



NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2015-16

Special Olympics
Isle of Wight



*We would like to wish all our athletes,
families, and supporters a very
HAPPY NEW YEAR!*

SUCCESS STORIES

Tom Philipson, one of our indoor bowls players, was asked if he would like to join the Cowes Medina Green Bowls Club. He jumped at the opportunity, and since the summer of 2015 has played as one of their team.

Tom has enjoyed every minute, although it was difficult at the beginning, as indoor bowls are so different. With help from a great bunch of guys, Tom came along in leaps and bounds, closing the season with the team winning the 'Harris Cup'! Tom was also presented with the 'Most Improved Player' award.

Having this experience has certainly made Tom much more confident and his self esteem is higher than it has ever been (I'm sure he grew ten inches in height!). It has just made me realise how important inclusion is, be it in sport or any other activity. To be accepted is wonderful, not just for someone like Tom, but for the people who are willing to accept.

Many thanks to Brian Blenkinsop who made this possible, and had to put up with Tom looking after him.

Jacqui Philipson.

Another good year

COWES Medina Bowls Club reflected on another successful season at their presentation night last week.

The club enjoyed a league victory for the men in the IW Afternoon League, and their fourth consecutive Harris Cup victory.

Club president, Brian Blenkinsop, thanked all members for their hard work and commitment and said: "The team spirit within the club is excellent. Cowes Medina is a



The successful Cowes Medina Afternoon League team. CONTRIBUTED

thriving club with much to offer everyone." New members are welcome and anyone wanting to find out more can contact Brian on 294869.

ATHLETICS 2015 ROUND-UP



We have competed in 6 competitions this year in London, Windsor, Eastbourne and Bournemouth and have had some incredible results. Sarah Beane has competed really well in her long jump this year, gaining three gold and one silver medal for it across the season. Charlie and Christopher Burgess have also had a great season, dominating their divisions of the Soft Ball Throw at each competition.

We have welcomed two new athletes to the squad, both of whom are keen to compete in distance running, something which we have rarely competed in previously, so we look forward to expanding into these events for next season.

Unfortunately, we also said goodbye to an athlete this season when Zachary Luke moved to Worthing; he is competing with their squad and doing very well, and we look forward to seeing him at future events.

We attended a very special event in Windsor where the Southern Region celebrated 25 years of holding the event which was thoroughly enjoyed by all! Thanks for a great year!



OBITUARY - Sandy Ringer

With great sadness we report that we lost our secretary and treasurer Sandy Ringer in November 2015.

Sandy loved Special Olympics and had been involved in some way with our charity since 1987.

Here are a few words from Celia about Sandy:

“No I can’t; I haven’t got time” was not in Sandy’s vocabulary. Nothing was ever too much for her, because she enjoyed being deeply involved with Special Olympics.

In 1987 Sandy was involved with the swimming at the National Summer Games and then became treasurer to the newly formed branch of Special Olympics here on the Island. Her efforts and commitment were endless; we could write a book!. My personal involvement with Sandy became greater after she sold the hotel that Jim and she owned. She was the person I contacted when I needed help or advice.

As the years went by and I needed to pass on some of my work she immediately said “I’ll do it and enjoy it”, so she became secretary as well. This came at a time when Special Olympics G.B.started to really bombard us with paper work (not my forte).

She was generous and kind and you trusted her completely, but most of all, she was a faithful and loyal friend, supported by her wonderful husband Jim. She never made you feel guilty when asking her to do yet another thing. We already miss her.

A huge **thank you** to Sandy for all her love and support over the years - she was brilliant at organising everybody and managing our endless paperwork and we will all miss her presence very much.

BOWLS NEWS

In the summer, the I.W. Special Olympics Bowls team took part in the Great Western Gloucestershire Open Tournament in Stroud, playing against seven other teams from the Midlands, Wales and Southern England.

The Island team of Sarah Beane, Tom Philipson, Darren Walters and Andy Powell played extremely well and came first in Division Two winning the Champions’ shield, repeating the success they first achieved in 2010.



Credit must also go to the I.W. Community Bowls Club for their constant support and the coaches who give their time voluntarily.

The photograph shows:

Back: Mike Strand, Coach
Left to right: Andy, Darren, Tom

Front: Sarah

MEETINGS

A continued thank you to the Isle of Wight Community Club in Cowes for giving us the opportunity to hold our I.W.S.O. committee meetings on the club premises.

WE NEED CONTENT!

Items/photos/stories for the newsletter?

Email them to Debs Aske-Harris via vectisdebs@gmail.com