

Federation of Crown Green Bowls

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Federation Focus - June

As the byes unwind in all Divisions potential Champions begin to emerge. In **Division One** Leeds top the League as they embark on their final fixture against second placed Colne Valley and they may need just a comfortable win against their strong opponents to clinch the title. Third placed Middleton are in prime position in **Division Two** only one point behind the joint leaders with a match in hand. Fylde are ten points in arrears of the leaders Dudley in **Division Three** but the Blackpool team have a match in hand and meet Dudley in the July fixtures needing a good win to emerge as firm favourites. Liverpool/St.Helens have an eleven point lead in **Division Four** and meet near neighbours Ormskirk in the July fixtures needing a solid winning result to put them out of reach of all their rivals. Furness should clinch the title in **Division Five** when they meet second placed Warrington in July needing any sort of a win to confirm them as Champions. Menai lead the way in **Division Six A** and also have a match in hand and could move into an impregnable position with a good win against Ormskirk in July. Menai have the highest points scoring average in all seven Divisions with 24.5 points per match. Doncaster and Burton are the top two in **Division Six B** but Heywood with that match in hand could topple them both.

Close results in the June fixtures were the order of the day in **Division One** with Colne Valley and Barnsley having twelve individual winners each whilst Leeds had thirteen wins to Wallasey's eleven. Aggregate scores were also very close but Leeds and Colne Valley both took all the eight aggregate points, Leeds overall had just a fifteen chinks advantage and Colne Valley one less at fourteen. Sharing the individual honours for Leeds in their home leg at Castleford Town were Andy Webb (Glasshoughton) and Dave Robson (Pudsey Littlemoor) both winning to ten and Marc Dougherty for Wallasey was best also with his own 21 - 10 result. Meanwhile at the Lever Club in Wallasey the joint top scorers for the home team were Paul Saville and Mathew Gilmore both winning to nine and both from the New Brighton Quarry Vikings Club whilst for the visitors Kieren Smith (Crossgates) won to six. Colne Valley played their home leg at Broad Oak BC and lost three of the first four jacks, recovered to win three of the next four and shared the last four for a six chalk aggregate win. Best for Colne Valley were Nathan Haigh and Richard Mozley both from the Meltham Club and winning to thirteen and fourteen respectively. For Barnsley Rob Wilshire (Penistone) and Eric Philips (Barnsley BC) top scored each with 21 - 14. Over at Dearne Sports there was a similar pattern the visitors winning the first three, Barnsley the second three and the rest were again shared with Colne Valley taking the away aggregate points by just eight chinks. Making the difference Colne Valley had two single figure winners through Terry Brook (Crosland Moor) 21 - 2 and Josh Brown (Kirkheaton Cons) 21 - 9 whilst Barnsley had no really big winners, Mark Bramhall (Millhouse Green) the best with his twenty one eleven result.

The narrowest of margins applied also to the two matches in **Division Two** with Airedale picking up the overall aggregate with just twelve chinks to spare and Mid Cheshire in similar mode with this time an additional four chinks in hand. All four home teams incidentally had seven individual winners in this Division. Airedale played their home leg at Farsley BC and had significantly three players winning to single figures, John Benson (Rufford) to seven and both Neil Mylan (Eccleshill) and Richard Stockdale (Guiselley) to nine whilst best for Rochdale Adam Rushden (Rochdale BC) and Alan Rushden (Buersil) both won to thirteen. A thirty-eight point home win for Airedale and their away squad holding Rochdale at Norden BC to twenty-six gave them the overall aggregate points by those twelve chinks. At Norden Neil Slater

(Whitworth) for Rochdale won to six and Will Gilroy (Eccleshill) for the visitors won to eight. Playing at Castle Private Mid Cheshire registered an eight chalk home win and then repeated the dose at Whitefield BC in Greater Manchester with another eight chalk win to gain all eight aggregate points. At Castle Private Steve Barnes (Meadowbank) for the home team won 21 - 6 and the visiting Bury teams best winner was Chris Harris (Prestwich Cons) 21 - 9. Over at Whitefield Gary Ellis (Hollinhurst BC) won to eight for Bury and two visiting players each went one chalk better with Robert Mellor and Paul Charlesworth (both Midlewich C&C) winning to seven.

No cliff-hanger in the match between Dudley and North Yorkshire in **Division Three** with Dudley having a stunning home win by over one hundred chinks at the George and with half their team winning to single figures. North Yorkshire also had a good home win at Low Harrogate by just short of sixty chinks but were way off in the challenge for the overall aggregate points. At the George the joint top scorers of the six single figure winners were home member Mark Street and Cradley S&S player Chris Lambert both winning to five whilst the only winner for North Yorkshire was David Hodgson (Black Swan) with 21 - 13. In Harrogate the home team had ten winners but only one to single figures through Brian Walker with his 21 - 4 result. For Dudley Dan Davies (Glasscutters) won to eight. Final result a win for Dudley 19 - 13. Also in this Division the same 19 - 13 scoreline brought a win for Fylde against East Lancashire with both teams having comfortable home wins and Fylde taking the four points for overall aggregate. At Singleton Fylde had to thank their back five to bring them their winning result with jacks eight to twelve all successful including Clive Brook (St Annes) and Colin Coxall (Fleetwood BC) who won to four and eight respectively. For East Lancashire Steve Anderton (Globe BC) was the best of their two winners with 21 - 16. Over at Alkincoates Park Dave Walker (Whitworth) and Aaron Harrison (Rushton Street) both won to three for the home side and Paul Wilson (St Annes) was the best of Fylde's three winner with 21 - 12.

The top of the table clash in **Division Four** resulted in a good win for Liverpool/St Helens over Bradford by 22 - 10 with the winners taking all the eight aggregate points. Playing at Eccleston BC the Liverpool/St Helens home team had eight individual winners with Paul Gartside (Brown Edge BC) and Mark Webster (Carr Mill Hotel) joint top scorers with 21 - 6 and Bradford's Bailey Rice (Hove Edge) winning to eleven. Over at the Shipley Club the teams shared the individual wins with Ian Shaw (Pudsey BC) and home player Mathew Jacques both winning to twelve for Bradford and with Connor Flaherty (Halewood BC) and Phil Aspinall (Eccleston BC) winning to nine and eight respectively for Liverpool/St Helens, the two results in the second half of the match which spurred the visitors onward to their away win. Two teams from Lancashire met in the other match in this Division with South Lancashire getting the better of the West Lancashire team from Ormskirk by 23 - 9. South Lancashire played their home leg at The Bucks Head, probably their banker home Green, and had nine winners to register a thirty-four chalk home win with Danny Miller (St Mathew's) their only single figure winner with 21 - 8 whilst for the visitors Andy Howie (Burscough RBL) won to six. At Buscough C&B the Ormskirk home team had only four winners but amazingly still won the leg by four chinks 207 - 203. Home player Tom Dickinson won to four for Ormskirk and Danny Myers (Gobourne S&S) was best for South Lancashire with his 21 - 12 result.

What a contrast for Furness between their home and away legs when they met Fylde "B" in **Division Five**. In their home leg played at North Scale, Walney, Furness shared individual wins with the visitors and won the leg by a modest eighteen chinks but in their away leg they went to Knott End WMC and had an amazing eleven winners and won by over one hundred chinks. Top scoring for Furness at North Scale were Mark Johnson (Police) with a 21 - 8 result closely followed by Darren Naylor (Coop S& S) who won to nine whilst best for Fylde were Jim Sealey (Marton Institute) and Jack Livsey (Pilling BC) with wins to twelve and thirteen respectively. At Knott End Stephen Dagger (Strawberry Gardens) playing at number one jack was Fylde's only winner and the best of the eleven for Furness were Stuart Aspinall (Red River) who won to four and both Colin Knipe (Hawcoat Park) and Kieran Clarke (Ulverston Cons) who each won to six. A much tighter encounter ensued in the other match in this Division with South Lakes beating Warrington by just four chinks 444 - 440 to pick up the overall aggregate four points and win the match 17 - 15. South Lakes

actually won fewer individual games(11 - 13) than Warrington but had the only two single figure wins in the entire match, appropriately at Holme their chosen home venue which helped them to the four points. At Holme the two single figure winners were David Cragg (Lune Road) with 21 - 3 and Dave Jones (Carnforth) who won to nine with Dave Twigg the best for Warrington with his 21 - 16 result. Warrington's home venue was Burtonwood where Damian Morrison was top scorer (21 - 11) for the home team closely backed up by his King and Queen club-mate Daniel Bennett who won to twelve whilst James Dennison (Carnforth) was the best for the visitors with 21 - 16.

In **Division Six A** there were two close matches Cheshire Parks beating Southport and Preston beating Ormskirk "A" both with the same 19 - 13 scorelines and both close on overall aggregate , Cheshire Parks winning by eighteen chinks and Preston by twenty. For the record also all four teams won their away legs. Cheshire Parks played their home leg at Thornfield Park where they had just five winners with Ben Scott (Victoria BC) their top scorer (21 - 6) and Jimmy Alty (Fleetwood Hesketh) best for Southport, going one better with his 21 - 5 result. Meanwhile at Croston Subscription the visitors Cheshire Parks notched up eight winners with Paul Bradley (New Mills) having an impressive 21 - 2 win whilst for Southport Derek Ainsworth (Mere Brow) won to five and Ali Adams (Scarisbrick BC) to seven. In the other match Ormskirk played their home leg at Ainsdale and had just four winners with home player Tina Walmsley having their best result (21 - 13) and for Preston Gary Daw (Frenchwood) won to seven. At the Empire Club in Preston the home team had five winners with three to single figures, home player Glyn Andrews 21 - 6, Phil Wood(Lostock Cons) won to seven and Trevor Bibby (Leyland & Farrington) to nine. Best for the visiting Ormskirk team was Owen Jackson (Parkfield Labour) with his 21 - 3 result.

The Lancashire derby match between Heywood and Bolton in **Division 6 B** ended 18 - 14 in favour of Heywood by virtue of them taking the overall aggregate points by a margin of twenty-seven chinks (420 - 393), both teams winning their home legs, each with nine winners. The home leg for Heywood was at Hopwood S&SC and the best of nine home winners were Andy Shackleton (Summit) with 21 - 7, Alastair Torr to six and Andy Wakerling to nine, the latter two both from Bullough Moor BC. For Bolton Peter Crook (Turton BC) top scored with 21 - 11. Over at Westhoughton S&SC the two single figure winners for Bolton were home player Stuart Iverson and Andrew Cafferky (Lostock BC) who won to four and nine respectively whilst for Heywood James Mainwaring (Heywood BC) top scored with his 21 - 9 result. The result of the top of the table match between Doncaster and Burton played earlier in June saw the South Yorkshire team extend their one point lead to six points with their 18 - 14 (422 - 404) win with amazingly both away teams winning their legs convincingly by 9 - 5 with Doncaster playing at Bawtry and Burton at Newhall. At the time of writing individual scores were not available.

**Brian Holgate,
Press Officer.**