

Once again, the greens at Bretherton Bowling Club, Eagle & Child Bowling Club and Fox Lane Bowling Club all situated in the Leyland area, were used for the 2024 Federation of Crown Green Bowls Junior-Youth Leagues.

82 players competed, with bowlers aged from 7 to 24 taking part. Sadly this was 32 less than the previous year, but hopefully we can increase it again this year with inquiries we have received about joining.

The breakdown of players ages was: - aged 7 – 1, aged 8 – 0, aged 9 – 2, age 10 – 1, aged 11 – 4, aged 12 – 4, aged 13 – 3, aged 14 – 13, aged 15 – 11, aged 16 – 9, aged 17 – 11, aged 18 – 6, aged 19 – 5, aged 20 – 4, aged 21 – 5, aged 22 – 1, aged 23 – 1, aged 24 – 1 bowler.

The youth league had 5 teams competing, playing each other once at 8 man and again in the 4-man format. They played all their matches once again at Fox Lane.

Leeds were champions with North Lancashire & Fylde runners up, Furness 3rd ahead of joint 4th placed Mon Menai Dragons and West Yorkshire.

In the junior League there were 4 teams.

Leeds proved to be dominant once again, finishing 19 points in front of Mon Menai Dragons, with North Lancashire & Fylde 3rd and West Yorkshire 4th.

I received rave reports about Bretherton Bowling Club as a venue.

Eagle & Child also look after us well.

Unfortunately, I cannot say the same about Fox Lane.

The Federation have used Fox Lane for a lot of years and green condition and catering was always excellent for many of them.

The condition of green 2 has been poor recently and catering very expensive.

This year the round of matches on Sunday 4th May will be played at Bretherton Bowling Club for the juniors and Tarleton Bowling Club for the youths.

The 2 venues are about 7 minutes apart.

Fox Lane have been made aware of our concerns and hopefully they can address them.

That is why we will be using them again on Sunday 6th July for the youth teams.

If our concerns are not met they may not be considered in 2026.

The Juniors will be playing at Eagle & Child Bowling Club for their July fixtures.

These 2 greens are only 2 minutes apart by car.

I urge you please, go back to your associations and see if you can enter a team, for this year.

I have attached a Federation Registration Form.

Can you please return this form by the 28th February 2025.

The merit competition, awarded on games won in the league matches, is still proving to be very successful.

I would like to thank all the association team managers for sending me their result sheets and players ages.

9-year-old Leeds player Sebastian Mordue finished top in the **13 and under age group**, with fellow Leeds player 10-year-old Harry Brook runner up. Mordue won 6 out of the 6 games played, while Brook had 4 wins.

15-year-old Chloe Morton of Leeds was a deserved winner of the **14-16 age group**, winning all six games, while teammate Logan Preston (15) was runner up after also winning all 6 games he played.

Leeds also had the top bowler in the **17-24 age group**.

That was the unbeaten Emma Tobin.

North Lancashire & Fylde's Aaron Hayhurst prevent a Leeds clean sweep by finishing runner up, losing just 1 of his 6 games.

Ken Howarth

Junior-Youth Officer

Federation of Crown Green Bowls