**MATCH AND COMPETITION SECRETARY REPORT 2022**

Firstly, I would like to thank all Officers who have helped me during my first season in this role, particularly the four Divisional Secretaries. Obviously, there were changes in various processes and procedures which I undertook having taken over from Brian Wigmore and I hope that everyone found them acceptable.

Looking at the County Friendly Programme it was very pleasing that we were able to fulfil all the fixtures with the help of late call ups and in respect of the results we lost only one game away against Hampshire and for the first time in many years did not lose to the Indoor County at Mote Park securing a draw.

Availability of players to the various friendly games varied according to their location, which in the present climate is understandable, but even when I found myself short of players, I was able to find replacements with relative ease assisted with thanks by President Ian. I hope with the after effects of COVID now appearing to be less of an issue player availability will improve next season.

The County Programme for 2023 was completed in August although it was necessary for me to make a couple of adjustments recently as the opposition having confirmed the original fixture, requested a change of date due to unforeseen circumstances. This has been published on the County website. In summary I must admit that it has been a challenge due to the ever-increasing size of the Bowls England Programme which in particular has made weekend dates a premium. I have avoided any clashes with BE and the County Programme apart from County Finals Day being on the same day as the Regional Finals of the National Mixed Pairs. This was agreed by the County Executive.

Turning to the County Competitions these ran smoothly. I would like to thank all those Clubs who accommodated the County in hosting the Quarter-Finals, Semi-Finals days and Finals Day. I appreciate that there is a lot of hard work put into these days by the hosting club members particularly in preparing the greens as well as providing food and drink throughout the day. I would also like to thank all Divisional Secretaries and Assistant Divisional Secretaries for managing the Competitions up to the Quarter Final stage. My congratulations go to all the finalists –winners and runners-up, but also to every single entrant since without them we simply would not have effective competition.

The National Finals proved to provide Kent with both success and disappointment. We unfortunately fell well short in this year’s Middleton Cup which the County won in 2021, and were unable to progress in the Balcomb Trophy. Our Under 25s won the White Rose, Harry Goodwin (Appleyard) won the Champion of Champions. The Rink skipped by Roger Kendrick (VCD) were Runners –Up in the Fours and the Mixed Pair of Leah Bamford and Mick Fisher (Canterbury) reached the Semi-Final. My congratulations go to them all.

In the Home Counties League Kent missed out on a place in the Final on the last bowl!

In conclusion I wish everyone an enjoyable and successful 2023 season but above all a healthy one.

Chris Smith- MATCH AND COMPETITION SECRETARY.