

# Federation of Crown Green Bowls

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## Federation Focus

The **National League** promoted by the **Federation of Crown Green Bowls** is approaching the end of its twelfth Season with the final scheduled fixtures due on the last Sunday in August. Mid-Cheshire "A" are favourites to take a third consecutive Division One title, Barnsley are strongly fancied in Division Two, Leeds are odds-on in the Third, Bury have already won the Fourth having completed their fixtures, UK Police and Airedale/Wharfedale are due to meet in a match which will decide Division Five and the match between Swadlincote and South Lancashire could well bear heavily on the Championship in Division Six although few postponed matches are still to play.

The July fixtures in **Division One** paired Mid-Cheshire "A" and Calderdale, both teams having one win to their credit since the Cheshire team arrived in the top Division in 2010. This year's result produced twelve individual winners for each team and both won their home leg aggregate but it was Mid-Cheshire who gained the four points for the overall aggregate win to give them an 18–14 final result. In their home leg at Owley Wood, played the day after the BCGBA Merit Finals, Mid-Cheshire had three winners to single figures including a 21–06 for Jason Cornes (Castle Private) whilst the best for Calderdale was Barry Collinge (Elland WM) 21–16. Calderdale used Greetland BC as their home venue for the first time, only a month after the Green had been covered in debris following flooding. Ian Booth (Elland WM) was outstanding for Calderdale with a result that exactly matched the effort of Jason Cornes at Owley Wood. The other match in this Division ended in a win for South Derbyshire over Fylde by four points (18–14) with once again the four points for overall aggregate being the decider. For their home leg South Derbyshire chose Littleover BC where the best of their winners was David Stevenson (Brackens) with a 21–07 result and for Fylde Craig Smith (Brickhouse) was the best of five winners (21–14). At Cleveleys WMC South Derbyshire also had five winners including the last three jacks, the best of which was Danny Harrison (Littleover) with a remarkable 21–02 result.

In **Division Two** Barnsley went to the top of the Table with a 20–12 (413–412) win over Cannock with nine winners at Penistone BC and five away at Heath Hayes Cons. In Penistone Danny Sillito (Dearne Sports) for Barnsley won to eleven but the best result of the leg (21–08) came from a visitor, T. Jones (Lea Hall). At Heath Hayes Shaun Goldthorpe top scored for Barnsley and Kevin Handley and Steve Chapman, both from the Windmill Club, each won 21–09 for the home team. Meanwhile in the other match in this Division Nuneaton enhanced their chances of moving back up to Division One with a 19–13 (414–389) win over Preston. Playing their home leg at Baddesley Colliery BC Nuneaton had nine winners, the best of which was homester Daryl Vyse (21–08), and Graham Pilkington (Far Cons) for the visitors won to nine. Over at Leyland and Farrington Social Club Preston started in the worst possible way losing all the first four jacks but recovered remarkably to win the next eight. The number one jack for Nuneaton, Alan Belcher (Haunchwood), won his game to five whilst leading the home team's recovery was Wayne Ditchfield (Hoghton) with a 21–07 win.

Furness consolidated their second place in **Division Three** with a 22–10 (431–395) win over Middleton, last Season's runaway leaders of Division Four, who have found the going much tougher in the higher Division. Furness had only one loser in their home leg at Lindal BC in Barrow with anchorman Martin Barrow (King Alfred) their best winner (21–07) with Gary Coverdale (North Chadderton) the lone winner (21–15) for Middleton. At the Springbank Club in Chadderton the Furness team added a further five individual winners the best of which was Stewart Turnbull (Barrow Island) with 21–11. The Middleton home team had four single figure winners led by Steve Mullington (Hebers) with 21–08 and comfortably won the home aggregate points by forty chinks but a seventy-six chinks deficit in Barrow meant the four points for overall aggregate went to

Furness. The other match in this Division brought Mid-Cheshire "B", with a 21—11 (447—412) win over Leeds "A", into contention for the second promotion spot. In their home leg at Winsford Cons Mid-Cheshire shared the individual wins with the West Yorkshire side and won the home aggregate by just three chinks. Matt Hamman (Castle Private) won to six for the home team and both Dave Smith (Garforth Rec.) and Andy Ford (Roundhay) both won 21—11 for the visitors. The Mid-Cheshire away team playing at Rothwell BC went one better than their counterparts winning seven games with Martin Kettle (Wharton Cons) their top-scorer with 21—09 whilst for Leeds "A" John Armitage (Pudsey Littlemoor) won to fourteen.

In **Division Four** Bury completed their Season with a 21—11 (446—400) win over their nearest challengers, South Lakes, to take an unassailable lead at the top of the Table finishing thirty-four league points ahead of their opponents who are in second place. Bury played their home leg at Tottington Conservative Club and had nine winners there with Pat McGuirk (Clarence Mixed) the top scorer on 21—06 and John Reid (Lune Road) the best of three winners for South Lakes. At Slyne BC in Lancaster the individual wins were shared 6—6 with the first and last jacks, Steve Cragg (Lune Road) and Wayne Downham (Bowling Green), both winning 21—09 for South Lakes and Matt O'Neill best for the visitors with a 21—13 result. South Lakes shaded their home aggregate (219—216) whilst Bury had an aggregate win at Tottington by fifty-three chinks and therefore added the four points for overall aggregate to their points total. In the other match in this Division Doncaster "A" equalled Fylde "A" for individual winners when they met at Pilling BC in Fylde and the South Yorkshire team had a comfortable aggregate win by nineteen chinks (222—203). Dave Wilson (Gardeners Arms) was Fylde's best winner (21—08) and Phil Stones (Carcroft WMC) played the perfect anchor role at number twelve for Doncaster winning 21—06. Sadly Fylde failed to raise a team for their away leg at Denaby Welfare in Doncaster. Doncaster will be awarded the four points for overall aggregate and also the defaulting teams worst away score when all the matches have been concluded, at the moment Fylde's worst score in an away leg is a 10—04 defeat potentially giving Doncaster ten further added points..

Only one match was played in **Division Five** that between Bolton "A" and Worth Valley which resulted in a 19--`13 win for the Lancashire team. At home at Hollywood Road Sports Club the Bolton side had three winners to single figures from their total of eight successful individuals and took the two points for home aggregate by forty-four chinks (229—185). Ray Perry (Gorses) and Dave Settle (Over Hulton) both won to seven and Andrew Patient (Over Hulton) was not far behind with his 21—09 result. For Worth Valley Ken Brenkley (Crosshills) had a comfortable win to ten. Over in North Yorkshire at Skipton Whinfield the best of seven winners for Worth Valley was Tony Beedom (Holmfield) who left his opponent on seven whilst Jim Vickers (Turton) went one chalk better for Bolton winning 21—06. Home aggregate points went to Worth Valley (223—188) with the overall four points collected by Bolton.

Again in **Division Six** only one match was played, the scheduled fixture between Rochdale Ladies and South Lancashire. At Thistleyfield BC in Milnrow the Ladies had five home winners with Pat Boocock (Rugby Road) turning in the best winning card 21—07 whilst South Lancashire's seven winners included three 21—11 results from Ian Seddon (Golbourne Sports and Social), Garth Smith (Gardeners) and Mick Bennett (Leigh Bowling). Over in South Lancashire at Leigh Miners Welfare the home team had only two losers and of their ten winners five were to single figures with Sandra Knight (Lowton) allowing her opponent just one single chalk. For the visiting Rochdale Ladies captain, Kath Jackson (Thistleyfield) won to ten and Cath Holt (T.B.A. Parks) won 21—14. South Lancashire won the aggregate points home and away and therefore the overall aggregate for a final score in their favour of 25—07 (452—362).

The junior, Intermediate and Youth Merits and the Sixty-Plus Merit already played will be featured in a special Federation Focus when the Open Merit to be held at Tadcaster BC on on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September, is completed.

**Brian Holgate**  
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