

Andalucian Championship 2016

Friday 23rd - Friday 30th September

Part One – Opening Ceremony:-

The Andalucian Championships are held biannually in Almeria Province and Malaga, open to all federated members of the two provinces clubs. The format is a knockout of any Mixed Fours, Men Pairs, Ladies Pairs and Singles. Three of the local Almeria bowling clubs hosted the games.

There was an excellent turn out of bowlers entering the Championships, Mixed Four's (39), Ladies Pairs (33), Men's Pairs (42), Ladies Singles (52) and Men's Singles (72). The huge amount of work putting this together was principle done by Dave Sewell, Competition Secretary and Ruth Compton, ably backed up by the rest of the committee and the generous support of the clubs.

The Opening Ceremony at Indalo bowling club on the Friday 23rd was a huge success attended by invited dignitaries, most of the competition players available, Indalo, helped to make the event the success it was by playing host to the Opening of the Championships and treating all to Paella and Cava. David Horton, Indalo President welcomed all and on behalf of the other participating clubs handed over the greens to the FAB Delegada, Ruth Compton.

Ruth then after thanking the president welcomed all guests, fellow bowlers, to the **2016 Andalucian Championship**. Individual thanks then were given to the organising committee which without their hard work all this would not be possible. She continued with thanks to other clubs for use of their greens, to John Sephton Vice President of CAUMA for organising the many umpires and markers required for the competition week, to David Sewell who took on the hard job of Competition Secretary at the last minute and who put together very concise schedules of disciplines and where they would be played.

Rightly so thanks were given to the sponsors who gave support, particularly Quentin Sellar of Blacktower Financial Services the main sponsor, also to Kevin of the **Leader** and publisher of the Bowls Espana magazine who printed the Championship brochure for us, and to Jill Cooper of Indalo bowling club who put many hours of hard work bringing this competition to the attention of local advertisers and the sponsors.

Ruth then introduced the FAB President, Jose Miguel Nieto [Ojeda](#) who was accompanied by his wife Paqui to say few words with the help of Carlos Alman translating. He echoed all the thanks above and the bowled the first bowl to declare the 2016 Andalusian Competition Open.

Other dignitaries attending was: National Director of Lawn Bowls, Robert Donnelly, Alcaldesa of Los Gallardos María Gonzales Martínez, Alcalde of Turre Martin Morales Fuentes

Part two - Competition Report Plus:-

Unfortunately early on at the start of the competition major re-scheduling was required due to the sad passing away of David Savage, a long term popular member of Indalo bowling club, when many Indalo members in the competition wished to attend his funeral. Dave Sewell did a great job sending out updates when necessary. However there was a couple of games that were missed and unable to be rescheduled.

All clubs shared the running of the different disciplines over the week reporting results to Dave each evening. The quality and professionalism of the players and club back-up was superb throughout the week.

To endorse this on Tuesday 27th we had two 'Hot Shots' at Indalo B.C. The question was asked when the Indalo team, Dennis Leigh, Chris Ivin, Linda and Keith Lester in the fours achieved a hot-shot, (All eight woods holding winning shots) the latter couple celebrating their 50th Anniversary. 'Was it a first in the Andalucian Championships? No, it wasn't, as later there was another, John Warn and Bill Davies from Malaga got an eight on end fouteen having lost a seven on end ten. On Wednesday 28th the Anniverary lady, Linda Lester and Chris Ivin from Indalo achieved another a hot shot against Carol Henshaw and Linda Harvey.

An important day Thursday 29th, when the competition reached the latter stages, Semi-Finals day ready for Friday's Finals Day. Because of the funeral and now the tremendous rain this seemed it was difficult to happen. However a miracle happened and at the start of 9.30am the rain stopped and the competitions commenced just a half an hour late with the weather holding until the end.

During the Thursday and Friday David Sewell with the help of the Finalists playing their games, worked their way through to the Semi's and Finals and the last Final, the Men's Singles finished at 5.45pm on Friday with David Sewell taking part. Thanks to Indalo for hosting this latter stage and for their members keeping all well fed and watered. The Support was noisy especially from the Malago contingent who made a clean sweep winning all five disciplines. The results and all happenings of the competition including the photographs taken by Vic Parsons and Kevin of the Leader Magazine will be found on Almeria Website <http://www.bowlingalmeria.com> on the home page under CAA Competitions.

Finally Jill Cooper did a great job in organising a closing ceremony at the Puntaza over the four days prior to completion of the competition. Hundred and twenty plus attended and had a great time. Ruth Compton thanked all for taking part, Jill of course and the Support she had received from the committee and all club members. Cash prizes were then awarded to the winners by the Sponsors, Quentin Sellar of Blacktower Financial Services.

Finally the outstanding players of the competition were awarded prizes. Ladies Player of the Championships Pat Fisher. Santa Maria, Malaga Mens: Gordon Kain, Milifloris, Malaga, Bowler of the Championships Arthur Lee, Almeria, Cabrera.

It must be said that the 2016 Andalucian Competition was a complete success and as our Delegada said it was all down to TEAM WORK !!!!!

Press Secretary
Vic parsons

