

President's Report to the Regional AGM 14/11/09

As usual I would like to thank last year's committee. Running the region is not easy and the number of volunteers continues to reduce. In particular I would like to thank Bill who as Membership Secretary and Treasurer continues to put in a large amount of work behind the scenes.

2009 was a mixed year for Northern.

Regional and club events were generally well attended perhaps partly because the new national structure of premier and open leagues failed to attract any Northern players.

The major disappointment was of course the performance of the Northern squad at Brean Sands. We were demoted after 4 years in a row of being among the top 4 regions in the country.

The juniors did well to win 3 from 12 having been thrown in at the deep end.

Three of the senior teams won at least 50 % of their games (2 winning 7 and 1 winning 6) but this was outweighed by the number of teams who didn't have a good weekend.

The reasons are not obvious and do not include lack of trying but if there are any lessons to be learned we need to learn them in time to get promoted again next year.

The challenge squad finished in 6th place of the 13 regions taking part.

A much shorter than usual list of Northern players who did well in national tournaments with the only notable performance being from Pete Best who with Lisa Edmondson from East Midlands was runner up in the National Mixed pairs.

I would like to congratulate the winners of the regional tournaments this year who were

Singles- myself

Pairs - Mike Walkley and Neill rank who ended Luke & James' 4 year domination of the event.

Triples - Mike, Neill and myself

Player of the year - Andy Willis

We were joined by several new clubs this year. Although we knew they were joining for financial reasons to do with Sky TV licences it is disappointing that we have not gained any new terrains or players.

The 2 negative points I mentioned last year continue to be a concern

a) the lack of juniors

b) progress with developing an umpiring structure and a coaching structure (umpiring is outside our control).