

Federation of Crown Green Bowls

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Federation Focus – Annual Review.

The 2014 Season saw the Federation of Crown Green Bowls take a huge leap forward with five new teams becoming members, two of them former affiliates.

Division One served up a shock with the top two teams from 2013, Mid-Cheshire “A” and Barnsley, both finishing in the relegation zone, the Cheshire side having four consecutive Championships to their credit. Crowned Champions after many years competing in this Division were **South Derbyshire** with the newly promoted teams Leeds “A” and Halifax close behind occupying the second and third spots respectively.

Preston topped **Division Two** although matched on 77 points by Fylde they won their head to head match and will be promoted as Champions to make their debut in Division One. Nuneaton retained their place in the Division by finishing third six points ahead of Rochdale with Cannock Chase occupying the bottom spot.

Division Three was hotly contested with **Middleton** coming out on top two points ahead of Airedale and Wharfedale and both should be moving onwards and upwards to help form a strong Division Two next year. Ormskirk occupied the third, safety, spot with Furness and South Lakes scheduled to take a downwards step.

Bury finished top of **Division Four**, having previously taken the title once before in 2010, whilst in second place was Mid-Cheshire’s second team, obviously wanting to bring them a step closer to their “A” team. Doncaster “A” occupied the middle ground with North Yorkshire and Fylde “A” in the relegation places.

The five new teams for 2014 were placed together in a newly formed **Division Five** and four of the five teams were to perform strongly and arguably all four would merit a higher status next Season. **Colne Valley** from Huddersfield were to finish as Champions on eighty-five points with Wallasey in second place just six points adrift and East Lancashire third. Menai and Preston “A” are the two teams facing relegation with the former likely to be too strong for Division Six but Preston should find the opposition next Season much less formidable.

Divisions Six and Seven were each limited to four teams so the top team from each played an extra match to determine which of them would enter the Team Champion of Champions Competition. Worth Valley were to win Division Six with literally the last wood of the last match of the Season against their Yorkshire rivals Leeds “B” whilst Bolton won Division Seven with Airedale and Wharfedale “B” close behind. South Lancashire and UK Police in Division Six and Doncaster “B” and Rochdale Ladies in Division Seven took up the bottom spots. Worth Valley won the playoff with Bolton to enter the Team Champion of Champions.

Press Officer, Brian Holgate.

