



BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

YORKSHIRE DOUBLE TO END THE SEASON

Yorkshire ended the season with success in both the men's and ladies county championships as the 2021 season came to an end.

Yorkshire 2 triumphed in the Ladies County Cup coming out top of the group in the round robin matches played at Grange Sports & Social Club in Warrington, while Yorkshire men ended Warwick & Worcester's unbeaten run in the Senior County Championship Knockout Trophy with a 20 chalk victory in the last competition of the season.

Tracy Ryan (Shropshire Merit) won the 2019 Ladies Champion of Champions with victory over Vicky Mosley (Stretton Anglesey Ladies) while Emily Kernick & Ryan Prosser defeated their Warwick & Worcester colleagues, Michelle Jones & Ben Harris, 21-20 in the final of the Mel Evans MBE Centenary Mixed Pairs.

Reports from all competitions are detailed on the following pages with results from all of our 2021 competitions available to view on our website.

PHIL BROWN, RIP



It is with great sadness that Phil Brown, a former President of the association, passed away earlier in the week.

Phil was BCGBA President in 2017 and the highlight of his presidential year was the success of his colleagues from his beloved North Midlands County.

He was proud to present Darren Plenderleith with the Senior Merit Trophy and his county side with the coveted Crosfield Cup after their victory over Potteries & District.

Phil was a valuable member of the BCGBA Management Committee for many years and his input will be missed. He was also the current President of North Midlands and Vice Chairman of the Federation of Crown Green Bowls.

The BCGBA extends our sincere condolences at this difficult time to Phil's wife, Kate, his family and the many bowling friends he has made over the years.

RIP Phil

TRACY'S VICTORY WORTH THE WAIT

TRACY RYAN, the Shropshire Merit winner, was crowned the 2019 Ladies Champion of Champions winner, two years after the competition first got underway on Sunday 29th September 2019, delayed by Covid. Following the closure of the Waterloo Hotel green, the remaining sixteen competitors made the short journey to Marton Institute, where the competition was completed in glorious sunshine.

Unfortunately, Rebecca Teare (Isle of Man June Tourism) and Jane Bowler (Nercwys Ladies Open) were unable to attend due to work commitments / injury, giving Helen Jackson (Burton & District Merit) and Vicky Mosley (Stretton Anglesey Ladies) byes into the quarter-finals.

Of the remaining Second Round games, Emma Tobin (BCG Ladies Junior Merit) proved too strong for Katie Harrop (BCG Ladies Average Classic) in a 21-3 romp while Lynsey Gorman (Merseyside Merit), playing her first game of the season, easily accounted for Samantha Murray (South Staffordshire Merit), 21-8. Four-time champion, Nicola Boulton (BCG Ladies Individual Merit) suffered a surprise 21-10 exit to Violet Dennison (Cumbria Merit) while Tracy Ryan came from 14-9 down against Steph Witherspoon (Warwick & Worcester Merit) to book her place in the last 8 with a 21-15 victory. The other two games, Sharon Rigden (Lancashire Merit) v Donna Bennett (North Shropshire Merit) and Sonia Robson (North Warwickshire Merit) v Gill Simm (Isle of Man September Festival), were close throughout with Sharon winning 21-15 and Gill 21-18.



In the Quarter-Finals, Tracy Ryan just got the better of Lynsey Gorman, 21-19, having led 15-2 at one stage. Helen Jackson and Vicky Mosley both recorded 21-18 successes at the expense of Sharon Rigden and Gill Simm respectively, while Emma Tobin continued her fine form with a 21-13 victory over Violet Dennison.

Both Semi-Finals followed a similar pattern with the victors opening up a healthy advantage which would eventually see them through to the final. Tracey led Emma 12-6 and 18-7 but a spirited fightback from the Yorkshire youngster would see her reduce the deficit to four at 15-19, only to see Tracy score singles at the next two ends.

Vicky meanwhile was cruising to victory over Helen needing just five chalks for game after fourteen ends. At 16-3 it seemed there was no way back for Helen but once she got hold of the jack she went on an 11-break which would see her close the gap to 14-16. As in the other semi-final, her efforts would all be in vain as Vicky regained the jack and went on to a 21-16 victory.

In the final it was a similar scenario but this time there was to be no comeback. Tracy was on eight before Vicky got on the scoreboard but she was unable to keep her opponent at bay as Tracy dominated in a 21-7 victory.

YORKSHIRE CLAIM 2021 COUNTY TITLE

Yorkshire won the Senior County Championship Knockout Trophy in the reformatted competition in 2021 with victory over Warwick & Worcester, the Midlands first defeat in over four years.

Yorkshire selected the No 1 green at Meltham Sports Complex on which to build up a healthy advantage. Tom Palmer got the visitors off to a good start with a 21-13 success but Yorkshire hit back to claim the remaining three of the first four jacks and a 14 chalk lead. The White Rose County dominated the middle four, producing four winners, with Dave Fox handing in the best card of the day, 21-6. This left Warwick & Worcester back four to pull back 39 and although the jacks were shared two apiece, Yorkshire increased their lead to 41.



Warwick & Worcester opted for British Oak as their final venue, having used Moor Lane in 2018 and 2019. Like at Meltham, it was the visitors who would strike first, team captain, Thomas Hanson, setting the standard with a 21-17 victory. And again, like Meltham, the home side went on to claim the three remaining jacks to open up a 13 chalk advantage. Yorkshire's middle four managed to share the winning jacks and fought hard to keep the deficit to a minimum, only dropping three more chinks, going into the last four, 16 chinks behind. Four more close games followed with the jacks again shared two apiece with the home side recording a 21 chalk victory but not enough to prevent an overall Yorkshire victory by 20 chinks.



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YORKSHIRE LADIES ALSO CLAIM 2021 COUNTY TITLE

Yorkshire 2 won the reformatted County Championship, just edging out Warwick & Worcester 2. Both sides finished level on points but Yorkshire's better aggregate saw them lift the trophy.

With the 2021 competition being played this season 8-a-side on a round-robin basis at five regional venues, the five group winners – Yorkshire 1, Yorkshire 2, Mid Cheshire 2, Warwick & Worcester 1 and Warwick & Worcester 2 – played off to a winner at Grange Sports & Social Club, Warrington.

Yorkshire 2 won their opening three rounds before they had to sit out round four with victories over Yorkshire 1 (14), Mid Cheshire 2 (12) and Warwick & Worcester 1 (17). Warwick & Worcester 2 opened with a 16 chalk triumph over their Number 1 team and after sitting out round two they returned to suffer a narrow 2 chalk defeat by Mid Cheshire 2. They returned to winning ways in Round 4 to overcome the challenge of Yorkshire 1, winning with five chalks to spare.

With just the final round of matches to go there was only Warwick & Worcester 2 who could deny Yorkshire 2 the title. Yorkshire only needed a point for victory while Warwick & Worcester needed to win by 13, or more, to overtake the White Rose County.

Warwick & Worcester won all four jacks in the first half of the draw with Kathryn Willets and Shannon Kernick both winning 15-9. This gave the Midlands a 20 chalk advantage and when Emily Kernick came off winning to 1 in the last four, it looked like the trophy was heading south. However, Yorkshire weren't finished yet as Debbie Davis and Emma Tobin stormed to 15-1 and 15-2 victories to change the destination of the trophy, confirmed by Andrea Buckley's 15-10 win. When all the scores were added up Warwick & Worcester won by 2, finishing on the same six points as Yorkshire but some 20 chalks short on aggregate.



WARWICK & WORCESTER PAIRS MEET IN FINAL OF MIXED PAIRS

County colleagues, Emily Kernick & Ryan Prosser and Michelle Jones & Ben Harris, battled it out in the final of the Mel Evans MBE Centenary Mixed Pairs, played at Washlands Sports Club, Derbyshire, to become the 2021 champions.



The competition was played in persistent rain throughout the day, only stopping once the last bowl had been played.

In a see-saw match, Jones & Harris held the early advantage opening up a 9-5 lead only to be pegged back to 9 across with Kernick & Prosser scoring four at the seventh end.

Jones & Harris pulled away again to go 13-9 up only for their county opponents to pass them at 15-13. Once again, they opened up an advantage following a run of five chinks without reply go 18-15 ahead

but Kernick & Prosser hit back to level at 18 across.

From here the pairings couldn't be separated as they peeled at 19 and 20 across with missed opportunities to claim the game. In the end it was Kernick & Prosser who celebrated victory with the point they needed to end a tremendous game of bowls with some outstanding play.

Earlier, Kernick & Prosser started their march to the final with a 21-17 first round success over Anita Richardson & John Lloyd (Merseyside) and progressed to the quarter-finals with a fairly comfortable 21-13 victory over Lyn Bolton & Trevor Quayle, one of four pairings who had travelled over from the Isle of Man. In the quarter-finals, they ended the hopes of Fern Beaumont & Jack Dyson (Yorkshire) of retaining their title with another comfortable score line, 21-14, and followed that by booking their place in the final against another Yorkshire pairing, Chloe Hirst & Gareth Coates, 21-12.

Lynn Pritchatt, partner of the late Mel Evans, made the presentations, congratulating all competitors on their efforts on what had been a truly miserable day.

FACE-TO-FACE MEETINGS RESUME

With all BCGBA meetings held via Zoom during the Covid restrictions, meetings are now resuming at our usual venue of Winnington Park, Northwich.

The British Crown Green Referees Society held their first meeting at the beginning of the month and this will be followed by the Ladies Annual Meeting on Sunday 7th November. The BCGBA Management Committee will meet on Saturday 20th November and their Rules Revision / Annual General Meeting is scheduled to go ahead on Saturday 15th January 2022.

The experts at **Pitchcare** have produced a diary of Key Green Maintenance Tasks for each month of the year. Taken from their website, below are the key tasks for October. You can access these diary entries via the BCGBA Website bcgba.org.uk or their own website pitchcare.com – click on the link for Sports Diaries.

During October the following activities are usually undertaken:

- Regular brushing in the mornings to remove the moisture from the leaf is an important maintenance regime to deter an attack of disease.
- Monitor thatch levels and aerate to achieve desired levels of oxygen within the sward.
- Tip the grass when necessary to prevent any excessive growth taking place
- Apply further top-dressing if any holes or hollows require
- Check for disease and pests, seek advice if necessary
- Drag brush daily
- Spike if conditions are right

End of Season Renovations – if not already undertaken. The success of the renovations will be down to the appropriate work undertaken including:

- Scarification
- Aeration
- Topdressing
- Overseeding

The objectives of end of season renovations are:

- To remove thatch
- To repair worn areas
- To renovate surface levels
- To remove unwanted debris
- To re-establish sward densities (overseeding)
- Application of pre seeding/autumn fertilisers to promote sward establishment

The following activities are usually carried out in the following order, when conditions allow.

Mowing the sward, preparing surfaces for renovation: lower cutting height to about 3-4mm to clean and prepare green for renovation operations.

Scarification, removal of unwanted debris: collect and disposal of arisings. Depending on the severity of the thatch, you may need to scarify several times in different directions and to a depth of 4-15mm.

Aeration will usually be done with solid tines however, occasionally hollow tines will be used if a change of soil texture is required.

Overseeding. It is important to ensure a good groove or hole is made to receive the seed; good seed to soil contact is essential for seed germination. Good moisture and soil temperatures will see the seed germinate between 7-14 days.

Watering/Irrigation is essential after renovations to ensure your seed germinates. Brushing/switching of the playing surface keeps the green clean and removes any dew or surface water. Keeping the surface dry will aid resistance to disease.