

Federation of Crown Green Bowls

Press Officer

Tel: 0113 253 9033

Email: holgate249@btinternet.com

Press Release 1607.

30 June 2016.

Federation Focus – June

With the third phase of matches completed in the National League some teams will be anticipating becoming Champions of their Division with the Season end still two months away. In Division Four North Yorkshire are averaging twenty-four points per match and are forty-one points clear at the top with only one match left to play in August and in Division Six (Midlands and Yorkshire) Bradford with one match left to play against second placed UK Police have fifty-one points from just two matches.

In **Division One** Middleton occupy top spot after their comfortable 23 – 9 win over Fylde “A”. Playing at Tonge the Middleton home team had eight winners with Dave Walker (Dukanfield Centre) giving them the perfect start with his 21 – 7 result playing at number one jack whilst for Fylde “A” Simon Thistlethwaite (St Annes) won to ten. Meanwhile over at Fleetwood BC the Fylde home squad had only five winners with Dave Welsby (Hambleton) a single figure winner, leaving his opponent on eight, and Martin Hodson (Springbank) for the visitors going one better winning to seven. Also in this Division the two West Yorkshire teams, near neighbours, Leeds “A” and Halifax were in opposition and in an extremely close match Halifax came out on top winning the overall aggregate by just three chalks (441 – 438) for an 18 – 14 result. Individual wins were equally shared between the two teams each winning seven games at their home venues. At Holbeck Limited in Leeds the Halifax away team started well with two winners and a twenty from their first four and finished well with anchorman Tom Gasson (Hove Edge their best winner with 21 – 15. For the home team Jon Scofield (Roundhay) top scored with a 21 – 13 score-line. In Halifax at Siddal Park a venue which would be unknown, hopefully, to the Leeds well travelled team it was Kieren Smith (Crossgates) who opened the scoring for Leeds at number one jack winning to eight but Halifax fought back to share the first four jacks. The second four jacks brought only one winner for Halifax and they trailed on aggregate by eight chalks but the cavalry were to appear over the horizon and four home winners later Halifax had won the home aggregate and the overall with that three chalks to spare, Gordon Bradford (Greetland) producing the best win of the match (21 – 7). Halifax meet Middleton in the July fixtures and Leeds play Airedale and Wharfedale.

Only one match took place in **Division Two** due to the Preston “A” team sadly having to withdraw from the League. The match between Rochdale and Barnsley was closely fought with the teams sharing the individual winners, each having eight at home and four away, but it was the South Yorkshire team who picked up the all important four points for overall aggregate (415 – 403) despite a strong late challenge from Rochdale who won all four last jacks at home and two of the away. At the Royle Club in Rochdale three of the home players Tom Hedderman (Royle), Andy Collinge (Syke) and Andy Lowe (Healey) shared the honours when they all had matching wins of 21 – 8. whilst for the visitors Sam Day (Catcliffe) won to six. Over at Barnsley BC the home team also had three single figure winners with Dean Missere (Dearne Sports) tops with a 21 – 4 result. For Rochdale Barry Collinge (Syke) had the best result winning to eight. The July fixtures see Bury and Nuneaton in opposition.

Wallasey hold a narrow three point lead at the top of **Division Three** after their 25 – 7 (463 – 367) crushing defeat of Ormskirk and will look ahead to their meeting with second placed Colne Valley in July. At New Brighton Quarry Vikings the Wallasey home team had eleven winners with Danny Barwise (Burscough C&B) the visitor who prevented the clean sweep with his single figure 21 – 6 success. For the home team James Fitzpatrick (West Kirby Victoria) and Mike Nelson (N.B. Queens Royal) shared best result honours each with a 21 – 10 win. At Northern BC in Crosby the Ormskirk home team shared individual winners with Wallasey with their best winner Dave Fenney (Railway Rebels) saved until the end with his 21 – 12 win in the anchorman role. For the visitors another Queens Royal, player, Mathew Cunliffe, turned in the best result winning to four. The other match in this Division matched Mid Cheshire and Furness with an overall margin of thirteen chalks (425 – 412) enough to give the Cheshire team the extra four points towards their 21 – 11 win. At Castle Private ten winners for Mid-Cheshire formed the base of their overall victory with Dave Hamlett Snr. (Wharton Cons) having the best result (21 – 8) for the home team and Colin Knipe (Hawcoat Park) best for Furness with his 21 – 12 win. In Cumbria the host Club was Barrow Island and Furness had a comfortable home win with seven winners and a twenty but could not quite match the Mid-Cheshire home results. Adam Miller (Salhouse) had the best home result (21 – 5) to give Furness an early boost and Paul Charlesworth (Middlewich C&C) for the visitors matched Adam's score. The key July fixture between Wallasey and Colne Valley could go a long way to deciding the Third Division Championship race and the one between Mid-Cheshire and Ormskirk could well determine the relegation status of one of the teams.

North Yorkshire currently lead **Division Four** by a massive forty-one points but they have a bye in July and must watch the other teams playing catch-up with South Lancashire, who play a rearranged match with South Lakes early in July, possibly the one to watch out for. In their June fixture North Yorkshire dealt a fearsome blow to any ambitions harboured by South Lakes by winning both legs by the same score of eleven three and with the overall aggregate four points added they totalled a massive win of 26 – 6 (466 – 382). In their home match at the Black Swan in Harrogate both Gordon Flower (Wayside) and Martin Hemmingway (Black Swan) won to six for the Yorkshire team with Dave Mortimer (Kahale) the best of three winners for the visitors with his 21 – 14 result. At Warton & District in Carnforth the South Lakes home team was also limited to three winners with Richard Barnett (Skerton Liberal) the tops (21 – 7) and David Spilsbury (Low Harrogate) having the best result for the Yorkshire team with 21 – 5. Also in this Division South Lancashire met Leeds "B" and registered a 24 – 8 (461 – 390) win with ten winners and two twenties in their home leg at Garswood Hall in Ashton in Makerfield and it would be interesting to know on which Green they played on, the large or the small. The best result for the South Lancashire team was Phil Boydell (Gardeners) with 21 – 6 whilst best for Leeds was Dale Hardcastle (East End Park) who won to eleven. At Magnet Sports in Tadcaster the Leeds team shared individual winners with South Lancashire with Mark Lewis (Tadcaster) the best winner (21 – 7) for the Yorkshire team and Kevin Moran (Newton CC) the best for the visitors with his 21 – 11 result. The July fixture between South Lakes and Leeds could possibly be an early relegation battle.

Division Five includes three teams new to the Federation and two of them, Dudley & District and Liverpool/St Helens, are looking upwards and onwards with a place in Division Four next Season in mind. Dudley are nineteen points ahead of the Mersyside team but have played one match more. In the June fixtures Dudley had a comprehensive win over Airedale & Wharfedale "B" 25 – 7 (448 – 336) and in their home leg at Coombs Wood Stewarts & Lloyds Pavilion the Midlands team had ten individual winners of which six were to single figures with Paul Rolls (Mitchell & Butler) the best. For Airedale Danny Teale (Rufford Park) had their sole success winning to eleven. Over in Yorkshire at Myrtle Park individual wins were equally shared with Sharon Gadd (Shipley Club) the best home winner with 21 – 8 and for Dudley Dave Sankey (M & B) top scored with his 21 – 3 result. Dudley's main challengers in this Division Liverpool/St Helens faced Mon Menai with their home leg at St

Marys Catholic Club and with ten winners there and eight away at Benllech they took all the aggregate eight points for a 26 – 6 win and a massive aggregate chalks score (467 – 355). Best for Liverpool/St Helens at home was Ken Bowen (Bold BC) winning to six whilst Gavin Davies (Caernafon) was best for Menai (21 – 16). At Benllech home player Ken Thomas (Beaumaris) was the best of their four home winners (21 – 6) and for the visitors John Dalziel (Eccleston BC) had the best result (21 – 4). The July fixtures are Dudley v Menai and a local derby match, Southport v Liverpool/St Helens.

In **Division Six (North West)** Fylde “B” played near neighbours Preston “B” with their home leg at the Park Club in Cleveleys. A below par five home winners for Fylde, the best of which was Mark Audin (Raikes Hotel) with 21 – 10, resulted in them dropping the two home aggregate points to Preston for whom their best winner was Steve Worden (Parkfield Labour) with his 21 – 5 result. Over at Frenchwood the tables were turned completely by the Fylde away team who had nine winners and achieved an aggregate score which more than made up for their colleagues in Cleveleys for Fylde to win overall by 20 – 12 (424 – 400). At Frenchwood the best of three winners for Preston was Mick Nelson (Empire Services) with 21 – 5 whilst for Fylde their best winner was Bill Livsey (Pilling BC) who also restricted his opponent to five chalks. Fylde “B” currently top this Division with only one match remaining, that between Bolton and Rochdale Ladies, with Bolton needing to make up the twenty-one point deficit if they are to win the title. **In Division(Six Midlands/Yorkshire)** new team Burton after a heavy defeat by Bradford in their first match met UK Police and suffered another difficult time winning four individual games at home and five away and went down 9 – 23 (398 – 466). In Burton’s home leg Blake Skinner (Washlands) had their best result 21 – 16 and all the three other winners were to seventeen whilst Dave Scriven and Mick Hinton both from the West Midlands Force were best for the Police each winning to ten. In Brighouse at Hove Edge WM the Police were held to twenty chalks by the visitors from Burton with David Monaghan-Jones (West Yorkshire) top scoring for the Police (21 – 8) and Anthony Fairhurst (Stretton Anglesy) best for the visitors with his 21 – 11 result. The July fixtures will complete the Season for all eight Division Six teams with the top team from each of the two zoned Divisions meeting in August to determine the one to qualify for the Team Champion of Champions event at the end of the Season.

Brian Holgate
Press Officer.