

## **Mixed league starts with a 12-0 victory over Chestnuts**

The Oxford mixed triples league campaign started with an away fixture at Banbury Chestnuts on Tuesday Evening, and for once it looked like the rain was going to hold off!

For those not familiar with the rules, it's 18 ends one on the first two ends, and each rink must contain a lady bowler.

Being a novice captain (lets not forget at the AGM no-one wanted to do it, I know why now!), I wasn't really prepared for the dilemmas of selecting a team when obviously we have plenty of players who could play and with full availability we could probably put out three teams all being very competitive.

The green at Chestnuts has a reputation of playing well and allowing for the fact that like everywhere it has had a lot of rain, you could actually get a bowl to 'finish' and the green played well.

We looked resplendent in our new shirts.

My rink had Fiona Myatt leading with John Benfield two, Fiona and John, quickly got us into a good rhythm, and we scored consistently over the first 11 ends to put ourselves 17-4 up, and then it was just a case of making sure we didn't drop any clangers and despite a bit of a fight back from our opponents we ran out 20-11 winners.

As similar story was unfolding with the rink skipped by Tony Wright, with Linda Boyd and Piers Myatt, leading 14-3 after 13 ends, and then a 5 on the 15th end meant they ran out 21-9 winners. this made them the highest winning rink, but as stated I was very under prepared, so I owe you all a prize!

From a captains point of view after about 12 ends it was quite re-assuring that provided we didn't make an absolute 'Horlicks' of things we would at least score some points.

The other two rinks we a bit closer, Julie Singer, Tony Smith and Martin Acock were nip and tuck for the first 12 ends and were down 11-14, then they really turned on the afterburners winning every one of the last 6 ends to finish convincing winners 24-14.

Lastly Ana Undasan, Mick Boobyer and Percy Hickman were behind 6-0 early, but managed to make inroads into their opponents to lead 10-9 after 11 ends, the remaining ends were tight and Percy went into the last end 2up and was fully aware of the situation, Ana dropped one on early and Mick then played several tactical bowls to make sure that hopefully all eventualities were covered, Chestnuts failed to get Ana's bowl off and we took a 1 on the last end meaning a 15-12 win.

This meant that overall we ran out 80-46 winners and took all 12 points available.

We have two games at the end of the month both away, I'll battle my internal selection demons once again, but would expect few, if any changes as I'd be foolish to change a winning team.

Thanks to the players who played thank you, and more importantly those that didn't I know that when you get your opportunity to play you'll make my selection demons even harder.

If anyone wants to chat about the selection I'll always explain why have I done things.

Thanks for having the patience to reach the end of my ramblings.

Dave Freeman