2021 Hastings Open Bowls Tournament 9th-14th August

Thanks to the lifting of most COVID restrictions and the free use of the most excellent White Rock Gardens Bowling Greens, courtesy of Hastings Borough Council & IDVERDE UK Ltd, the 2021 Hastings Open Bowls Tournament went ahead as planned, in glorious sunshine & pleasant temperatures.

A slimmer field of 52 Singles (3 Wood, 15 Ends only) Competitors & 21 Triples Teams (18 Ends) fought it out under much different than usual play formats (brain child of George Webster) - featuring a Four day Round Robin with the most successful going forward to a straight Knockout on the last Two days in each event.

In the Singles, Alec Martin (White Rock BC) managed to overcome Gary Wilson (Rosemount BC) (just, on an extra end shoot-out 16-15) in his Semi-final and then challenged David Baxter (Epping BC) in the final - David managing to overcome Bowls Supremo Steve Jeapes (White Rock BC) 13-9 in his Semi. The Final itself couldn't have been tighter with the score tied on 5 separate ends as the game proceeded to the last end, which Alec managed to grab 9-8.

In the Triples, the FAMILY Jeapes (Ollie, Michael (both of Parkway BC), Steve) overcame all their opponents and proved too tough in the final's for the team from Sidley Martlets (Darren Sargent, Terry Phillips & Carl Dyer) 21-14, with Ollie (11 yrs old) competing very competently with his Dad & Grandad - certainly a young star to watch for the future. He also narrowly missed out on the Singles Qualifiers by just 8 shots, winning three of his four matches.

Of course, the Tournament couldn't run without the outstanding efforts of the Bar (Martyn, Dave & Heather) ensuring parched throats were suitably refreshed. The catering was well managed by the stand in team of Mark & Sarah, who ably maintained the energy levels of both Competitors & Helpers alike - and was very much appreciated. Special mention for Bill Smith who donated £50 to Tournament Funds and Bob Freemantle who 'baked a cake .... a VERY BIG Chocolate Cake (which travelled all the way from Houghton Regis) which was auctioned off to Pete Murie who then donated it to the bowlers, in aid of the RNLI. The Committee also thanked all those who Marked the Singles competition so 'willingly' that made the New format a challenging competitive success.

Thanks go to our Sponsor Kiley's Karpets & Advertiser JS Fire Protection Ltd.

On a very sad note we pass on the News that long term supporter (& sponsor) of the Tournament, Don Softley lost his very long fight for life and is being laid to rest on 27th August 2021.

Photo: Singles Winner Alec Martin; Triples Winners (left to right) Michael, Ollie, Steve Jeapes.