

YORKSHIRE SIDES BATTLE FOR JUNIOR LADIES TITLE



The British Crown Green Ladies Bowling Association played their Junior County Championship at Helsby Community Sports Club, Cheshire, towards the end of May with twelve teams of six players – junior girls and junior boys – all aged under 18 years of age.

Only seven County Associations entered teams with Shropshire making up half the entry in which each side must contain at least two junior girls. However, it was the two entries from Yorkshire that stole the limelight with both teams meeting in the final.

The teams were split into two groups of six, playing each other on a round-robin basis in games of 11 up ensuring all sides played at least five games. The team that topped each group would qualify for the final.

Yorkshire Joan won Group A by virtue of a better aggregate against Shropshire Finnegan and Warwickshire with all three teams winning four out of their five games played. Yorkshire Chris dominated their Group B coming out unscathed to meet their colleagues in the final.

The final was played over two greens with Yorkshire Chris (pictured – courtesy of Mike Potter) winning on both, dropping a solitary shot on each green to win overall by eleven. Hanna Turner, Danny Kilburn, David Ryding and Robert Wainwright all ended the day with unblemished records with David Ryding only conceding fifteen chalks in his five games played.

HOLDERS IN EARLY SETBACK



Reigning Endsleigh Senior County Champions, Warwick & Worcester, suffered an early setback to the defence of the title with an opening day 16 shot defeat at the hands of Potteries & District and must now beat Derbyshire in their June fixture to stand any chance of reaching the semi-finals. Derbyshire also suffered defeat in their opening Section Three encounter by an agonising 2 shots against Merseyside in a day of close results.

Last season's runners-up, Greater Manchester, got off to a winning start in Section One but only just. They followed Wales in using an artificial surface for their home match with South Yorkshire but were swept aside by 9 shots on the carpet at Chadderton. However, thanks to a strong away side, they came home with an 11 shot overall victory. A win against Lancashire in their next game will almost certainly ensure their place in the last four but Lancashire battled hard to beat North Lancs & Fylde by 4 at home and 1 away.

Cheshire bucked the trend in Section Two with an emphatic 71 shot victory over Staffordshire. Their away side stole the limelight from their home side's winning performance by coming away from Chadsmoor Progressive with a 51 shot winning majority. Yorkshire got the better of North Midlands by 25 but the 2005 champions are far from out of it with their tricky home greens.

In the three team Section Four, Shropshire will sit out the next month's fixtures after their 27 shot victory over Cumbria. Cumbria now face Wales in a must win match to keep their chances of progression alive.

Results from matches played Sunday 1st May – further details at www.crowngreenbowls.org

SECTION 1

Greater Manchester 439 v South Yorkshire 428: Barry Connolly (South Yorkshire) / Jack Hargreaves (Greater Manchester)

Lancashire 422 v North Lancs & Fylde 417: John Taylor (Lancashire) / Stuart Mort (North Lancs & Fylde)

SECTION 2

Cheshire 469 v Staffordshire 398: Michael McDonnell (Cheshire) / Glynn Cookson (Cheshire)

North Midlands 424 v Yorkshire 449: Chris Mordue (Yorkshire) / Steve Pratt (North Midlands)

SECTION 3

Derbyshire 409 v Merseyside 411: John Hignett Jnr (Merseyside) / Colin Leishman (Derbyshire)

Potteries & District 428 v Warwick & Worcester 412: Darren Stanway (Potteries & District) / Andy Ferris, Potteries & District)

SECTION 4

Cumbria 416 v Shropshire 443: Colin Beaman (Shropshire) / Keith Wall (Shropshire)

Fixtures for **Sunday 5th June** – match cards at www.crowngreenbowls.org

SECTION 1

North Lancs & Fylde v South Yorkshire @ Gardeners Arms BC (FY5 4BL) / Dorothy Hyman Sports BC (S72 8LH)

Lancashire v Greater Manchester @ Leigh BC (WN7 2HA) / Springhead Liberal Club (OL4 5SR)

SECTION 2

Cheshire v North Midlands @ South Manchester RBL (M19 2HW) / Bedworth BC No.1 Green

Staffordshire v Yorkshire @ Heath Hayes Constitutional BC (WS12 3HN) / Thongsbridge C&BC (HD9 2RY)

SECTION 3

Warwick & Worcester v Derbyshire @ The George BC (B68 9LN) / Littleover BC (DE23 3ES)

Potteries & District v Merseyside @ Dilhorne BC (ST10 2P) / The Wheatsheaf (WA9 4HN)

SECTION 4

Wales v Cumbria @ The Oval, Llandudno / Roose Conservative Club No.1 Green (LA13 0HE)

At each Endsleigh Senior County Championship match played throughout 2011, an inscribed glass tumbler will be awarded to the Endsleigh Man of the Match. The adjudicators, usually one from each County, have the onerous task of selecting, who in their opinion, is the best player on the day.



Barry Connolly (South Yorkshire)



Colin Leishman (Derbyshire)

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

Saturday 1st October 2011 – Waterloo Hotel, Blackpool – 10am



Spring Waterloo winner, Colin Beaman
Photograph courtesy of Dave West

SHROPSHIRE'S COLIN BEAMAN booked his place in the BCGBA Champion of Champions with a resounding 21-8 victory over former September Waterloo champion John Bailey (Wales) in the Spring Waterloo.

He had to battle hard with some tough encounters along the way starting with a 21-20 victory over Wayne Ditchfield then a 21-19 triumph over Jimmy Derby. His last 16 encounter with Mark Ashman from Cumbria proved to be his biggest winning margin of the day, 21-15, but his run looked like it was coming to an end in the quarter-finals as he trailed Barclay Warrington (Rochdale) 18-9.

Warrington had former Waterloo winners Andy Buckley and Tommy Johnstone among his scalps but once Beaman got hold of the jack he took full advantage to win a 21-20 thriller. His semi-final opponent was Gary Ellis, the current champion, and after another titanic battle he was securing another 21-19 victory.

Joining Colin at the Waterloo in October will be six more County Merit winners (see page 5) with the remaining Merits being completed in June.

Darren Smith will be hoping for several dual qualifiers as his victory in the Riley Trophy at Wolstanton earned him a place on the reserve list. Like Colin Beaman, Smith won his final 21-8 with Chris Brown unable to get the better of the Derbyshire ace.

FINAL

Sunday 27 March
Sunday 3 April
Sunday 3 April
Sunday 10 April
Sunday 22 May
Sunday 22 May
Saturday 28 May
Sunday 29 May
Monday 30 May
Monday 30 May
Monday 30 May

COMPETITION

Tony Pagett Open at Cradley Liberal Club
Coors Meole Brace Open at Meole Brace BC
Cumbria Merit at Kendal Victoria BC & Burneside BC
CCF Open (WBFSC) at West Bromwich Supporters Club
Isle of Man Merit at Onchan Park
Lancashire Merit at Leigh BC
Merseyside Merit at Upton Victory Hall BC
Spring Waterloo at Waterloo Hotel
Potteries & District Merit at Milton Hayes BC
South Yorkshire Merit at Crookes BC
Yorkshire Merit at Harold Club

QUALIFIER

Ross Dunkley
Steve Curbishley
Martin Gilpin
Dave McDermott
Colin Kelly
Chris Goodhand
John Hignett Jnr
Colin Beaman
Kevin Boon
Richard Jackson
James Hanson

RESERVE COMPETITIONS (number order in brackets)

(4) Played in October 2010 **Donnington Wood Dickie Bond Classic**
(5) Sunday 8 May **The Riley Trophy (Wolstanton)** at Wolstanton BC
(12) Played in October 2010 **Arthur Johnson Memorial**

Dean Ferris
Darren Smith
Darren Plenderleith

LABOUR MP AIMS TO PROTECT BOWLING GREENS

On Monday 28th March 2011, Labour MP, John Woodcock, proposed a ten minute rule bill aiming to strengthen planning laws to protect bowling greens.

Under the bill, greens that are used by an existing team could not be built over unless local bowlers actively consent to the sell-off. The bill would also introduce a community right to buy for bowling greens, which would allow people to band together and purchase the green for themselves and maintain it as a community asset. The bill will receive its second reading on Friday 1st July.

It is hoped as many bowlers as possible will lobby their local MP to get them to support the bill. You can find out who, and how to contact your local MP by visiting the following link – <http://findyourmp.parliament.uk/>.

Visit http://news.bbc.co.uk/democracylive/hi/house_of_commons/newsid_9438000/9438380.stm to hear the full speech John Woodcock made in the House of Commons.

WARWICKSHIRE WIN BATTLE OF LADIES CHAMPIONS

SECTION 1	Pld	Pts	Diff
North Derbyshire	2	4	+65
Dudley & District	1	2	+49
Wales	2	2	-30
North Shropshire	1	0	-27
North Lancs & Fylde	2	0	-57

SECTION 2	Pld	Pts	Diff
Yorkshire	2	4	+99
Warwickshire	1	2	+85
Cumbria	1	2	+32
Staffordshire	2	0	-84
South Yorkshire	2	0	-132

SECTION 3	Pld	Pts	Diff
Mid Cheshire	2	4	+136
Cheshire	1	2	+7
Shropshire	2	2	-41
Greater Manchester	1	0	-30
Lancashire	2	0	-72

SECTION 4	Pld	Pts	Diff
Burton & District	2	4	+188
Coventry & District	2	4	+171
North Warwickshire	2	4	+91
South Staffordshire	2	0	-80
South Derbyshire	2	0	-90
Wirral	2	0	-280

Semi-Finals

Sunday 14th August

Waterloo Cup Final

Saturday 3rd September

Championship Final

Sunday 4th September

British Crown Green Ladies County Champions, Warwickshire, made a successful start to their 2011 campaign with a resounding 85 shot winning margin over the Waterloo Cup holders, South Yorkshire in Section Two. Yorkshire top the section thanks to a comfortable 52 shot victory over Staffordshire to remain unbeaten in their two matches played.

North Derbyshire also remain unbeaten and lead Section One after their 38 shot victory over Wales while Dudley & District made their season's bow with 49 shots to spare over North Lancs & Fylde.

Mid Cheshire are undefeated after two games played in Section Three with Shropshire on the receiving end of a 71 shot triumph and neighbours Cheshire opened their account with a 17 shot defeat of Lancashire in the closest game of the day.

In Section Four, all teams have 100% records - three teams undefeated and three yet to taste success. Burton & District are top by virtue of a better aggregate after their 57 shot win over South Derbyshire. Coventry & District are hot on their heels after inflicting a 148 shot victory over Wirral with North Warwickshire's 58 shot defeat of South Staffordshire putting them in third place.

Round three of matches take place on **Sunday 5th June** and the fixtures are:

Section 1: Dudley & District v North Shropshire; North Derbyshire v North Lancs & Fylde.

Section 2: Cumbria v Warwickshire; South Yorkshire v Staffordshire.

Section 3: Cheshire v Greater Manchester; Lancashire v Shropshire.

Section 4: Burton & District v North Warwickshire; Coventry & District v South Derbyshire; South Staffordshire v Wirral.

Results from Sunday 15th May

Section 1: Dudley & District 429, North Lancs & Fylde 380; North Derbyshire 427, Wales 389.

Section 2: South Yorkshire 379, Warwickshire 464; Staffordshire 395, Yorkshire 447.

Section 3: Cheshire 434, Lancashire 417; Mid Cheshire 448, Shropshire 377

Section 4: Burton & District 443, South Derbyshire 386; Coventry & District 489, Wirral 340; North Warwickshire 446, South Staffordshire 388.

Results of BCGBA Ladies matches can be viewed via the BCGB website – www.crowngreenbowls.org.

ISOBEL ELECTED PRESIDENT

Winners of British Crown Green Ladies Bowling Association competitions this season will receive their trophies from Isobel Jones.

Isobel, the North Shropshire Secretary and Treasurer becomes the second lady President to come from her Association following in the footsteps of Doris Corbett who held the presidential reigns in 1986 and 1987.

Isobel's appointment makes it a Presidential Double for the Shropshire area with Barry Jennings elected President of the men's association in January.



SENIOR MERIT FILLING UP NICELY

Chris Goodhand added his name to the list of qualifiers for this year's BCGBA Senior Individual Merit, sponsored by Padders feelgoodfeet, when he defeated Barry Simm, 21-18 in the final of the Lancashire Merit. Both players will now go forward to Meole Brace on Saturday 30th July.



Joining them will be Colin Kelly and Neil Withers representing the Isle of Man. Colin

retained his Manx crown when he defeated his Marown & District BC club mate 21-10 in their finals played at Onchan Park.

Also through are a trio from Merseyside. John Hignett Jnr came through a strong field to defeat Matthew Roberts 21-6 in the final game with Dave McDermott joining them at Shrewsbury by winning the third placed play-off. Hignett's win was his third Merseyside Merit title, equalling that of David Lomax.

Three more County Merits were played on Bank Holiday Monday with, South Yorkshire and Yorkshire naming their qualifiers.

Kevin Boon beat Peter Hulse Jnr, 21-12, in the final of the Potteries & District Merit, Richard Jackson won the South Yorkshire Merit, 21-15, at the expense of Mark Kay and James Hanson lifted the prestigious Yorkshire Merit trophy in a superb 21-6 final defeat of Peter Clark.



Merseyside Past President and Life Member, John Crowther, presents John Hignett with a third Merseyside Merit title

QUALIFIERS TO DATE: **Cheshire** (4); **Cumbria** (2 – Martin Gilpin, John Reilly); **Derbyshire** (6); **Greater Manchester** (1); **Isle of Man** (2 – Colin Kelly, Neil Withers); **Lancashire** (2 – Chris Goodhand, Barry Simm); **Merseyside** (3 – John Hignett Jnr, Matthew Roberts, Dave McDermott); **North Lancs & Fylde** (3); **North Midlands** (4); **Potteries & District** (4 – Kevin Boon, Peter Hulse Jnr, Matt Fellows, Mark Ferris); **Shropshire** (6); **South Yorkshire** (3 – Richard Jackson, Mark Kay, Danny Sillitoe); **Staffordshire** (4); **Warwick & Worcester** (7); **Wales** (5); **Yorkshire** (8 – James Hanson, Peter Clark, Michael Armitage, James Wilcox, Gary Wyke, Gordon Flower, John Senior, Paul Jacques).

DIARY

THE MONTH AHEAD

Saturday 4 June	North Lancs & Fylde Merit at Skerton Libs BC (LA1 2AJ)
Sunday 5 June	BCGBA Endsleigh Senior County Championship
Sunday 5 June	BCGLBA Senior County Championship
Sunday 12 June	BCGBA Junior County Championship
Sunday 19 June	Cheshire Merit at Grapes Inn BC (WA7 5EG)
Sunday 19 June	Staffordshire Merit
Friday 24 June	Isle of Man June Festival
Tuesday 28 June	BCGLBA Veterans County Championship at Centre Vale Park (OL14 7BS)
Saturday 25 June	Greater Manchester Merit at Middleton Cons
Sunday 26 June	Derbyshire Merit
Sunday 26 June	North Midlands Merit
Sunday 26 June	Shropshire Merit
Sunday 26 June	Wales Merit
Sunday 26 June	Warwick & Worcester Merit

STILL TIME TO DONATE

There is still time to make a donation to the British Crown Green Bowling Referees Society Patron's Day which takes place on Saturday 11th June at Winsford Conservative Club.

All monies raised will be donated to St Luke's Hospice adjacent to the green following the referees competition.

If you would like to make a donation to this worthy cause then please contact Secretary, Barrie Cotterell, on 01543 277546.

YORKSHIRE OFF TO A FINE START



Defending Drakes Pride Junior County Champions, Yorkshire, look set to continue their dominance of junior bowls when they opened their title defence with a resounding 66 shot victory over Potteries & District in Section Three. Wales, defeated by Yorkshire in last year's final, also got off to a fine start in the same section with a 56 shot defeat over Staffordshire, the team they beat in last year's semi-final by 10.

Biggest winners on opening day were South Yorkshire (Section One) who won home and away against Merseyside by 96. Derbyshire (Section Four) were just one point behind after their 95 shot victory over Cheshire while Warwick & Worcester (Section One) defeated Shropshire by 48.

Section Two provided the closest matches with just 10 shots separating all four teams. North Midlands top the Section after their 8 shot victory over Greater Manchester but just 2 shots separated Lancashire and North Lancs & Fylde with the Red Rose County coming out on top in another nailbiter, matching that of their senior sides the previous week.

Fixtures for Sunday 12th June (2pm)

Group 1: Merseyside v Shropshire; South Yorkshire v Warwick & Worcester

Group 2: Greater Manchester v Lancashire; North Lancs & Fylde v North Midlands

Group 3: Potteries & District v Wales; Staffordshire v Yorkshire

Group 4: Cheshire v Cumbria; Derbyshire (bye)

Results from matches played Sunday 8th May

Group 1: Merseyside 329 v South Yorkshire 425; Shropshire 390 v Warwick & Worcester 438

Group 2: Greater Manchester 383 v North Midlands 391; Lancashire 383 v North Lancs & Fylde 381

Group 3: Potteries & District 380 v Yorkshire 446; Staffordshire 382 v Wales 438

Group 4: Cheshire 356 v Derbyshire 451; Cumbria (bye)



Jordan McDermott (Merseyside) and Andrew Peace (South Yorkshire) with their Player of the Match awards

Full match cards will be available to view or downloaded from the BCGBA website – www.crowngreenbowls.org.

MANAGEMENT MEETING

Members of the Management Committee are reminded that their next meeting takes place on Saturday 18th June at Winnington Park, Cheshire, with a 9.30am start.

The number of meetings has been scaled down over the years, partly as a cost saving measure, with now only three meetings each year. The first was held in February and the final one of 2011 is in November.

The Management Committee consists of - the Officers of the Association (10) - a Chairman (1) - one representative from each of the 16 County Association in Membership (16) - one representative from the British Crown Green Ladies Bowling Association and the British Parks Crown Green Bowling Association (2) - all Past Presidents so long as they take an active interest in the Association (11 - John Crowther, Ron Holt, Gerald Merry and Alan Tizard are not included as they are Officers of the Association/Chairman) and Honorary Life Members so long as they take an active interest in the Association (1 - Barrie Cotterell and Ron Holt are not included as they are Officers of the Association).

LADIES THROUGH TO MERIT FINALS

Coventry & District ladies played their National County Merit qualifiers at Bulkington at the beginning of May. The competition was won by Maggie Barnes who beat Diane Wilkinson in the final 21-3.

Maggie played her Stoke Coventry team mate Eve Murphy in the semi-final, winning 21-14 whilst Diane Wilkinson (Highway) had a hard fought semi, eventually beating Carol Verdon (Old Coventrians) 21-18.

Both Maggie and Diane will represent Coventry in the National Individual Finals at Whitechurch, Shropshire on Saturday 9th July. Maggie will also now go on to compete in the Champion of Champions at Blackpool's prestigious Waterloo green on Sunday 2nd October.

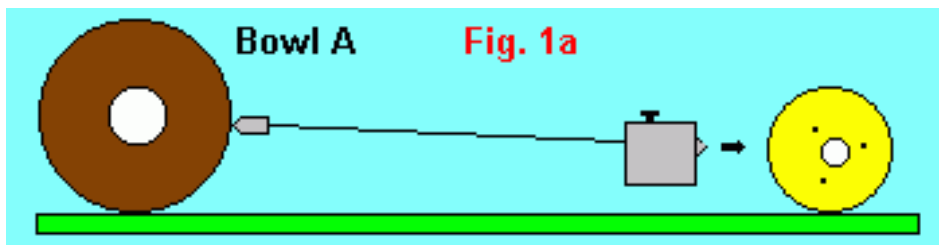
Meanwhile Jodie Faulkner won the Warwickshire County Merit, Claire Pugh the Dudley & District Merit and Kerry Brown the South Yorkshire Merit.

DO YOU MEASURE UP?

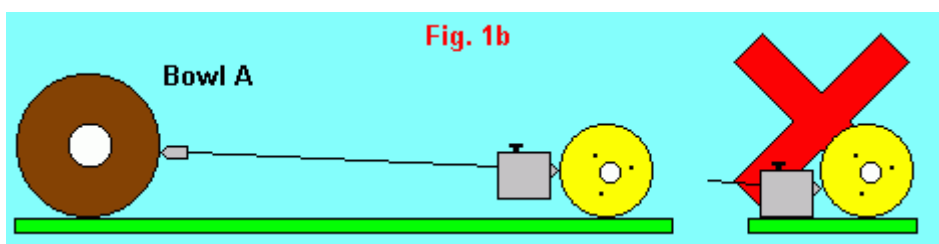
Without trying to teach anyone to 'suck eggs' you will be surprised at how many bowlers do not know how to measure. Taken from the BCGBA website (Referees Society > Measuring Devices), below is a four step guide to measuring.

Whilst most bowlers know they have to measure all bowls involved in a 'measure' the one thing that most get wrong is which end of the measures go to the jack and which goes to the bowl.

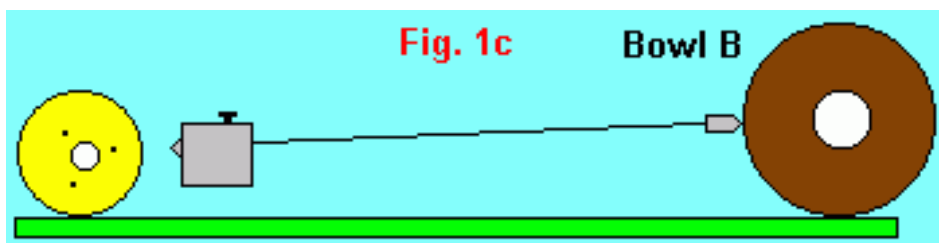
The example below shows that it is the adjustable end that goes to the jack and the respective measures should not be placed on the green (as shown in Fig. 1b).



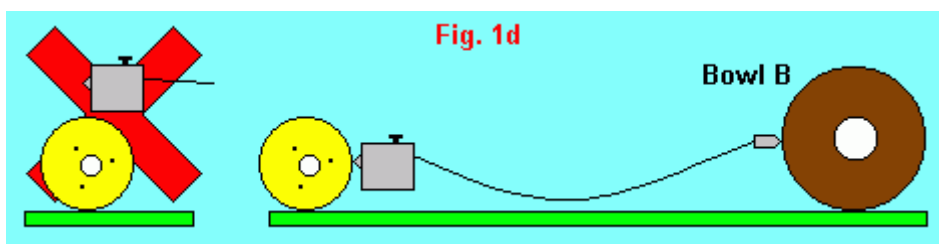
First, take the loose end to the nearest point of Bowl 'A'



Then, take the adjustable end to the nearest point of the jack and, when both ends are just touching bowl and jack with the string or tape tight, activate the locking device.



Now take the loose end to the nearest point of Bowl 'B' and if the adjustable end does not reach the nearest point of the jack then Bowl 'A' is the winner.



If the adjustable end reaches the jack and the string or tape is now slack, then Bowl 'B' is the winner.

Is it a mark?

When someone calls "not a mark", that is when in their opinion the jack hasn't travelled the full 19 metres as provided for in the Laws Of The Game (4.2).

A tape, in excess of 19 metres, is required and the loose end is taken to the jack with the adjustable end is taken to the mat. The distance is measured from the jack to the **centre** of the mat and if it is not the required 19 metres then the jack and bowl must be returned for the opponent to set the mark.

Measuring Devices

The list of approved measuring devices include:

Any Crown Green metal measure ♦ Any form of String measure ♦ Any Telescopic measure ♦ Callipers ♦ Feeler Gauges