

Federation of Crown Green Bowls

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Sixty-Plus Leagues.

For 2014 the Federation's Sixty-Plus Leagues were reduced to two, both played on Fridays, with the North West League played at Fox Lane Sports and Social Club in Leyland and the Yorkshire League played at East End Park in Leeds. Nine teams competed in Leyland and eight were entered in Leeds but the Leeds "B" team sadly withdrew after playing only two matches because of a clash of fixtures with a local Team Knockout. The top two teams in the North West League at the end of the Season and the top two from the Yorkshire League would contest the Sixty-Plus Supreme Championships in September.

Preston were to become Champions of the North Western League beating Rochdale into second place by a comfortable twelve points with the crucial fixture between the two, played in early August, resulting in a significant win for the eventual Champions by eight points to two. The Champions finished off the Season in some style winning their last two matches by 9 – 1 against Grange and 8 – 2 against Bury to finish on 65 points twelve clear of Rochdale. Bury finished in third place on 42.

Over in Leeds two near neighbours Worth Valley and Halifax were in close contention for the Championship and when in early August Halifax beat Worth Valley 6 – 4 (150 – 122) and completed their fixtures to finish on 42 points it left Worth Valley eleven points in arrears but with two matches still to play. Leeds "A" were the first opponents for Worth Valley on the final day of matches and Leeds showed their best form to shock the Valley by winning 6 -4 (138 - 137), taking the aggregate two points by a single chalk. Worth Valley now needed to win their last match, against Leeds "C", by at least 8 – 2 to guarantee the title and in fact went one step further winning 9 – 1 (163 – 112) to give them 44 points and a two point advantage over Halifax, Leeds "A" finished in third place.

Preston, Rochdale, Worth Valley and Halifax thus qualified for the Supreme Championships in Littleborough at Hare Hill Park on Friday 5th September

Brian Holgate
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