**A Report of Under 15 Championships from Hampshire’s Perspective**

February 28th saw teams from all over the country descend on Tolworth for the under 15 championships. Needless to say one of the counties’s taking part was Hampshire who having had their trials and practise had selected 6 under 15 girls to compete with their peers.

The girls’ selected were Lucy Williams, Georgia Wood, Taylor Hughes, Rhian Dobinson, Mica Roberts and Bethany-Rose Davis. All arrived with parents in tow early but very enthusiastic on a cold Saturday morning.

First order of the day, after coffee that is, was to elect a captain. It was a unanimous decision Lucy was selected to be Team Captain. Our second imported decision is to decide our motivational chant after much discussion ‘Ogy Ogy Ogy’ was declared the winner.

Registration was called for 0930 and lanes allocated of course we were grouped by the cafe and so we got lane 32, panic ensured as we joined the melee of bowlers moving balls from one end of the centre to the other.

Practise music is playing all girls on the lanes practising soaking up the atmosphere. Mica is sitting out the first game and is now the chief cheer leader perched on the side of the lane.

First game saw a few nerves at the start but soon the girls settled down to rolling a 770 game which saw Hampshire in the lead. Bethany took over as the chief cheer leader for the second game which unfortunately we lost a bit of focus resulting in us rolling 726 and slipping to 2nd behind Lincolnshire who rolled a tremendous 827. Georgia took over as chief cheerleader for the third game and the team bowled a solid 790 game clawing nearly 50pins back from Lincolnshire who managed a 747 leavingampsjih Hampshire still in 2nd place at the break with Staffordshire and Yorkshire snapping at our heels.

After lunch and redress of the lanes we were allocated lanes 19 and 20 with Lincolnshire playing alongside of us. Game 4 was very reminiscent of our 1st game with Bethany as our cheerleader the girls rolled a 767 game but sadly for us Lincolnshire rolled more than us and pulled further ahead our nearest rivals all rolled more than us and moved ever closer but we held on to 2nd place. Rhian was the cheerleader for game 5 which as in the first half we lost concentration although Taylor rolled the highest individual game,212, for the team in this game. This game was the worst we rolled as a team 713 and although we were still 2nd Yorkshire had bowled so well, 780, they were within a pin of us. Game 6 is a critical game Bethany was the chief cheerleader and was slowly losing her voice but she gamely cheered every ball. Game 6 saw the team bowl their 2nd highest game 784 which was sufficient to beat Lincolnshire by 54 pins but they lead was so great they finished 1st. Yorkshire, who was 1 pin behind us after 5 games, bowled a massive game of 850, the highest team game of the girls’ competition, and sadly for us overtook us for 2nd place by 65 pins. But on a happier note we finished 3rd and took home a medal.

Everyone should feel pleased with themselves we played as a team all day supporting each other and bowled well. As we are a young team we will be stronger next year.

Well done everyone and thank you for my medal it was a pleasure to manage a great team.