



Hertfordshire Bowls

Johns Trophy 2019

Johns Trophy vs Leicestershire at Leicester BC on Saturday 1st June at 13.30hrs

Despite a tree attempting to deny us access, the squad, plus our loyal band of supporters, arrived at Leicester Bowls Club in an optimistic mood and confident that 2018 will be put behind them. The start was not planned as all six rinks lost the first end and we found ourselves 17-0 down. A long and hot afternoon stretched ahead of us! Mavis's rink was against the Commonwealth silver medallist and recent Atlantic Championship gold medallist in Jamie-Lea Winch and gave her an almighty scare being only 1 down with two ends to play. This was our noisiest team and definitely raised the level of others when the successful woods (a whole host of them) came off. Pat's rink struggled to master the green early and found themselves 11-4 down after nine ends. They all improved as the game wore on and finished much the stronger. Alison's rink was nip and tuck throughout the game but winning seven of the last ten ends proved decisive, were our highest winning rink and were practically perfect! Dymphna's rink struggled throughout winning only four ends. It didn't help when the Leicestershire skip changed, early in the game, a Herts four and a two potential end win to a two and a three loss respectively. Rachel's rink had another nip and tuck game only going behind for the first time on the eighteenth end. Going into the last end the team were one up but a miracle bowl by the Leicestershire skip changed a Herts one up to two down meaning a close loss. Sue's rink never really got going and the end rink proved a tough one to get a big score. Never more than a three was scored but that was achieved five times by Leicestershire and once by us.

Whilst this was a disappointing defeat, there are some positives to take from the match. On the whole, the debutants were good and deserved their place in the team. A failing in recent years has been a weak finish but the attitude and fortitude on Saturday stood out. Even though we were always chasing the game, no-one stopped trying and we still had a squeak with 24 ends to go and were also in with a great chance of winning on four of the six rinks.

I have always maintained that all the selected squad of 30 is the team. Only 24 can play at any one time and whilst that is disappointing for the 6 who don't play, without them, the John's playing team would be so much poorer. The four travelling reserves for this game were superb as were our fantastic 'groupies'. They created more noise than the home County supporters and helped create the atmosphere that is needed for the team to get as close as they did. More of the same please and whilst I have never been a fan of wholesale changes after a defeat (or win), the playing team will be tweaked for Norfolk.

Finally, I want to thank Marion Bull, following her resignation from being a selector due to travelling difficulties. Her outstanding service both as a selector and a high-level Johns/Walker Cup

player over many years has been an asset to Hertfordshire and she will undoubtedly be missed – volunteer needed to provide the rink sweets please!

Alan Spicer
Johns/Walker Team Manager

Joan Welch
Pauline Taylor
Lesley Tutt
Sue Maynard
LOST 12-28

Sarah Marshall
Liz Temple
Becky Maynard
Mavis Hendry
LOST 16-20

Betty Ottoway
Sarah Best
Lesley Moylette
Dymphna Whybrow
LOST 7-37

Megan MacKinnon
Marion Smedley
Valerie Challacombe
Pat Hilson
WON 17-15

Devon Cooper
Ann Dix
Marcia Dunstone
Rachel Tremlett
LOST 17-18

Joanne Hollister
Natalie Chalcraft
Jess Eley
Alison Hall
WON 23-17

OVERALL 92-135
4-18