

May 2019 Junior Academy Day

The first of this year's County-wide Junior Academy events took place in glorious sunshine on Sunday 14th May. Twenty young bowlers under 18 took part in a day of bowling activities based on:

- Testing of individual bowling skills in the morning
- Competitive bowling in the afternoon

In the third year of the Junior Academy, the general comment to be made was of the genuinely high standard of bowling on display. All of the bowlers taking part should take a bow. Parents and grandparents should also take a bow for getting their young bowlers to the event on time, not just on this occasion but for all of their support during the season.

In the Under 14s competition, Terri Keen led an afternoon session full of fun, but with bowlers playing with real intent. The youngest bowler was only eight years of age and doing exceedingly well.

In the over 14 game, the players were more serious in their play, as additional coaching was in place, and both the girls and boys were being assessed for the U25 and U31 squads. It was pleasing to note that the U25 manager Richard Reid took a direct interest on the day, and requested that three of the boys join the U25 squad for trials. Well done to them and of course to Caitlyn and Shannon who have already made it into the Ladies U31 squads. They all bring great credit to the County's Junior Academy.

As is the tradition for the first event of the year trophies were presented to the winners of the two groups [U14s and 14-18] by the Lady President Anne Farmer. This years winners were:

Under 14 Competition:	Winner	Holly Chapman	Aylesbury Town
Over 14 Competition:	Winner	Esmay Martin	Newport Pagnell

We wish all of our young bowlers well, as they improve their bowling throughout the season, and bring their skills to the **Championship Day on 7th September**. This will be held at Aylesbury Town Bowls Club, Registration at 0930.

Once more the County is indebted to the Aylesbury Town team for hosting the event, plus supplying meals for the participants, and providing refreshment throughout the day.

Thanks must also go to Henry Beach and his team of helpers for providing interesting challenges for the skills tests, and the County team who administratively made the Junior Academy Day such a success.

Any young bowler in Buckinghamshire wishing to participate in the Junior Academy events should contact either Terri Keen or John Lonergan who will provide guidance on the 2019 programme of activities.

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BBA Junior Academy Managers