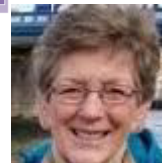


As a suggestion from Alan Spicer we are putting in this section to learn a little more about some of the players in the county and their thoughts on bowls and the county setup.

And You Are...?

Pauline Taylor



*** Are you into any other sport besides Bowls?**

No

*** How long have you been playing bowls? And how did you get into it?**

Playing Lawn Bowls for 17 years, wanted to play after watching a family member bowl.

*** What does the sport give you? Can you explain how much it means to you and many others?**

A huge sense of achievement, and I enjoy playing in a team.

*** What's the one piece of advice you'd give anyone looking to make any step up in their game?**

I would emphasize the enjoyment and challenge. Improvement comes with the pleasure you get out of the game.

*** If you look back, what are you most proud of in your career so far?**

Selected to play for the England Ladies Short Mat squad. Selected to play in the John's outdoors.

*** What would you say has been your best experience so far in short mat?**

Playing in the Internationals.

*** What would you say is the most frustrating part of short mat bowls?**

The Committee booking fixtures and competitions on 'England weekends', as a result I am unable to participate in the internal competitions which is an important part of being a member of the County.

*** Name three characteristics that you think a good player should have.**

Determination, respect and the ability to enjoy the game under pressure,

*** What discipline do you prefer to play & why?**

Front end, the satisfaction of setting up the head for the team.

*** Where's the best place you have played? Daventry What made it so good? Particularly good facilities with ample space and refreshments. * Where do you like to play in Hertfordshire & Why? No venue stands out.**

*** If a new player comes to your club, what 3 best tips would you like to teach them?**

Once they understand the basic rules of the game then etiquette on and off the mat.

*** Ahead of next season (when we finally get there!), what are your goals?**

To carry on bowling.

*** What improvements would you like to see made in the way that Hertfordshire develops, organises and manages its players and teams, which you feel would lead to our County side being more competitive?**

The Committee administers the County as a club, it is an Association. The team selection is unclear with no basis to the playing squad and there is a lack of discipline. The members are not encouraged to enter external competitions, as a result, the experience of playing at different venues and playing conditions hinders their bowling capability.

*** Have you played that perfect match yet or are you waiting for it?**

No such thing as perfect, we are all vulnerable especially when bowling. However, all the England games I have played have not been perfect, despite our efforts but there is an amazing level of determination to the extent that we have only lost one game in five years. So nearly perfect! I have played a few County games way back when the result had been close, but in recent times there seems to be a lack of enthusiasm.

*** You've spent a long time on the committee, what would you say are the best bits about being on the committee and the best things you believe the committee has achieved in your time?**

A long time ago now but managing to put out a County Squad with no reserves, and on occasions having to contact players to make themselves available!

Maintaining the Barnet League with dwindling clubs.

**** Many will know that you have played at every possible level over the years. What would you say makes the difference from a league player to a county player to an international player?**

It's a personal thing, but I want to succeed in a game I enjoy. If you have no passion for the sport, any sport, then you remain a grass roots player. There's nothing wrong with this as these members are the backbone in their clubs. You can only encourage members to move on and this comes from within the County, encouragement and interest is distinctly lacking.