

Federation of Crown Green Bowls

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Federation Focus – June Results.

With the June fixtures completed some National League teams have completed three quarters of their matches whilst the majority have completed half and the seven Divisional Tables are beginning to take shape and some teams will be already eyeing up their promotion or even Championship chances whilst others must be contemplating the drop. Leading the potentially upwardly mobile teams are Fylde “B” and Southport in Division Six(B) with sixty seven and sixty four points respectively already in the bag . The outstanding results in June were the Leeds “B” 26 – 6 (468 -398) result against Bolton in Division Five and Colne Valley’s 24 – 8 (444 – 362) win in Division Two. Interest in the Federation continues apace with several new areas registering an interest for next year.

In the top of the table clash in **Division One** Barnsley had their lead at the top cut to just four points as they went down to reigning champions Leeds “A” 12 – 20 (413 – 443). Barnsley had seven winners in their home leg at Penistone but managed only three away at Rothwell BC. In Penistone Barnsley’s top scorers Earnie Waring and Andy Whitaker both from Dearne Sports each won to single figures and the home team took the aggregate two points with a modest eighteen chinks advantage, best for Leeds was Graham Franklin (Tadcaster) with his 21 – 8 result. In Rothwell nine winners for Leeds brought them a home win by forty-eight chinks which gave them the two home aggregate and four overall aggregate points. For Leeds home player Mark Holmes and Simon Walder (Holbeck Ltd.) won to eight and nine respectively whilst Chris Fowler (Maltby) was the best of Barnsley’s three winners with 21 – 8. The local derby match between the two bottom teams, Bury and Middleton, went the way of the former with once again a better home performance the deciding factor. Bury playing their home match at Turton BC started most positively with the first five individual winners with Middleton winning five of the next seven. Bury had three winners to single figures, Lee Bleakley (Tottington Cons) 21 – 6, Chris Harris (Prestwich Cons) 21- 9 and Matt O’Neill (Hollinhurst) 21 – 4 whilst Middleton’s best two results were from John Blezzard(Ashton C&BC) and Steve Mellor (Nimble Nook) both 21 – 10. At the AEU Club in Openshaw Middleton had seven winners with Charley Roberts (Nimble Nook) having the outstanding result (21 – 8) and John Pearson and Roger Church, both Huntley Unionist, top scoring for Bury, and both 21 – 12. Final Result Bury 19 (424) Middleton 13 (401). July fixtures are Leeds v Bury and Middleton v Halifax the latter rearranged to 30 July.

Colne Valley moved to the top of the table in **Division Two** when beating Fylde “A”_but Wallasey are just twelve points behind with a match in hand. At Slaithwaite the Colne Valley team dominated their home leg having ten winners, three to single figures, through Jack Dyson (Thongsbridge) 21 – 4, Craig Gant (Thongsbridge) 21 – 9 and home player Tom

Graham 21 – 6, whilst the two winners for Fylde were Craig Smith (Brickhouse) and Hugh Hornby (St Michaels) with 21 – 18 and 21 – 11 respectively. Over at Fleetwood BC the individual wins were shared with Colne Valley starting the stronger with six wins out of the first eight jacks only for Fylde to win the last four but just fail to snatch the aggregate points losing by four chalks (201 – 205). Final result Colne Valley 24 (444) Fylde “A” 8 (362). The other title chasers, Wallasey, were at the same time doing battle with Airedale & Wharfedale “A” and in their home leg on the Wirral playing at New Brighton Quarry Vikings nine winners, including four to single figures, brought a comfortable win by forty-six chalks (225 – 179). The four big winners for Wallasey were Ian Hazlehurst (NB Queens Royal) 21 – 9, home player Josh Bunting 21 -8, Rob Fitzpatrick (West Kirby Victoria) 21 – 7 and Mathew Gilmore (NB Queens Royal) 21 – 5 whilst for Airedale Luke Teale (Guiseley) and Daniel Teale (Rufford) were the best of their three winners both with 21 – 11. Over in Farsley situated twixt Leeds and Bradford seven winners brought a home win for Airedale but the margin of victory by twenty-three chalks meant the all important four points for overall aggregate went to Wallasey to give them an overall win of 20 – 12 (429 – 406). Starring for Airedale were John Benson and Ryan Benson, both Rufford Park with 21 – 2 and 21 – 11 respectively and home player, Chris Hight, also 21-11 whilst for the visitors Owen Doyle (NB Quarry Vikings) was the best with his 21 – 14 result. The July fixtures pair Nuneaton with Airedale and what could be a title decider between Colne Valley and Wallasey the two teams having progressed together year by year from Division Five in 2013 with the Huddersfield team always on top. Perhaps the honours may switch over in 2017.

A stunning home leg win for South Lancashire over near neighbours Rochdale by eighty chalks at The Bucks Head in Abram near Wigan was the outstanding performance in **Division Three**. The South Lancashire team had ten winners with five of them to single figures with John Hayes (Golbourne S&S) starting the ball rolling at number four with his 21 – 6 result followed by Jack Marrow (Garswood Hall) in the second four with 21 – 4 and then the final flourish from home player George Chadwick and Ian Dennis (Golbourne S&S) with scores of 21 – 2 and 21 – 9 respectively in the last four. There were only two winners for Rochdale through Ben Stapleton (21 – 14) and Tom Eccles (21 – 12), both players being from the Buersil Club. Meanwhile in Rochdale at Bamford BC another significant big result (251 – 183) for the home team could not match the result at The Bucks Head but eleven winners for Rochdale meant the balance of winners went in their favour but with the overall aggregate four points going to South Lancashire. Top scorers for Rochdale were John Taylor (Whitworth) and Alan Rushton (Buersil) both winning to nine and for the visitors the one winner was John Platt (Leigh RU) 21 – 20. Final result South Lancashire 15 (419) Rochdale 17 (407). Also in this Division North Yorkshire moved above Mid-Cheshire into top spot with a 22 – 10 result over Liverpool/St Helens as Mid Cheshire had their bye. At The Black Swan in Harrogate the North Yorkshire home team won their leg by the closest possible margin (216 – 215) with wins for both their number eleven and twelve players crucial for the aggregate home points. Carol Sunter (Bilton Dragon) top scored for the home team (21 – 7) whilst for Liverpool/St Helens Dave Carter (Halewood) and Phil Aspinall (Ecclestone) were the best of their six winners both 21 – 12. Over at the Unison Sports & Social Club in St Helens the visiting North Yorkshire team had an impressive eight winners and picked up the aggregate point by the narrow margin of just eight chalks gaining them all eight aggregate points. Best for North Yorkshire were David Spilsbury (Low Harrogate) with 21 – 8 and Dave Rowson (Black Swan) a 21 – 10 winner. For the home team George Curran (Ecclestone) won to four.

Final result North Yorkshire 22 (432) Liverpool/St Helens 10 (423). The July fixtures feature a local derby when South Lancashire meet Liverpool/St Helens with Rochdale due to play Mid Cheshire and for North Yorkshire the bye.

In **Division Four** with leaders, Dudley, having the bye the two teams immediately below them, East Lancashire and Ormskirk, both had an opportunity to move to the top and it was East Lancashire who seized their chance. At Darwen Subs the East Lancashire players won the first seven games and then the last four for a home leg win by ninety-one chinks (246 - 155) with three home players winning to single figures, Dean Butler (St Andrews) to four, Steve Clamp (Colne CC) to seven and Craig Rammel (Rishton Con) also to seven. The only winner for Ormskirk was number eight Jimmy Fagan (Burscough RBL) with a 21 – 15 result. Over at the Brooke Hotel in Crosby Ormskirk had eight winners with Gary Stephens (Railway Rebels) top scoring (21 – 9) whilst for the visitors Alan Lord (Butlers) also won to nine. East Lancashire won the match 21 – 11 (452 – 382) and moved over Dudley to top the table. Also in this Division there was another local derby with South Lakes taking on Furness. Furness staged their home leg at West Shore, Walney, where a close match ensued with each side having six winners. South Lakes set off in fine form with four winners from the first six jacks but then back came Furness with the next four wins with the visitors then taking the last two. The closeness of this Cumbrian encounter is indicated by the fact that there was only one single figure winner of the whole fixture and that was Paul Thornton (Lindal) at West Shore with a 21 – 6 score-line whilst for South Lakes Steve Greenaway (Lune Road) top scored with 21 – 11. A home leg win for Furness but only by eight chinks (217 – 209). Six winners to each team at West Shore and the same at Carnforth with equal share of the individual wins. Danny Kirby (Galgate) and David Clarkson (Lune Road) were joint top scorers for South Lakes with their 21 – 11 results and for Furness Martin Barrow (King Alfred) with 21 – 14 was best of their six. The last three jacks all went in favour of Furness but only narrowed the aggregate gap to eighteen chinks which mean the overall aggregate went to South Lakes for an 18 – 14 win (431 – 421). Next fixtures Ormskirk v South Lakes and Furness v Dudley with East Lancashire having the bye.

In **Division Five** with Mon Menai sitting this one out with their bye both Bradford and Leeds “B” had an opportunity to move into top spot and both teams were to register big wins. Bradford played their home leg against Warrington at the Shipley Club and had nine individual winners and a convincing 11 – 3 (237 – 177) home win with Stuart King (Asa Briggs) and home player Mathew Jacques both restricting their opponents to seven chinks and Matt Humphrys (King & Queen) the best winner for Warrington (21 – 14). Meanwhile over at Bank Park No 1 in North Warrington individual winners were shared six to each team. Damian Morrison (King & Queen) and Dave Penketh (St Oswalds) both were single figure winners for Warrington, to four and five respectively whilst Bradford’s Mark Cunningham (Shipley Club) won to eight. A home win for Warrington but only by 16 chinks meaning Bradford picked up the overall aggregate four points to consolidate a fine 21 – 11 (433 – 389) result. Leeds “B” at the same time were beating Bolton even more convincingly with a 26 – 6 (468 – 398) result to move into top spot in the Division. At Tadcaster BC the Leeds team had ten winners with Dale Hardcastle (Chapel Street) and Dave Waldron (Swillington) sharing the honours, each winning to ten, the two winners for Bolton were Ken Shaw (Railway) and Peter Howard (Edgeworth) who won to nineteen and fifteen respectively. Over in Westhoughton the visiting Leeds team quickly took control winning

three of the first four jacks, two of the second four and again three of the last four for a comfortable away win by twenty-three chinks. Frank Thompson (Horwich RMI) and Ray Sale (Lostock BC) won to single figures for Bolton, seven and nine respectively, and John Armitage (Pudsey Littlemoor) won to nine for Leeds. The July fixtures give either Bradford or Mon Menai the chance to overtake Leeds as Leeds have the bye whilst the bottom two teams Warrington and Bolton also meet.

Airedale & Wharfedale "B" strengthened their position in **Division 6A** with a comprehensive 23 – 9 (431 – 395) result against Cheshire Parks. In their home leg at the Adel War Memorial Club in North Leeds Airedale had eight winners with Ken Lee (Rufford Park) top scoring (21 – 6) and John Cunningham (Shaw Heath Park) the best of the two visiting winners (21 – 8). Meanwhile over in Stockport at the Bungalow Club the Cheshire Parks team had only five winners but still ran Airedale very close losing their home leg by just one chalk (208 – 209) with visiting number twelve and top scorer, Peter Hepworth (Myrtle Park), winning to eight to snatch the two aggregate points. Best for Cheshire Parks was home player Michael Egerton who won to seven. Another close encounter in this Division was a single chalk win (214 – 213) for Burton in the home leg of their match with top of the table UK Police. Playing at Swadlincote Catholic Club the Burton team hung on to take the aggregate points by one chalk despite the last three jacks being won by the Police team. Home player Richard Baldwin won to seven whilst for the Police Tony Batchelder (Derbyshire Force) conceded only four chinks to his opponent. Over in West Yorkshire at Hove Edge WM, situated between Brighouse and Halifax, the individual wins were equally shared with Burton winning four of the first five jacks but here again the Police finished well taking the last two jacks for a twenty-seven chalk aggregate win. Andy Chadwick (West Yorkshire) won to three for the Police and Darren Slaley (Netherseal) won 21 – 8 for the visitors. Final result UK Police 19 (428) Burton 13 (402). The July fixtures pair UK Police with Airedale & Wharfedale "B" and Cheshire Parks meet Doncaster "A" with Burton having the bye.

Only one, very very tight, match was played in **Division 6B** that between Southport and Fylde "B", the other scheduled match having been rearranged to a later date. The overall aggregate points were tied (423 – 423), both teams won their home leg aggregate points by eighteen chinks, individual wins were shared at Southport but Fylde edged the match (17 – 15) having seven winners in their home leg. At Hesketh Arms three Southport players vied for best wins all having 21 – 12 results. They were Roy Webster, Dave Pritchard (both Banks St. Stephens) and Matty Greenwood (Holmeswood) whilst Fylde's Jim Sealy (Marton Institute) top scored for the visitors 21 – 13. Back in Fylde meanwhile at Hambleton Social Club Fylde opened positively with the first four winners which included top scorer Gary Sanderson (Gardeners BC) with 21 – 6 only for Southport to fight back with five wins in the next eight with Tony Wakefield (Fleetwood Hesketh) winning to eight to be the leading visitor and Fylde's Paul Taylor (Gardeners BC) another single figure winner with 21 – 9. A close match and both teams are clear at the top of the Division with Fylde having a three point advantage. Fylde sit out the next fixtures with a bye which gives Southport the chance to set a tough target when they meet near neighbours Preston in July with the second fixture Rochdale Ladies against Doncaster "B".

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