

Mitchard gets late Christmas present

Golf round-up

Mendip

MENDIP Golf Club skipper Richard Jeffery finally held his delayed Christmas competition.

The individual competition was won by John Mitchard on 38 points, though there was a five-way tie for second a point back. Richard Salter was declared runner-up and B Wilkinson third.

In the team event, meanwhile, B Rawlings, S Coate, R Gumbleton and A Price were victors on 98 points, followed by Malcolm and Wayne Straley, Scott Butland and Chris Butland (97).

With an improvement in the weather, the green staff have been able to recommence the course maintenance programme.

Whilst still soft, the greens have been rolled, treatment has brought the colour back and they are putting well. The

remainder of the course continues to dry out and there is very little mud in evidence. The catering team are reintroducing Sunday lunches, with under-10s eating free.

Wedmore

BOTH the seniors and ladies played their first competitions of the new year, with a premium on keeping the ball on the fairway.

They were also the first competitions under the new higher handicaps allowances which, certainly for the seniors, created a very close finish.

They were playing a bowmaker and, despite the wet conditions, the scores were very good. A strong finish saw the team of Peter Bennett, Mike Peacock and Barry Stone take first on countback from John Bussell, Trevor Stone and Mike Smith after both teams finished on 85 points.

This was just a single point better than John Sim, Gary Cutter and Graham Clifford who themselves clinched third

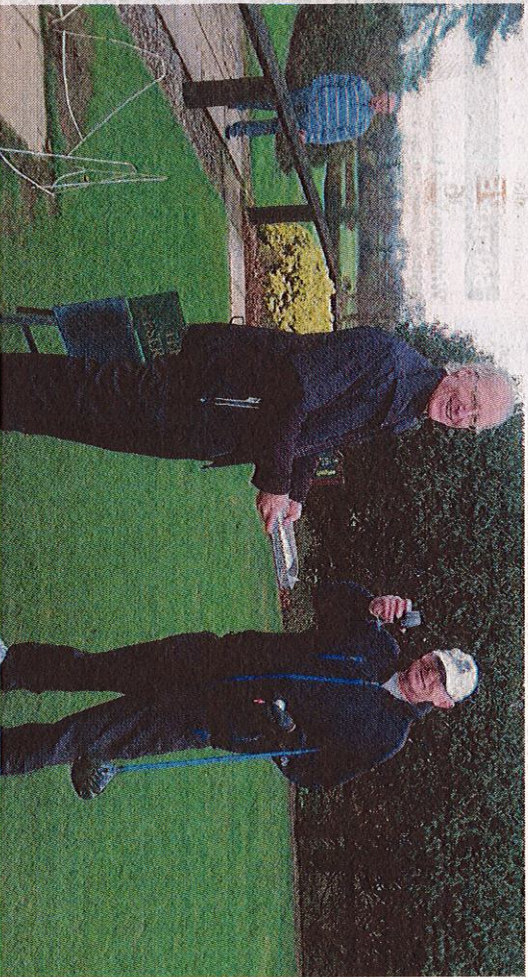
on countback.

The ladies are breaking themselves into the new year gently and played a nine-hole greensome. There was no need for countback this time with Ronnie Follenfant and Pam Berry clinching first on 20 points.

This put them just a point ahead of new captain Shirley Gooding, paired with Joan Peck, who in turn finished a point clear of third-placed Karen Barnett and Debbie Ramsell.

The final event of the week was the first of the Sunday afternoon Mixed Greensomes. With the rough still proving heavy going, it was decided to play a gentle 15 holes.

The scoring was still very respectable with second place decided on countback with Marion Warren-Smith and Chris Donald just taking the honours on 31 points. Ronnie Follenfant was proving unstoppable this week though and, partnering Tony Biggs, she took her second win of the week with 33 points.



Mendip's seniors captain Andy Frampton receives a welcome drink from vice-captain Brian Lewis at his drive-in event

League leaders wave White flag at Shepton

Bowls round-up

Shepton

WEST Shepton's White team had their best win this season when, playing at home, they beat Mendip Division 3 Short Mat League Leaders Tinsbury, winning by three points, 33-30.

Two seasons ago Tinsbury were playing in Division 1, but due to a shortage of playing members, they had to cease playing in league competition. Because of their absence, they have had to return to the lowest division.

Their leading position shows why they are, once again, a top bowls club, therefore it is a huge feather in the cap of the White team that they came out on top.

Hedley McClaurin skipped his rink to a 17-11 win, with Ray Swallow skipping the other rink, and restricting the opposition to a two-shot lead.

resulting in Shepton's overall win.

Having been 11-2 behind after just six ends on this rink, it was commendable that the Whites came back to within two points, and needing only three points from the last end to seal victory for both rinks. They came close, winning the last end by one point, but they had to take satisfaction from their part in the overall win.

Scores: Ann Blackmore, Terry Blackmore, Ray Swallow 16-18; Eve Swallow, Dave Coney, Hedley McClaurin 17-12.

Isle of Wedmore

THE men played in the County Two Rink Cup, home and away, against Clevedon and lost on both rinks, 48-26.

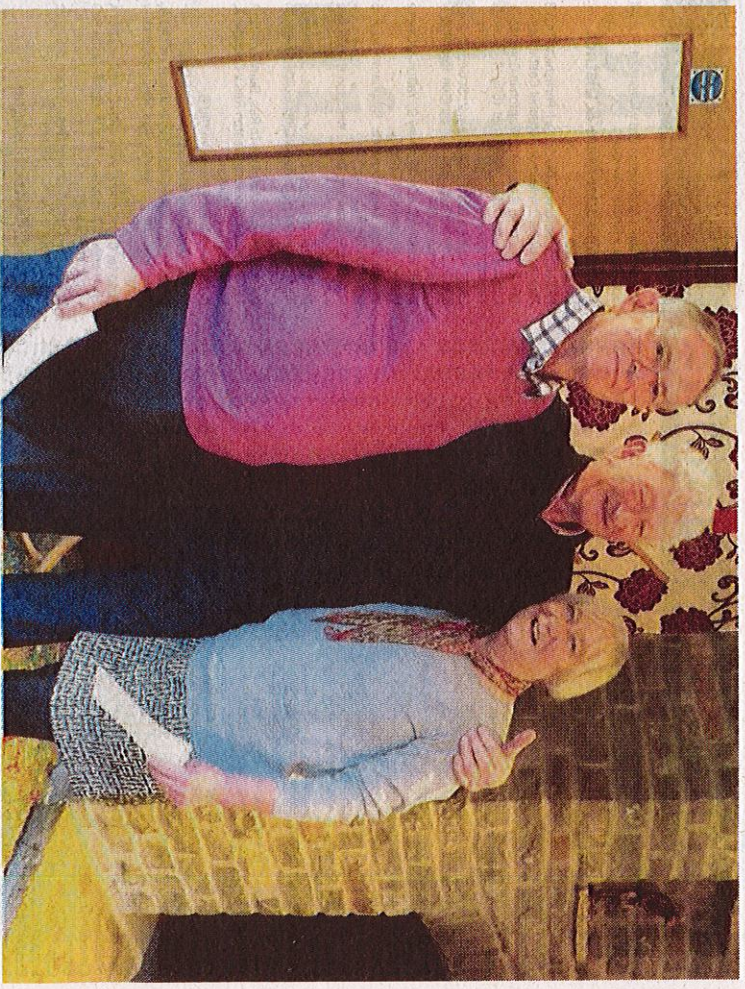
Colin Moss skippered the home side, who were never in front and simply couldn't contain the opposition. Eddie Payne's away rink managed to keep the damage down to five shots, losing 19-14. Wedmore won two mixed

friendlies, away to Woodspring and at home to Long Ashton. At Woodspring the score was 2-0 on rinks and 39-19 on overall shots.

Alan Birch's side took the lead on end four and steadily pulled away with a strong finish of nine shots on the last four ends, sealing the victory 25-8. Julie Master's team started well but lost the lead on end 11, after which it was a close game with the scores level on end 17. A three score on the last end clinched a win 14-11.

At Woodspring, Weston-super-Mare, it was 1-1 on rinks and 41-31 overall for Wedmore. Denis Stansfield's group took over on end two and, propelled by a six on end eight, canttered to victory, 26-14. Julie Masters and company started very well with an 11-shot lead at end ten.

Long Ashton then began to claw their way back, winning six of the remaining eight ends, including a six score, to squeeze out a winning score, 17-15.



Winners of this weekend's Mixed Greensomes at Wedmore, Tony Biggs and Ronnie Follenfant, with event organiser Tony Ireland

Strong start despite third in opening round

Swimming

THE Cotswold League Series started last Saturday and Round one for Wells Swimming Club was at Hutton Moor pool against Cinderford, Clevedon and Cwmbran. The team included members from the junior and adult (masters) sections.

Wells made a strong start to this year's league campaign, picking up first places in the men's open individual medley (Matt Lewis), Girls' 11 and under 25m freestyle (Asta Maddox) and 13 and under 25m breaststroke (Eddie Richardson). There were second places for the ladies' open individual medley (Eloise Yeardon Calger) and boys' 11 and under 25m freestyle (Kaleb Allom). Back swimming for Wells, Maisie Banwell was so strong in the 15

and under girls' individual medley and 50m backstroke, she received speeding tickets. Individual performances that stood out were Robert Passmore, first in the 15 and under breaststroke, Alisa Richardson, second in the 11 and under fly, Seth Allom, second in the 15 and under fly, Katie Chambers, second in the 15 and under freestyle, Maisie Banwell, second in 15 and under breaststroke, Matt Lewis, first in the open breaststroke, Marcus Williams, first in the open freestyle, Imogen Smith and Lachlan Taylor, both second in the 11 and under breaststroke and Declan Truan-Thatcher, second in the 13 and under backstroke.

But it was in the team events that Wells showed the most improvement. The boys' 11 and under team of Max Banwell, Lachlan Taylor, Theo

Truan-Thatcher, Kaleb Allom and Thomas Matiland Smith came second in both the medley and freestyle relays.

There were also second-place finishes for the girls' 11 and under team of Izara Hole, Bliss Sunblier, Evelyn Wigley and Asta Maddox in the freestyle relay, the boys' 13 and under team of Max Banwell, Cameron Taylor, Declan Truan-Thatcher and Seth Allom in the medley relay, the girls' 15 and under team of Tianna Allom, Eddie Richardson, Maisie Banwell and Katie Chambers in both the freestyle and medley relay and for the boys' 15 and under team of Seth Allom, Max Gittens, Robert Passmore and Cameron Taylor in the freestyle relay.

The all-round team effort ensured that Wells took third on the night and are looking forward to the next round.



The Wells Swimming Club Cotswold League team from the opening round of the Cotswold League