

Bowls Leicestershire – Senior Team Manager’s Report 2022

It is pleasing to report that all competitions available for the County to participate in were once again up and running as usual except for the Middleton Cup again being reduced to a knock-out format as in the previous year.

Midland Counties

We played 6 Counties in the Midland Counties League Competition and our performance and team spirit in all games was excellent.

As usual I used these games to introduce new members into our squad and to experiment with rink combinations in preparation for the Middleton Cup.

Our performance in all 6 games was of the highest order and we comfortably won the Midland Counties League gaining 113 points and a shot plus average of 222 shots!

Middleton Cup

Our first game was against a very strong Essex side on a 3 rinks home and 3 rinks away basis with the game being tied with one end to go.

The end produced some excellent and exciting bowling going one way and another before Alistair Hollis, not for the first time in his career, removed their shot bowl allowing us to win the game by 2 shots (117 – 115) – a very exciting victory.

Our second game paired us with another strong side, Norfolk, who had just beaten Northants by one shot in the first round.

This game produced one of the most competent Leicestershire performances whilst I have been managing the County with an excellent team spirit and attitude over the whole 6 rinks culminating in a resounding 40 shots victory (135 – 95).

In the Quarter Final we were drawn against Hertfordshire and again we performed well for the vast majority of the game, being 18 shots up with 12 ends to go!

Unfortunately, some excellent play, particularly by the Hertfordshire skips, coupled with some disappointing head-building by some of our rinks, allowing Hertfordshire to end up winners by 2 shots (121 – 123).

A very disappointing result for us and lessons which must – and will – be addressed before our next year’s campaign!

Summary

Looking forward to 2023 I will continue to look for new bowlers to strengthen our squad and will endeavour to achieve the combinations within the rinks and the concentration to allow us to perform to our best potential over the full 21 ends.

Looking forward with anticipation to a successful 2023 season!

Bill Hobart

Bowls Leicester Team Manager

