## **Under 15 Inter-County Championships – Hampshire Boys**

##  by Mark Heathorn

February 28th 2015 will be a day that will remain long in the memory for 6 bowlers and an extremely proud coach as the Hampshire U15 Boys team won the Inter-County Championships by over 400 pins up six games of five-man team.

5 players from Fareham Y.B.C. - Captain Ethan Roberts, Jamie Hill, Lewis Johnson, Joshua Buckett and Perry Kingswell – were selected alongside Nathan Little from Farnborough Y.B.C. following the trials and a selection training session to represent Hampshire for 2015.

Right from the off in game one the team showed their talent and shot 996 which would prove to be the highest game of the tournament – not in the least helped by Lewis Johnson starting with the front 8 for a superb 266, which was also the high individual game of the tournament.

Game Two was less inspiring, producing only 828 pins, although Nathan Little was displaying his skill with a 200 game. Game Three was better and returned 889 with Nathan continuing to shine with a 214 game and Perry Kingswell finding his form with a 203 game. At the lunch-time and redress break Hampshire Boys sat on 2711, 42 pins ahead of their nearest rivals. Nathan scored 604 for his set and this was good enough for the individual series award which was based on everyone’s first three games only.

Whatever the players had for lunch worked well because the afternoon session was even better than the morning. Game Four achieved 933 with Lewis clearly enjoying the “fresh” by shooting 233, with Perry also going over with a 203 game.

Game Five was yet another 900 plus game, 969, with Lewis continuing to blitz the pocket with a 236 ably supported by the consistency of the team. After this game the team had all but won the event as they were now a huge 278 pins ahead of the 2nd place team. A group of Under 15’s could be forgiven for taking their foot off the gas at this point but after a short team briefing they finished the job in style by shooting their fourth 900 plus game (there were only 4 other 900+ games from the whole of the rest of the field to give that some context), with 936. Nathan finished his impressive performance leading the team with 220 and Lewis completing his 678 series with 209.

The winning margin over Yorkshire in 2nd place was 404 pins, a total of 5549, which in terms of team average equates to just under 925, a margin of 67 pins per game, or about 13 per man per game.

As Manager / Coach of this team (2 of whom were in the team that came 2nd in 2014) I was extremely proud of all 6 players, their attitude, their superb team spirit, and of course their ability to perform under pressure.

Individual’s averages;

Lewis Johnson 207 Jamie Hill 116 (1 game) Perry Kingswell 190

Joshua Buckett 164 Ethan Roberts 173 Nathan Little 199



