

Federation of Crown Green Bowls

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Phase Two matches in the National League brought some high scoring results with Dudley & District in Division Five the tops with a 28 – 4 score-line and North Yorkshire in Division Four close behind them with their 27 – 5 victory.

In **Division One** Middleton recovered well from their defeat by Leeds in the April fixture to beat their close rivals from last season, Airedale & Wharfedale, 19 -13 with the overall aggregate four points claimed by a narrow eleven chinks margin (426 – 415), one of two lowest aggregates of the day (See also UK Police in Division Six). Middleton's ten winners in their home leg were led by Steve Mellor (Nimble Nook) with a striking 21 – 4 win whilst for Airedale Graham Oliver (Guiseley) was the best of their two winners (21 – 18). Middleton's away squad on the other hand managed only three winners with Paul Heap (Springbank) outstanding with his 21 – 9 effort and for Airedale Martyn Benson (Rufford) was the best of three single figure winners (21 – 8). The second match in this Division saw Halifax & District pick up six winners in their away leg against Fylde "A" with four more visitors reaching twenty but failing to notch that final chalk. Top scoring for Halifax was Mark Regan (Brighouse Sports) with a 21 – 9 result and for Fylde Mel Byrom with 21 – 15 was the best of their six winners. The Halifax home team fared less well winning just five individual games with Mark McGorlick (Akroydon Victoria) the best (21 – 9) and Joe Carr (Park Club) won to single figures (21 – 7) for Fylde. Overall Result Halifax 19 (452) - Fylde 13 (419). Leeds & District had the bye in this Division.

The only match in **Division Two** saw Nuneaton take the honours in a match of two halves with Rochdale with the North Midlands side winning 19 – 13 (429 – 380) the Nuneaton side had eleven individual winners in their home leg but managed only two in Rochdale. In the Midlands Dave Lee (Haunchwood) was the best of five single figure home winners with a 21 – 4 result and Ben Stapleton (Beursil) was the lone winner for Rochdale (21 – 19). Up in Lancashire Rochdale almost matched Nuneaton having ten home winners, Andy Lowe (Healey) top scoring with 21 – 8 and Harry Chapman (Atherston Grove) the best for Nuneaton (21 – 14). The scheduled match for May between Barnsley and Preston "A" has been rearranged and Bury had the bye in the May fixture list.

Colne Valley had an impressive result in **Division Three** beating Mid-Cheshire 23 – 9 (429 – 385) including aggregate wins both home and away and hence the overall aggregate points. The best of nine home winners for the Huddersfield team was Liam Fallas (Crosland Moor) with a 21 – 8 result whilst Dave Stanley (Rudheath) for the visitors won to thirteen. Meanwhile in Cheshire the individual winners were shared equally with Dennis Leather (Comberbach) the best home winner with his 21 – 6 and Andrew Heaume (Canalside) for the visitors restricted his opponent to just two chinks. Also in this Division Furness and Ormskirk were well matched with twelve individual wins each and both having eight home winners but the difference which brought a 18 – 14 (424 – 401) match result for Furness was all down to their seventy-four chinks aggregate home win although Ormskirk's fifty-one home win was nothing to be ashamed of. Sharing best home wins for Furness were Tony Whitehouse (King Alfred) and Danny Rogers (Salthouse) with 21 – 6 and for Ormskirk

John Mills (Burscough RBL) top scored with 21 – 14. Down in West Lancashire Tim Hodge (Railway Rebels) had the best win of the entire match with a 21 – 4 result for the home team and Richard Allen (Roose Community) for the Cumbrian team won to twelve. Wallasey had the bye in the May fixture list.

The outstanding result in **Division Four** was that of North Yorkshire who beat near neighbours Leeds “B” 27 – 5 with a seventy chalk overall aggregate win (455 – 385). Paul Worsnop (Bilton WM) and Andrew Dodsworth (Bardsey) led the way in North Yorkshire’s home leg each with 21-11 but this was surpassed by M. Lally (Roundhay) with his single figure win (21 – 7) for Leeds. Further south in Yorkshire in Leeds D. Cookson (Cranmore) was the best of only three home winners with a 21 – 5 result whilst for North Yorkshire Adam Varley (Black Swan) made it eight winners in a row for the visitors (nine overall) with his 21 – 9 win. East Lancashire met South Lakes in the other match in this Division with the team from the Red Rose county coming out on top with their 18 – 14 win (438 – 409). This was another match finely balanced with the individual wins shared equally in both legs but with East Lancashire’s better home aggregate ensuring them the four points for overall aggregate and hence the match win. In East Lancashire Ralph Westwell (Witton) had an outstanding 21 – 2 result and last man on, David Liley (Trimpell), completed an all winning last four jacks for the visitors with his 21 – 12 win. In South Lakes Danny Lofthouse (Bowling Green) for the home team top scored with 21 – 6 whilst the East Lancashire pair Gary Evans (Two Gates) and John Roberts (Olive Park) both won to fourteen. South Lancashire had the May bye in this Division.

Division Five includes three teams new to the Federation National League and two of them were in opposition when Dudley & District met Southport with the Midlands team meriting their outstanding 28 – 4 (466 – 302) victory, the best overall aggregate win of the day in all the Divisions. The home leg for Dudley produced eleven winners with Paul Rolls (Mitchell & Butler) the best (21 – 5) of no fewer than seven players who won to single figures and Southport’s lone winner (21 – 18) was Brian Coleman (Feetwood Hesketh), the Southport Association’s Secretary. Meanwhile back in the West Lancashire area Chris Porter (Botanic) gave Southport the perfect start with his 21 – 02 result but only two more winners were to follow with Wayne Berry (Cradley Heath Liberals) for Dudley winning to three to consolidate a thirty-nine aggregate away win. Mon Menai played Airedale & Wharfedale “B” also in this Division and it was the Welsh team who opened their Season with a convincing 24 – 8 (449 – 393) win. In Wales the best three individual results of the day were all 21 – 9 with Elfyn Jones (Beaumaris) an early home winner but this was to be double matched by Roy Knowles (Burley) and Andy Howe (Eccleshill) for the visitors in what were Airedale’s only two away wins of the day. In Yorkshire Airedale had six of the twelve individual wins with David Norris (Guseley) best with 21 – 11 whilst for the Welsh visitors Sion Roberts (Bethesda) won to eight. Liverpool/St Helens sat this one out with the bye.

The eight teams which make up **Division Six** are divided geographically into a North West Section and one which includes the Midlands and Yorkshire teams along with the national team of UK Police. In the **Division Six - North West Section** Fylde “B” registered a big win over Rochdale Ladies 26 – 6 (465 – 302), the aggregate score marginally inferior to that of Dudley by just one chalk less scored (See above). Playing at the Waterloo Hotel in Blackpool the Fylde team were off to a great start when their number one Gary Sanderson (Gardeners) won to two but undaunted the Ladies battled on to have three winners of their own, the best of which was Pam Pemberton (Shaw RBLA) with a comfortable 21 – 15 result. In the Rochdale area the Ladies also notched up three individual victories with Joyce Jones (Syke) a single figure winner (21 – 9) but this was to be eclipsed by Fylde’s Jack Livsey (Pilling) who conceded just the one chalk in his game. Still in the North West Bolton edged out their near neighbours Preston “B” with a 19 – 13 result taking the overall aggregate four points by twenty-three chalks (432 – 409). Bolton’s home team had eight winners with Mark Owen (Westhoughton S & S) the best with 21 – 9 whilst for Preston Colin Johnstone (Browndedge) went one

better winning to eight. Over in Preston Stewart Nelson (Lostock Cons) for the home team was the best of their seven winners and Andy Hurst (Plodder Lane) top scored for the visitors with his 21 – 8 result.

In **Division Six – Midlands & Yorkshire** the outstanding result came from Bradford who fielded two Yorkshire County players and a County reserve in their home squad against Burton with two of the three, Stuart King (Asa Briggs) and James Davison (Eccleshill), sharing top score, each with 21 – 4 results whilst for Burton Daniel Laughlin (Cons Club) was the best of their two winners (21 – 10). In Burton Nick Ford (Washlands) was the best of the four winners for the home team with his 21 – 4 result and for Bradford both Mark Cunningham (Shipley Club) and Neil Tordoff (Wyke) with 21 – 9 were the best of their eight winners. Final result Bradford 26 (438) – Burton 6 (341). Also in this Division the UK Police team got off to a winning start to their Season by beating Doncaster 19 – 13 (421 – 410) which incidentally was one of two lowest aggregates of the day at eleven charks. At the UK Police home venue Paul Bradley (Derbyshire) gave the Police the perfect start, playing at first jack, with a 21 -5 result, which turned out to be the best score of the match, and for Doncaster their number twelve Neil Gregory (Pikingtons Rec.) top scored with 21 – 10. In Doncaster David Topham (Woodlands Park) was the best of six winners for the home team whilst the Police had two players sharing top billing when Dave Smith (Derbyshire) and Margaret Lloyd (West Yorkshire) both won to ten.

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