

Federation of Crown Green Bowls

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Federation Focus - June

An abbreviated and very late report due to my personal circumstances this month.

In **Division One** Leeds put recent defeats at the hands of Halifax firmly behind them by winning both legs of their match with their near neighbours for a massive 24 – 8 result. Best for Leeds were Dave Robson (Pudsey Limited) at Rothwell BC and Mark Hughes at Sowerby T&BC both to 21 – 7. For Halifax Glen McCafferty won by the same score at Sowerby and Mark Regan (Brighouse Sports) the best (21 - 18) of only three Halifax winners at Rothwell. The match between Colne Valley and Wallasey was much closer at 19 – 13 to the Huddersfield based team who had thirteen individual winners overall. At Higher Tranmere best for Wallasey was Mathew Gillmore (New Brighton Quarry Vikings) with his 21 – 7 result matched by visitor Andy Cairns (Thongsbridge). At Crosland Moor Steven Haigh (Meltham BC) top scored with 21 – 6 for the home team and Owen Doyle was best for Wallasey (21 – 12). Leeds lead the table by twenty points from Halifax with Barnsley and Colne Valley having played only one match to date.

Middleton lead **Division Two** by thirteen points after their comfortable 23 – 8 win over local rivals Rochdale and could already be thinking about a quick return to the top Division. Away at Bamford BC Middleton had seven winners with John Blezzard (Ashton C&BC) their top scorer (21 – 11) whilst for the home team Jake Frost (Wardle) won to twelve. Over at the AEU Club Charley Roberts (Nimble Nook) was Middleton's best with 21 – 9 and Barry Collinge (Syke) led the way for Rochdale with his 21 – 13 result. Airedale & Wharfedale matched individual Winners in their match with Bury and both teams won their home fixture with Airedale picking up the overall aggregate points by twenty-seven chinks for an 18 – 14 win. At Pudsey BC Dan Carter (Tarnfield) won to four for the home team and Lee Evans (Tottington Cons) had the best result for Bury with his 21 11 score-line. At Elton Liberals the best for Bury were Tommy Taylor (Badgers), Dave Wright (Tottington Cons) and Chris Bly (Seedfield BC) all winning to eleven. Middleton, Rochdale and Airedale have all played two matches with Bury and Mid Cheshire only the one.

It's tight at the top of **Division Three** with only six points separating Dudley at the top, North Yorkshire second and Nuneaton in third whilst close behind those three are Fylde "A" and they have only played one match. Fylde "A" had the best result in May when they had a comprehensive win over North Yorkshire by 23 – 9 (447 – 380). At South Shore BC Fylde had eleven winners with Bryan Clarke (St Annes) the best of three single figures wins with his 21 – 7 result whilst for the visitors Tony Derrick (Black Swan) was their lone winner (21 – 20). Over at Knaresborough BC all the even numbered players won for North Yorkshire with Martin Hemingway (Black Swan) the best of two single figure winners, restricting his opponent to one chalk, whilst Craig Smith (Brickhouse) was tops for Fylde with his 21 – 11. The Midlands clash between Dudley and Nuneaton was a close run affair with Dudley edging the overall aggregate to win 17 – 15 (420 – 403). At Coombes Wood S&L Pavilion Craig Skidmore (21 – 9) was the best of eight winners for Dudley and Danny Edkins (Attleborough) won to the same score for the visitors. Over at Atherstone Grove Nuneaton won all of their last five games to total nine winners with home Club player Jordan Baddesley and Will Beal (Baddesley) both winning to nine and Wayne Berry (Woodman MP) the best of two single figure winners for Dudley with 21 – 7. East Lancashire are the other team having played only the one match.

Bradford and Liverpool/St Helens are setting the pace in **Division Four** with the West Yorkshire side having a single point advantage. Bradford entertained Ormskirk in their May fixture and played their home leg in Cleckheaton at the two Green venue of Spen Victoria and had eight winners, three to single figures, of which the best was Paul Gill (Clayton Victoria) with 21 - 5. For Ormskirk Jimmy Fagin (Burscough RBL) top scored with 21 - 11. Ormskirk played their home leg at Aughton Institute where individual winners were equally shared with Danny Finch Railway Rebels the best of two single figure winners with his 21 - 5 result for the home team and Gary Walker (Spen Victoria) with a 21 - 12 win best for the visitors. Final result 20 - 12 to Bradford (425 - 394). A slightly better result brought a 21 - 11 (445 - 365) victory for Liverpool/St Helens against Leeds "B". Seven successive wins at the start of the match set the

Merseyside team up for a huge home win by over one hundred chinks which included four single figure wins, the best to Liam McEgan (Eccleston BC) who won to three. Best of the two winners for Leeds was A. Walton (Crossgates Rec.) with his 21 - 15 result as anchorman. Sorry no first name available for Walton. Ormskirk and South Lancashire are the teams who have played just one match to date.

Furness have an eleven point lead at the top of **Division Five** with Warrington handily placed in third spot with a match in hand. The May fixtures produced two outstanding results for both Furness and Warrington. Furness beat Airedale & Wharfedale "B" 26 - 6 and Warrington had a 24 - 8 winning result against Fylde "B". At Walney Park the Furness home team had ten winners with John Reilly (King Alfred) carding their only single figure result, winning to seven, with Ian Swinfield (Farsley) the best of Airedale's two winners (21 - 18). Meanwhile at Rufford Park Airedale mustered just four winners with Ian Bolton (Rawdon) the best with his 21 - 11 result whilst Furness won three of the first four jacks and also finished with a flourish winning the last three and with their number ten, Mathew Ryder top scoring with his 21 - 8 success. Warrington had eight winners both home and away and picked up all the eight available aggregate points against the team from Fylde. At Bank Park No.1 the Warrington home team had four winners to single figures with Colin Dean (Grange Sports) and Damian Morrison (King and Queen) winning to four and five respectively and with Mel Clarkson (St Annes) best for Fylde with his 21 - 12 result. Over at Hambleton SC the outstanding result came from the host Club player Steve Jackson who restricted his opponent to just two whilst best for the visitors was Steve Gilfedder (Woolstone BC) who won to eleven. South Lakes are the other team having played only one match to date.

The two teams then at the top of the table in **Division Six A** met in May and it was the Mon Menai team who triumphed with a 26 - 6 win over Cheshire Parks. Away from home playing at Stockport CC the team from Wales had an outstanding ten winners with John Short (Bangor City) and Dylan Williams (Llanfair PG) the best with 21 - 8 and 21 - 9 scores respectively. For Cheshire Parks Kevin Walsh and John Spreadborough both from the Ladybridge Club were the two home winners and both won to nineteen. Over at Bangor City Mon Menai fared a little less well with eight winners of which Gwerydd Buckland, a home Club member, and Arwel Williams (Llanfair PG) won to five and seven respectively with Bill Burn (Great Moor S&SC) 21 - 6 the best of the two single figure winners for the visitors. The results in the match between near neighbours, Southport and Preston, was paradoxical with both teams winning their away legs and both having eight away winners. At Fox Lane in Leyland the best of Preston's home winners was Nigel Carrier (Farrington Cons) with 21 - 11 whilst Steve Wignall (Botanic) with 21 - 4 was the best of two single figure winners for Southport. Meanwhile over at London Sphinx in Southport two players both with 21 - 11 results, Martin Cunliffe (Zetland) and John Green (Crowlands), were the best for the home team and Phil Roycroft (Empire) was tops for Preston with 21 - 12. Preston and Ormskirk are the teams who have played only one match.

In **Division 6B** Bolton had a comfortable 24 - 8 win over Burton. At Bar Lane the Bolton home team had eleven winners with Carl Glover (Railway Club) allowing his opponent only two chinks and was the best of three players conceding only single figures against. The only winner for Burton was Ewan Walker-Mousley (Barton) who won to fifteen. Down in the Midlands at Tutbury Burton had five winners with the two permitted home players leading the way, Simon Smith winning to three and Lee Causer to eleven whilst the best for Bolton was Les Brown (Dobbies) who won to eleven. The other match in this Division was between Doncaster and Rochdale Ladies with the South Yorkshire home team having a clean sweep of home winners with Ross Meese (Maltby) winning to two and Craig Rumney (Pilkington Rec) to three, best for Rochdale was Carol Ryding (Shaw Comrades) who fell just one chalk short of a win. Over at Ladybarn the Ladies had three winners with Linda Riddal (Syke) outstanding with her 21 - 4 result and Richard Curtis (Bawtry) best for Doncaster with 21 - 4. Bolton and Heywood are the two teams with only one match under their belt but they will meet in the June fixture.

Brian Holgate
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