

Federation of Crown Green Bowls

Press Officer

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Individual Merit 2014

Played on two of the three Greens at Roe Lee Park in Blackburn the Individual Merit attracted an entry of fifty-one and with good weather and first class catering all the players and spectators had an excellent day out. The only former winner in the field, Tony Riley (Halifax) in Leeds 2012 reached the last sixteen losing 18 – 21 to Steve Walker (North Yorkshire).

The winner Phil Biram (Middleton) started in the preliminary round and had to win six games over a long day to take the title. In the prelims he took out East Lancashire's Dave Shaw in what on paper was his hardest game (21 – 15) thereafter Chris Bly (Bury) reached 13, Dylan Williams (Menai) just failed to reach double figures, Mick Lee (East Lancashire) did get to double figures, just, and Steve Walker (North Yorkshire) was the second opponent to finish on the unlucky sum by which time Phil had reached the final.

In the other half of the draw, but starting from the first round proper, Chris Rigby (North Yorkshire), who was runner-up in this competition to Steve Brenkley (Worth Valley) in 2011, began with a comfortable win (21 – 10) against Neil Spencer (East Lancashire) followed this up with a close result (21 – 19) over Barry Harris (Menai) left Brian Leonard (Wallasey) on four and reached the final by beating Bill Stemp (East Lancashire) in another close game (21 – 19).

The final saw Chris go into an early lead, winning four of the first five ends with singles, only for Phil to quickly stamp his mark on the game and after nine ends the pair were level pegging at six across. After that it was almost all Phil Biram with Chris Rigby picking up only three more singles to reach his total of nine and for Phil, describing his success as the best of his career, to proudly take the trophy back to Middleton.

Brian Holgate
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