Junior Academy Day 27/6/21

The Bucks Junior Academy has been in existence for some five years now, focused on providing structured coaching for young bowlers under 18 years of age. Whether an individual young bowler in one of the County’s clubs, or an active participant in one of the Centres of Excellence now established, the Academy aims to provide additional coaching and opportunities to develop their skills. Uniquely it holds Championships for Under 14 and Under 18, boys and girls, on their pathway to playing at the senior levels.

The first of this year’s County-wide events took place on Sunday June 27th at Aylesbury Town. Seventeen young bowlers took part in a day of bowling activities with a large element of fun. Though the day started with some rain before clearing, the bowlers aged from eight to eighteen, remained enthusiastic.

The County Presidents, Cathy Clark and Peter French, presented last year’s Winners with their trophies, the formality having being delayed due to the Covid pandemic. The 2020 winners were:

Under 14 Champion: Ryan Smith Under 18 Champion: Abigail Elliott

The morning programme was focused on skill testing and coaching. The tests were set by Henry Beach who holds regular training sessions each week at Aylesbury Town for Academy members. The team of coaches evaluated the performance of the juniors, with marks contributing to the overall scores for the day.

In the afternoon, the under 14s took part in competitive bowls, while the "14 plus" members of the Academy took part in matches targeted on developing them for the U25 Men and U31 Ladies squads.

At the conclusion of the day of bowls, the two competitions winners were:

Under 14s: Ryan Smith (Bletchley Saint Martins)

Under 18s: James Lynch (Iver Heath)

The full Championship Day will take place on the 11th September, again at Aylesbury Town. All young bowlers wishing to take part please contact Terri Keen or John Lonergan (details as below).

We extend our thanks to Aylesbury Town, and Keith Stratfull in particular, for their support, and providing excellent refreshments under current Covid conditions.

Managers of the BBA Junior Academy

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