

Beaufort Bowls Tour 2001

Torquay

A very enjoyable weekend was had by all who took part in this year's tour. We started the weekend with a match against Isca Indoor Bowling Club, Exeter. This game was played on the way down to Torquay on Friday 19/10/2001. The score cards reflect that the Beaufort team took some time to adjust to the pace of the indoor green but eventually cut into their opponents lead to make the final score more respectable.

The tour party then moved on to Torquay to their Hotel, The Burlington, and relaxed for the evening following their Dinner. I know several of the tour party were used to better Hotel Accommodation, but for the money we paid and the purpose of our visit I thought it was adequate.

Saturday morning and the weather was so good we could have played outdoor bowls, members of the tour party chose to do their own thing in the morning and many ended up in the town centre where the lesser spotted Beaufort bowler could be found buying presents, drinking coffee or eating ice cream. Other members took advantage of the coach excursion and ended up in Paignton, which is another lovely town in this part of the world. Two members who shall remain nameless in this report thought they had done very well here when they had ordered two plaice and chips for £2. Sadly the dialect of the Welshmen and the Devonshire lass who served them had caused some confusion but I understand they did enjoy their two PLATES of chips. In the afternoon there was the second game which was a four rink match at Torquay United Indoor Bowling Club. The lack of indoor experience was again evident although some members had started to perform quite well as the results will show. Several members took the opportunity of watching a professional football match on the adjacent Torquay United Football Club. It was quite a disappointing game although the home side managed a 1-0 win against Hartlepool United.

Everyone returned to the Hotel for their evening meal and most enjoyed the evening there with several types of entertainment on offer. The highlight probably being the pool tournament organised by our younger members, who suspiciously did very well in it. I think the youngsters enjoyed their weekend with us and much credit must go to them for the way they conducted themselves throughout the tour. I must say that much credit must also go to the senior members for their tolerance towards the youngsters, I know it was a potential problem but thanks to everyone's cooperation and understanding I think it went exceptionally well.

Sunday morning and again we had beautiful weather, many members went down walking around the seafront and the town. There was a report of some members hiring a boat and setting to sea. There were some worried expressions as they boarded their vessel but they needn't have worried as they didn't know then that in their midst was that famous old seadog Captain Hubert Teague of HMS Nantyglo. The trip was somewhat marred by the sad death of a passing cyclist 3 miles off the coast when despite the best efforts of Captain Hubert and his crew, all they managed to rescue was his Helmet. Thankfully all the team had returned to the Hotel in time to

depart for the final game of the weekend. We travelled the short distance to Kingsteignton near Newton Abbot to play Teignbridge Indoor Bowling Club. The standard of bowling had shown a marked improvement and this was maintained for Beaufort to record their first team success of the weekend. There were some reports that the team had started to get used of the indoor greens and other reports that the team had started to get used to the local ale, I am not sure what it was but to record a win was indeed an added bonus.

Sunday night entertainment was highlighted by the team quiz in the Hotel where unusually all the participating teams came from a mystical Welsh town called Abercwmbucket or something like that. The unusual thing was that one team spoke with cockney accents so if they lived in Wales, they hadn't lived there long. We also celebrated a birthday of one of our members brother, I couldn't fully understand why because his birthday was June 23rd and we were now in October.

Many thanks are due for people who helped to make the tour a great success, the good people of Riviera Leisure Breaks who organised the trip in Torquay. The officers and members of the three clubs who hosted our matches. The staff of our Hotel who looked after us as best they could. Our coach driver who helped make the weekend by mixing in with the crowd and helping us to get to all venues on time as well as a few extras. Paul Millard who came to see us from his new abode in Brixham, it was great to see Paul again and to see him doing so well. I have heard a whisper he may be back in Beaufort bowling soon. All the members of the tour party for the way they conducted themselves. Finally and certainly not least to CLIVE WILLIAMS for his organising of the tour on our behalf.