

Handicap Pairs – The Weather vs The Bowlers (Again)

The Handicap Pairs were set to be a grand two-day tournament over Saturday and Sunday, 4–5 October. Unfortunately, the weather had other plans.

Saturday dawned wet, wild, and downright unpleasant – sideways rain, howling winds, and temperatures that could chill your bias. Those responsible for making the tough calls didn't even bother venturing outside before declaring the day a washout. A couple of optimistic souls did suggest we "try again later in the day," but that idea was quickly and mercifully put to rest.

So, Sunday it was.

Sunday morning looked far more promising – clear skies, sunshine, and only the occasional ominous rumble from the south to remind us who's really in charge. At 7am, the Three Wise Men (Russell, Dave, and Larry) gathered at the green to decide our fate. After much pondering (and probably a strong coffee or two), the Greenkeeper spoke: "*Let us play.*" A great cheer was heard across the land – or at least across Green Two.



Twenty-four hardy bowlers formed twelve determined teams, all ready for action. Round 1 began with a bit of scrim and a fair amount of enthusiasm. Play went smoothly – until the heavens opened again. Players made a mad dash for the clubhouse, proving that bowlers can move quickly when there's shelter (and possibly tea) involved.

Unfortunately, Round 1 wasn't without incident. One player, while retrieving her bowls, slipped and fell heavily on her hip. An ambulance was called – a sobering moment for all – but we're relieved to report that she's bruised but thankfully has no broken bones. A scary moment, but she's on the mend.

After a bit of lunch and a lot of determination, we headed out again for Round 2. The weather held, spirits lifted, and Round 3 even blessed us with fine skies. Miraculously, we got through the qualifying rounds!

By the end of the day, six teams stood tall with two wins each:

- **Larry Sullivan & Pete Pembroke**
- **Maia Wilson & Bernadine Crawford**
- **Alana Nicholas & Megan Pohe**
- **Tina Jakes & Gwen Dwane**
- **Sasi Wallis & Jon Welch**
- **Kath & Gary Nepe**

Post Section play has been rescheduled for Labour Weekend Monday – fingers crossed the weather gods have finished with their games by then.