did well finishing in a respectable 14th out of 29 Counties, all their four-person games, apart from one, being in the 600's. The best bowler over the two days was the oldest in the Team, in her last Counties, being Samantha Cooper from Whitstable who averaged 166.6 and rolled the highest game of 206. Full details of the individual scores are:-

| <u>Bowler</u> | <u>Pins</u> | <u>G</u> | <u>Ave.</u> |
|----------------------|-------------|----------|-------------|
| Samantha Cooper WHI | 1000 | 6 | 166.6 |
| Helen Perkins WHI | 1162 | 7 | 166.6 |
| Jennifer Beale WHI | 943 | 6 | 157.1 |
| Annalisa Edwards BEX | 620 | 4 | 155.0 |
| Anne Perkins WHI | 452 | 3 | 150.6 |
| Alex Reed BEX | 283 | 2 | 141.5 |
| TOTAL | 4460 | | 159.5 |

BOWLERS CLUB SOUTH MASTER'S INVITEE

by Frank Weston

Nick Weston from Bexleyheath was invited to participate in the Bowler's Club South Master's Tournament (Under 15), after qualifying 11th in his section. The invite was for the top 10, but one of the bowlers was unable to participate so Nick was automatically brought in.

The format consisted of bowling five games, changing lanes each game. The top eight would then bowl 2 more games, from which six would go forward to contest for a place as one of five in the Stepladder final.

After entering the tournament in tenth place Nick proceeded to bowl his first 5 games, which put him into sixth place. He then completed another 2 games, raising his placing to third. After the next 2 games he succeeded in qualifying first for the Stepladder final.

Watching the Stepladder final he saw Kevin Preece (who qualified third), beat the fourth place by rolling a 224 game. Kevin then beat the second place bowler, rolling another high game of 191.

Now came the Final between Kevin and Nick. Kevin started with 2 strikes to which Nick replied with 2 splits, putting the balance in Kevin's favour. However Nick didn't give up and battled on to be beaten into second place by only 27 pins.

Finishing in second place of the Masters in his first full year of Merit tournaments is a great achievement and something to be proud of.

His scores were as follows:-

1st round: 142,151,215,152,133
2nd round: 190,139 3rd round:
171,153 Stepladder Final: 151
Average over 10 games: 160.

CORRECTION. TOLWORTH FOURS.

The Team from Bexleyheath that finished second in the Tolworth Junior Fours held in June was Annalisa Edwards, Stephen Letchford, Nick Weston and Ian Abrol and not the Team reported in the last issue.

BRITISH JUNIOR OPEN Bushbury

by Frank Weston

Five of our juniors from Bexleyheath travelled to Bushbury to take part in this Merit Tournament, Annalisa Edwards, Dan French, Stephen Letchford, James Pateman & Nick Weston. The first day they all bowled 6 games to see who would qualify for the next round. Annalisa just missed the cut, which was 50% in the Under 15's Girls section by 3 pins. However Nick Weston qualified second in the Under 15's Boys, rolling an average of 191, with his highest game of 237.

Day Two and Nick now had to roll four more games to qualify in the top six for the Round Robin, which he did in sixth place. In the Round Robin he could not improve his position so finished sixth after bowling an average of 177 over 15 games. A superb effort considering he is at the lower half of the age group at 13.

WHITSTABLE HIGH SCORES.

by Martin Beale.

The following High Scores have been submitted by Whitstable YBC in recent Tournaments and League Play.

5 Person Team - High Series.

| | |
|------------------------------------|------|
| YBC Oysters | 2772 |
| <u>5 Person Team - High Game</u> | |
| YBC Oysters | 946 |
| <u>4 Person - High Series</u> | |
| Flintstones | 2198 |
| <u>4 Person - High Game</u> | |
| Flintstones | 792 |
| <u>2 Person Team - High Series</u> | |
| Helen Perkins & Jennifer Beale | 1176 |
| <u>2 Person - High Game</u> | |
| Andrew Wraight & Kevin Franks | 405 |
| Helen Perkins & Jennifer Beale | 404 |
| <u>Junior Girls - High Series</u> | |
| Jennifer Beale | 617 |
| <u>Junior Girls - High Game</u> | |
| Helen Perkins | 248 |
| <u>Junior Boys - High Series</u> | |
| Robert Gore | 638 |
| Tim Beale | 627 |
| Robert Gore | 619 |
| Kevin Franks | 618 |
| <u>Junior Boys - High Game</u> | |
| Nathan Clark | 279 |
| Tim Beale | 265 |

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BEXLEYHEATH win the "COACH AND FOUR" for the first time since 1989.

by Jerry Lodge, Tournament Manager.

This year, there was a record entry of 205 five-person Teams, from 38 Centres. For the first time since 1989, a Team from Bexleyheath won the Event. The winning Team, showing their total scores including handicap, was:-

| | Scratch | Total |
|---------------|---------|-------|
| James Pateman | 620 | 692 |
| Chris Grant | 412 | 547 |
| Ashley Cooper | 548 | 701 |
| Julie Cudmore | 499 | 610 |
| Neil Webb | 669 | 702 |
| (Coach) | | |
| TOTAL | 2748 | 3252 |

In second place was another Team from Bexleyheath, being Nick Weston, James Pateman, Annalisa Edwards, Philip Press and their Coach, David Percival with a score of 3214, the third place being filled by Whitstable Flintstones on 3146. All the results are still being worked out and a fuller report will appear in the next edition of "Bowling News".

Among the highlights of the Tournament was a "300 Game" by an Instructor, Adam Sharp from Airport YBC and a 1078 Scratch five-person game by Portsmouth.

This year, the Tournament was dedicated to the memory of Christine McQuade, the wife of South East Pro Shop owner Tom McQuade, who sadly died in September. Christine always had the welfare of the Bexleyheath Juniors at heart and her encouragement and cheerfulness in the Pro Shop will be sadly missed by both the youngsters and the many bowlers she knew. In her memory, contributions were made to the YBC in lieu of flowers at her funeral, and this gesture was greatly appreciated by all at Bexleyheath YBC.

It was fitting that the "Coach and Four" Trophy should return home to Bexleyheath this year and we are sure Tom will gladly let it have pride of place in the Pro Shop.

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UNDER - 14 INTER-COUNTIES.

by Martin Beale.

December 8th was not only the final day of the "Coach and Four" at Bexleyheath. Eight of Kent's best under-fourteen's made their way north to Tamworth for the Annual Inter-County Tournament. 28 Boy's and 21 Girl's teams competed and awaiting final results we believe the Boys finished on the right side of halfway and the Girls in the top Ten. Top performer on the day was Jennifer Beale [Whitstable] with an average of 167 over six games [total 1002] - high games of 201, twice. She just missed the High Game and High Average Trophy by 2 pins and 1 pin respectively. Still, as we tell them, every pin counts. Lisa Digby [Whitstable] scored her very first 200 on her second game and her six game average was 153, some 30 pins above her current League Average.

These two performances were all the more remarkable when the lane conditions were taken into account. With back-ends dragged and thin oil laid, appropriately enough for the time of the year, 'Christmas Tree', the oil carried down very early on in great quantities and Coach, Tim Beale, suggested changes of target and line on no less than four occasions! Top boy's performer was Andrew Wraight [Whitstable] with 985 and Nick Weston [Bexleyheath] on 940 [Boy's top score of 189 game]. Stephen Letchford [Bexleyheath] held up well with a 142 average and just behind was Michael Davenport [Margate] on 138 with a high game of 167. For the girls, Anna Symes [Whitstable] started with a 438 series but suffered later from the rapidly changing lane conditions. Her 131 average was no mean feat, though. Kelly Lewis [Cliftonville] started with a 148 game but couldn't keep up with her team mates but her final total equated very closely with her League Average.

The standard of the leading teams was high with the top girls outplaying the top boys. Still, the Tournament was as much fun as ever, enjoyed by all.

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CLUB REGISTRATION 1996.

This is the second list for Bowlers who have qualified for Club Registration. If you have qualified and you are not listed below nor in the September 1996 Edition of "Bowling News", please ask your League Secretary to send details to the Area Secretary.

The criteria for qualification is:-

200 Club - One game by a player with an average of 159 and below or by a first year bowler.

500 Club - A Series bowled by Ladies only.

550 Club - A Series bowled by a player with an average of 169 or below

600 Club - A Series bowled by any player.

All games or series must be bowled in a BTBA Sanctioned League or Tournament.

| 200 CLUB | | | 500 CLUB | | | | | | 600 CLUB | | |
|--------------------|-----|-----|------------------|-----|-----|------------------|-----|-----|-----------------|--|--|
| Steve Aslett | BEX | 225 | Jennifer Beale | WHI | 617 | Helen Perkins | WHI | 577 | | | |
| Jeannette Bartram | BEX | 204 | Rosemary Bentley | MAR | 538 | Ray Perrett | BEX | 551 | | | |
| Jennifer Beale | WHI | 211 | Sue Blackmore | BEX | 530 | Alan Petherick | BEX | 551 | | | |
| Steve Bentley | MAR | 242 | Grace Coman | BEX | 506 | Vicki Preston | BEX | 564 | | | |
| Sue Blackmore | BEX | 215 | Chris Cooper | BEX | 514 | Glen Roberts | BEX | 557 | | | |
| Greg Booth | BEX | 212 | Julie Cudmore | BEX | 510 | Paul Roberts | BEX | 591 | | | |
| Mick Collins | BEX | 213 | Karen Day | BEX | 510 | Andrew Senior | WHI | 564 | | | |
| Terry Connelly | BEX | 201 | Tracy Dew | BEX | 525 | Joanne Shrimpton | BEX | 588 | | | |
| Chris Cooper | BEX | 201 | Lisa Digby | WHI | 527 | Bob Smith | CHA | 553 | | | |
| Alan Crafter | BEX | 222 | Jill French | BEX | 529 | Trish Smith | CLI | 552 | | | |
| John Cudmore | BEX | 212 | Joanne Hill | WHI | 501 | Sylvia Thomas | BEX | 567 | | | |
| Julie Cudmore | BEX | 223 | Joyce Howe | BEX | 537 | Allan Thompson | BEX | 640 | | | |
| Karen Day | BEX | 201 | Janet May | BEX | 540 | Nick Weston | BEX | 567 | | | |
| Jack Denne | BEX | 213 | Helen Perkins | WHI | 577 | Robert Windle | WHI | 561 | | | |
| Pam Ellis | BEX | 213 | Vicki Preston | BEX | 564 | Andrew Wraight | WHI | 574 | | | |
| Ron Farrington | BEX | 211 | Joanne Shrimpton | BEX | 588 | | | | | | |
| Scott Fleming | MAR | 213 | Janet Smith | CHA | 506 | | | | | | |
| Jill French | BEX | 205 | Angie Thick | BEX | 521 | | | | | | |
| Dave Goodwin | MAR | 212 | Maureen Thompson | BEX | 503 | | | | | | |
| Robert Gore | WHI | 222 | Sandra Williams | BEX | 531 | | | | | | |
| Barry Griswood | BEX | 244 | Joan Wood | BEX | 508 | | | | | | |
| Christopher Hall | WHI | 206 | Lisa Wraight | WHI | 502 | | | | | | |
| Ray Hammond | BEX | 235 | | | | | | | | | |
| Steve Heales | BEX | 209 | | | | | | | | | |
| Marios Kaphouris | BEX | 212 | | | | | | | | | |
| Christopher Laws | WHI | 223 | | | | | | | | | |
| Carolyn Lock | BEX | 208 | | | | | | | | | |
| Mark Lovett | WHI | 222 | | | | | | | | | |
| Alan Openshaw | BEX | 212 | | | | | | | | | |
| Mark Osborne | BEX | 204 | | | | | | | | | |
| Peter Osbourne | BEX | 206 | | | | | | | | | |
| Paul Pateman | BEX | 220 | | | | | | | | | |
| Glen Roberts | BEX | 228 | | | | | | | | | |
| Vera Roper | BEX | 208 | | | | | | | | | |
| Kay Schwingen | CLI | 201 | | | | | | | | | |
| Joanne Shrimpton | BEX | 210 | | | | | | | | | |
| Margaret Shrimpton | BEX | 215 | | | | | | | | | |
| Janet Smith | CHA | 211 | | | | | | | | | |
| Trish Smith | CLI | 203 | | | | | | | | | |
| Maureen Thompson | BEX | 204 | | | | | | | | | |
| Richard Waters | WHI | 204 | | | | | | | | | |
| Val Webb | BEX | 201 | | | | | | | | | |
| Diane Weston | BEX | 211 | | | | | | | | | |
| Sandra Williams | BEX | 207 | | | | | | | | | |
| Andrew Wraight | WHI | 244 | | | | | | | | | |
| Lisa Wraight | WHI | 201 | | | | | | | | | |