

# Federation of Crown Green Bowls

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## National League – 2018 - Match Day One

Thirty-five teams set out on this the eighteenth Season of National League Bowls promoted by the Federation of Crown Green Bowls, no doubt all with high aspirations but there will be only one Champion in each of the seven Divisions, each having five teams. Doncaster return after missing out in 2017 and a welcome is extended also to the new teams, Cheshire Parks, Heywood and Ormskirk "A". Opportunity is there for all the teams, from Division Two downwards, to win promotion to Division One, which this Season looks as strong as it has ever been.

The April fixtures in **Division One** saw Wallasey, embarking on their first Season in the top flight after four successive promotions, alongside Colne Valley, meeting Halifax a regular in the top Division. Both venues had royal connections with Halifax using Akroydon Victoria and Wallasey hosting their leg of the match at West Kirby Victoria. Halifax took control of their home leg winning consecutive games from two to seven and Wallasey finished well winning the last two. Top scoring for Halifax was Robert Hitchen (Elland WM) with a 21 – 3 score-line whilst for Wallasey Mike Havern (New Brighton Quarry Vikings) posted their best score with a 21 – 15 result. Halifax had a seventy-one chalk advantage on their home leg with eight individual winners to Wallasey's four. Over on the Wirral the home team started well with the first two winners and finished well with two winners from the last four whilst Halifax registered five winners the best of which was Scott Tattersley (Lower Hopton) with 21 – 13. For Wallasey their top scorer was number one jack, Craig Saville (New Brighton Queens Royal), with 21 – 9. A twenty four chalk aggregate home win for Wallasey saw the overall aggregate going the way of Halifax (452 – 405) to give the Yorkshire side a winning 19 – 13 final result. Also in this Division Leeds & District met Barnsley & Wath in a battle of the two most recent Champions of this Division, a match won convincingly by Leeds 23 – 9 (448 – 394). The Leeds home team chose Pudsey Littlemore for their venue and were probably surprised when they had to share the individual winners with Barnsley and register only a modest twenty-two chalk home aggregate win. Best for Leeds were Mark Taylor and John Wilcox, both from the Crossgates club and both winning to nine whilst Craig Hill and Brad Massey both won to twelve for Barnsley and both were from Dearne Sports. Over at Thurgoland the Leeds away team were in dominant form limiting Barnsley to just three winners with Ian Howard (Meanwood) and Nigel Cranston (Crossgates) both winning to eight and Leeds picked up the away aggregate two points and the overall aggregate four points. Best for Barnsley was Nigel McDermott (DODWORTH mw) with 21 - 04 the best result of the match. The Colne Valley team had the April bye in this Division.

Rochdale and Mid-Cheshire, the two teams promoted last Season from Division Three met again in the first match of this Season but now in **Division Two** with Rochdale repeating their win of last year and with an improved points tally of 23 – 9 (445 – 375). Playing their home leg at the Royle Club Rochdale had an impressive ten individual winners and an aggregate chalks difference of plus sixty-nine from a relatively slow start, conceding their only two defeats in the first four jacks. James Grey (Healey) and Jack Frost (Wardle) both won to single figures for Rochdale, seven and four respectively, and Ian Wassel (Alsager) was best for Mid-Cheshire with his 21 – 10 result. Mid-Cheshire played their home leg at Meadowbank and had seven winners from the twelve games but lost the aggregate points by the narrowest of margins (205 – 206). Two single figure wins for visitors Mark Armson (Bamford BC) and Barry Collinge (Syke) to eight and seven were nicely timed Mark in the first four and Barry playing at number eleven. Dave Williams (Red Lion) and Paul Falrington (Middlewich C&C) jointly top scored for Mid-Cheshire with 21 – 11 wins. The other match in this Division paired newly relegated Middleton & District with Airedale & Wharfedale "A", mid table in this Division last year. Middleton played their home leg at Whitefield BC and managed a very narrow win by just six chalks (210 – 204), both teams having six individual winners. Best for Middleton were Dave Dance (Tonge) and Jimmy Hynes (Springbank) winning to nine and eight respectively whilst for Aire & Wharfe David Cadwallader (Sutton Park) starred with a 21 – 6 result. Over in Guiseley meanwhile after a closely contested first four jacks, with wins equally shared, Middleton took charge winning all but two of the next eight jacks for a comfortable away leg victory (228 – 196) to clinch the overall aggregate points and record a match win 22 – 10. Billy Cater (Skipton

Craven) top scored for the home team with 21 – 7 with Colin Price (George & Dragon) 21 – 3 and John Blezzard (Ashton C&BC) 21 – 8 registering single figure wins for Middleton. Bury sat out this one with the bye in this Division.

In **Division Three** the match between Dudley & District and East Lancashire was almost as close as it could possibly be with both teams registering excellent home aggregate wins, Dudley winning by fifty-five chinks and East Lancs that tiny bit better winning by one single chalk more to take the overall aggregate by that single chalk (416 – 415) and the final match result sixteen points to each team. Playing their home leg at the M&B Club Dudley had ten winners with Steve Shaw (Dudley Dell) and Martin Parks (Royal Oak) winning to three and nine respectively and with Harry Hargreaves (Two Gates) top-scoring for the visitors with a 21 – 16 result. At the same time back in Lancashire at Greenhill BC East Lancs had fewer home winners but three of them were to single figures through Paul Brett (East Lancashire CC) to three, Phil Wilkinson (St Andrews) to six and Steve Clamp (Colne CC) to eight whilst for the visitors Wayne Berry (Woodman MP) top-scored winning to eleven. Nuneaton and North Yorkshire contested the other match in this Division with the Yorkshire team running out comfortable winners by twenty points to twelve (420 – 380). North Yorkshire had an outstanding result at the Black Swan in Harrogate having nine winners, four of them to single figures, leading to an aggregate home win of eighty-one chinks (236 – 155). Best of the home winners were Andy Gilroy (21 – 5) and Jason Worsnop (21 – 7) whilst George Chapman (21 – 15) was the best of Nuneaton's three winners all with results in the mid teens. At Baddesley BC in the North Midlands the Nuneaton home team notched a normally acceptable win (225 – 184) which however paled somewhat when compared with result from Harrogate. Jordon Badderley (Atherstone Cons) and homester Will Beal both won to nine for Nuneaton and David Hodgson (Black Swan) and Phil Hill (Bilton BMC) won to eleven and twelve respectively for the visitors. Final result:- North Yorkshire 20 Nuneaton 12. Fylde "A" had the April bye in this Division.

Local rivalries will be the order of the day in **Division Four** kicking off with the West/South Lancashire team from Liverpool/St Helens playing South Lancashire and West Yorkshire neighbours Bradford and Leeds "B" also in opposition with West Lancashire team, Ormskirk, having the bye. Liverpool/St Helens had almost the perfect home leg result winning all of the first eleven jacks, four of them to single figures all early in the match, for an eighty-nine chalk victory at the Wheatsheaf. Best for Liverpool/St Helens was Andy Hayes (Ecleston BC) whilst Danny Mayers (Golbourne S&S) was the 21 - 14 lone winner for South Lancs. Over at the Lord Nelson club South Lancs had eight winners, including five consecutively from jacks three to seven, but two late wins for the visitors limited the home leg win to fifty-two. Jimmy Carney (Platt Bridge) carded the best score for South Lancs. (21 – 8) and Cliff Massey (Formby RBL BC) top scored for the visitors with 21 - 13. Final result Liverpool/St Helens 21 South Lancs. 11 (422 – 385). In West Yorkshire Bradford avenged their defeat by Leeds "B" in the last match of last year by beating their near neighbours comfortably 23 – 9 (465 – 404) and winning both legs. Bradford's home leg was played at the Asa Briggs Bowling Club and produced eight wins for the home team with Paul Gill (Clayton Victoria) top-scoring with 21 – 9 and John Armitage (Pudsy Littlemoor) the best for Leeds "B". At Thorner over in North Leeds the home team lost the leg by eighteen chinks (208 – 226) having five winners to Bradford's seven. Best for Leeds was J.Lucas (Magnets) with a 21 – 13 result with both Andy Mellor (Eccleshill) and Craig Fenton (ShIPLEY Club) winning to nine for Bradford. Ormskirk had the bye in this Division.

In **Division Five** the two Champions of Divisions 6A and 6B from last year, Airedale & Wharfedale "B" and Fylde "B" met in the first match of the new Season now at the higher level. Playing at Myrtle Park the Airedale home team had eight winners but managed only a modest eighteen chalk aggregate win (218 – 200) but their away squad travelled to Blackpool and won by the narrow margin of five chinks (219 – 214) at the Raikes Hotel thus to take all of the eight aggregate points available. At Myrtle Park Andrew Shaw (Burley in Wharfedale) top scored for Airedale winning to eight and Jim Kenny (Raikes Hotel) went one chalk better for Fylde with his 21 – 7 result. In Blackpool the individual wins were shared equally, six each, with Paul Taylor (Gardeners) best for the home team 21 – 11 and Steve Griffiths (Myrtle Park) and Andy Wood (Horsforth Woodside) the highest scorers for Airedale with 21 – 11 and 21 – 13 respectively. Final result Airedale 22 - Fylde "B" 10 (437 – 414). Also in this Division near neighbours South Lakes and Furness were in contention with Furness playing their home leg at the Coop S&SC and in a topsy-turvy sort of match the home team won three of the first four jacks then lost the next four and finally then won the last four to register a ten chalk aggregate win (215 – 205) with Tony Whitehouse (King Alfred) winning to eight and Steve Waugh (Post Office) to ten whilst for the visitors Paul Dennison and James Dennison (both Carnforth) each won to ten. At Skerton Liberals the South Lakes team opening two players both won to single figures and also top scored to give the home team a perfect start, homester Steve Parker winning to four and Dave Jones (Carnforth) conceding only eight, South Lakes failed to improve on that good start, in fact dropping a chalk through the next ten jacks thereafter, to win by twenty-nine to take the home aggregate points and the overall aggregate four points for a 19 – 13 (426 – 407) result. Warrington had the bye in this Division.

The regionalised **Division Six A** embraces associations from the western areas of the Federation and includes two teams making their debut and both were in opposition for the first match. Cheshire Parks used Cheadle Con Club as their venue against Ormskirk "A" and although both legs were closely contested the Cheshire side would go on to take all eight aggregate points in an impressive start for them. At Cheadle the home team had seven winners with Mike Dunn (Burnage Garden Village) top scoring with 21 – 11 and Lorraine Hirst (Linthwaite Hall) best of five winners for Ormskirk with a 21 – 12 result. Over at Freshfield BC the Ormskirk team again had just five winners with Lisa Smith best for Ormskirk conceding only eight chalks and for the visitors Paul Cardew (Ladybridge) winning to four. Final result Cheshire Parks 22 (435) - Ormskirk "A" 10 (406). Mon Menai met Southport in the other match in this Division and it was the Wesh side which recorded a substantial win by seventy chalks overall (445 – 375) for a 23 – 9 result. At Caernarfon the Menai team had nine winners including four to single figures and three of those were from the last three jacks. What a way to finish! The last three for Menai were Allen Parry (Beaumaris) 21 – 3, Eddion Jones (Carenarfon) 21 – 5 and Stuart Thomas (Beaumaris) 21 - 6 whilst best for Southport was Jason Wright (Fleetwood Hesketh) with 21 – 6. Back in West Lancashire at Fleetwood Hesketh SC the teams were more evenly matched and had six winners each with Menai edging the leg by five chalks (212 – 207). John Cragg (Mere Brow) top scored for Southport 21 – 7 and Hefin Jones (Beaumaris) was best for Menai with 21 – 10. The team with the bye in this Division were Preston.

**Division Six B** contains teams from the central and more eastern areas of the Federation and included the returning team, Doncaster, and a new team, Heywood & District and the two were in opposition for their first match. Heywood were to make a most impressive start winning both home and away legs and hence the overall aggregate to pick up all the eight aggregate points and record a substantial 22 – 10 (458 – 392) winning result. In Doncaster the two teams each had six winners with Colin Squires (Denaby Welfare), Thomas Boyd Jnr. (Woodlands Park) and Paddy Moyles (Bawtry) leading the way for Doncaster and with Tony Hardman (Hopwood) along with Stuart Porter (Summit) best for Heywood. Meanwhile back in Heywood the home team had eight winners to Doncaster's four but needed jacks ten and eleven Mike Rand (Queens Park) and Eric Ralphson (Eastwood) to add some substance to their home win (231 – 194) with victories to nine and four respectively. Burton and Rochdale Ladies met in the other match in this Division and it was the Burton team who produced an outstanding result with eleven winners at home and ten away. In their home leg Burton had eight single figure winners the best, all to five were Simon Medcalfe (Washlands), Colleen Chiterden (Barton No.1) and Paul Baldwin (New Inn) and away Burton had five winners to single figures Mark Redfern (Derby Coop) 21 – 5 and David Stewart 21 – 3. For Rochdale Barbara Coles (Milnrow MP) was their only away winner (21 – 15) and in their home leg Joyce Jones won to thirteen and Patricia Shanks (Norden) to 18. Bolton had the April bye in this Division.

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