

Federation of Crown Green Bowls

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Sixty-Plus Teams – Supreme Championship

The Supreme Championship for Sixty-Plus teams took place at Hare Hill Park in Littleborough where the top two teams in Lancashire and Yorkshire met to determine the honours. Preston the Lancashire League's top team and runners-up Rochdale competed with Worth Valley, the winners of the Yorkshire League, and Halifax & District the runners-up in a round robin of matches on the two excellent Hare Hill Park Greens which and were a credit to the lady Green Keeper.

The first session of matches paired Halifax with Rochdale, with the first four jacks on Green Number One and the second four on Green Number Two, whilst at the same time Worth Valley and Preston played using the two Greens in reverse order. Rochdale and Halifax shared individual winners, four each, but Rochdale took the aggregate points to win 6 – 4 (150 - 122) with John Halliwell top scoring for Rochdale and Brian Winrow best for Halifax. Meanwhile the Worth Valley team were registering a fine 8 – 2 (162 – 118) win against Preston with Mick Duke outstanding for Worth Valley and Phil Parkinson the best of Preston's two winners.

The second session of matches paired Halifax with Preston and despite having only three winners to Preston's five it was Halifax who picked up the overall aggregate two points by just seven chalks (153 - 148) due to five high scoring losers and another excellent win for Brian Winrow whilst Ian Tennant was best for Preston. Worth Valley shared individual winners with Rochdale and took the aggregate points 157 – 141 for a 6 – 4 score-line with Mick Bastow registering the best result for Worth Valley and Howard Warren top scoring for Rochdale.

After the two sessions Worth Valley led with 14 points with Rochdale on ten, Halifax had nine and Preston seven.

The third and final session of matches brought Halifax up against the leaders, Worth Valley, and despite an outstanding effort by Roger Stopford (21 – 06) and four scores in the top teens Halifax went down 8 – 2 (149 – 132) with Mick Bastow for Worth Valley having a significant effect (21 – 04) on the overall result. Preston also had an 8 -2 result against Rochdale with Ian Tennant leading the way again whilst Brian Oakes was the better of the two Rochdale winners.

Worth Valley won their second Supreme Championship having first succeeded four years ago in Blackburn. Final table, Worth Valley 22, Preston 15, Rochdale 12 and Halifax 11. Individually for Worth Valley Mick Bastow topped their averages with an outstanding +12.67 with Mick Duke on +9.33.

Brian Holgate, Press Officer