

## The Railway Inn Ladies Open Doubles - 27<sup>th</sup> July 2019

A report of the Annual Ladies Doubles event at the "RAILWAY"  
Sole Street by FAY GOLDER with photos by JACK MILNER

An overcast day brought in 11 Doubles teams for our annual Ladies doubles, including teams from the Railway, Hartley, Istead Rise, Whitstable, Bat and Ball, and with bacon rolls, Tea, Coffee and lots of chatter we gathered together.

Although the emphasis on this competition is FUN, we started with a one minute silence in memory of Josie Elvin - a long standing member of Hartley Country Club - who sadly passed away suddenly on Thursday. Josie was well known in the boule world and loved playing in this competition.

She will be missed by many. AJ named her home made apricot jam that Josie loved as 'Josie's Jam', and donated a jar to our raffle!

The theme this year was 'Fruit'. The format were leagues in the morning and seeded leagues in the afternoon. As usual, any men around were at the Ladies beck and call all day.

An odd number of teams meant we had two leagues of 4 and one league of 3, meaning a bye, so it was agreed that we allow two men to play left handed against the bye team. Regardless of the score, all bye teams had a win of 13-7 but this decision meant no team sat out which went down really well.

After the morning games two teams were on 3 wins and lying top were the Nectarines (Hartley's Mag Yates & Diane Bryant) with +22 followed in 2<sup>nd</sup> place by the Melons (also Hartley's Lynn Lucas & Hazel Teale). Scraping into 8<sup>th</sup> place of the main was last year's winners the Apricots (Bat & Balls Becky Edwin's & Carolyn Edwards). After lunch (set out in the restaurant of the Railway) the leagues were seeded from the morning's results. The 'Plate' competition replicated the mornings' league of 3, with the winners being The Greengages (Hartley's Chris Menzies & Janet Dobson), the Pears (Hartley's Jean Olley & Hilda Griffiths) and the Limes (Whitstable's Jane Atkinson & Jane Pomeroy). In the main leagues the Apricots found their form and were the only team to win all 3 games, being our eventual winners for the second year running. Runners up with two wins were the Rhubarbs - long standing England teammates (Railways Fay Golder & Istead Rise Sheila King). 4 teams were on two wins with only 9 points separating them. Another very successful, friendly, fun day as always. There were no losers because every person went home with a small gift plus prize money for the top two teams and winners of the plate.

A special thanks to Whitstable's, The Limes, with Coach Dave for coming along, even though the ladies are newbie players. It was great experience in a friendly competition and they say they had a great day. Thanks, as always, to our

helpers, especially: Steve G, Brian, Ray (the chef) AJ & Chris (Raffle), Dave, who ended up designated umpire and of course Jack Milner our photographer.

Not one team had to ring the bell and kiss the fanny, and there was not one drop of rain all day!



WINNING TEAM CAROLYN & BECKY

