



BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

THREE FINALS IN QUICK SUCCESSION

The second week of August is proving to be a busy week of bowls with three of our 2021 finals taking place in the space of five days.

Proceedings start on Wednesday 11th with the finals of the Veterans Handicap Trophy, played at the excellent Prees Cricket & Recreation Club in Shropshire. In its usual name of the Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship but renamed for this year only, all county associations were offered two places in finals day as opposed to the usual pro-rata qualifying process where counties are allocated places according to the number of entries they received in their own association. For the first time, the British Parks have representatives in the 32-strong field but unfortunately the Isle of Man were unable to enter this year. The 2019 winner, Paul Stretton (Derbyshire) **bowed out** in his county qualifier but Mike Fieldhouse (Cumbria), beaten 21-14 by Stretton in the final, is back to hopefully go one better. Fieldhouse takes on the 2018 runner-up, Tony Freeth (Warwick & Worcester), in his opening game.

Three days later, on Saturday 14th, it is the turn of the Juniors to grace the greens at Heaton Park, Manchester, for the Junior Merit Trophy. Again, each county will, by tradition, have two entries in this event. With the juniors having the biggest turnover of players due to the age restriction, six of the 2019 field that played at Netherfield BC in Cumbria - Shannon McMullen (Isle of Man), Matthew Marrow (Lancashire), Tom Farmer (Potteries & District), Jacob Parratt (South Yorkshire), Ryan Price Williams (Wales) and beaten semi-finalist, Tom Hirst (Yorkshire), will be out to claim the title of the best junior bowler.

The following day, Sunday 15th, the Ladies take centre stage in the Ladies Singles Merit Trophy, again on the greens at Heaton Park. In a change of format for this year, each county were given three qualifying places (Isle of Man only accepting two places while Staffordshire chose not to enter) with a random draw taken place to determine which counties would have an additional qualifier to make the 64 players taking part. Nicola Boulton (Mid Cheshire) won the Merit two year's ago when it was played at Windle BC, Merseyside and she has qualified once again and faces North Warwickshire's Liz Buckley in her first round game. Louise Ollerton (Greater Manchester), defeated 21-18 by Nicola in the semi-final, is in the same half of the draw and plays Ashley Zepeda (Wales) in her first game.



Veterans Handicap Trophy



sponsored by

The Grocott Family Charitable Trust

Wednesday, 11th August 2021

10am

**Prees Cricket & Recreation Club
Brades Road, Prees, Shropshire SY13 2DX**



Free Admission - Programmes £1

Refreshments available

Spectators can bring in their own seating

VETERANS HANDICAP TROPHY

1	Mike Chamberlain (Wales)	v	2	Tom Baxter (Cumbria)
3	Tony Eades (Warwick & Worcester)	v	4	David Cowsill (Yorkshire)
5	Steve Marshall (British Parks)	v	6	John Metters (North Lancs & Fylde)
7	Tony Aubury (North Midlands)	v	8	Steve Davies (Staffordshire)
9	Phillip Goulding (South Yorkshire)	v	10	Peter Illidge (Cheshire)
11	Martin Bacon (Lancashire)	v	12	Keith Pessall (Shropshire)
13	Chris Lord (Greater Manchester)	v	14	Neil Sherbrooke (Merseyside)
15	Joe Melvin (Potteries & District)	v	16	Stuart Smith (Derbyshire)
17	Les Holmes (Yorkshire)	v	18	Paul Walton (Derbyshire)
19	Mark Melvin (Potteries & District)	v	20	Tony Sullivan (Merseyside)
21	Barrie Sadler (Staffordshire)	v	22	Michael Swift (British Parks)
23	Paul Harris (Lancashire)	v	24	Dave Harvey (North Midlands)
25	Bob Renke (Shropshire)	v	26	Barry Harris (Wales)
27	Ray Taylor (North Lancs & Fylde)	v	28	Andy Procter (Cheshire)
29	Mike Fieldhouse (Cumbria)	v	30	Tony Freeth (Warwick & Worcester)
31	Ronnie Newton (Greater Manchester)	v	32	Nigel McDermott (South Yorkshire)

JUNIOR MERIT TROPHY

1	Claran Andrews (Warwick & Worcester)	v	2	Joe Dicken (Staffordshire)
3	Samuel Jarret (Lancashire)	v	4	Abi Harris (Cheshire)
5	Blake Ashworth-McLean (Greater Manchester)	v	6	Matthew Brown (North Lancs & Fylde)
7	Samuel Davies (Derbyshire)	v	8	Aaron Brine (Yorkshire)
9	Toby Hart (Isle of Man)	v	10	Tom Farmer (Potteries & District)
11	Jack Mather (Merseyside)	v	12	Lewis Bailey (South Yorkshire)
13	Ethan Lowden (Cumbria)	v	14	Joseph Killen (Shropshire)
15	Ryan Price Williams (Wales)	v	16	Finlay Roche (North Midlands)
17	Fraser Rigg (Cumbria)	v	18	Jacob Parratt (South Yorkshire)
19	Owen Wood (North Midlands)	v	20	Kian Thomas (Wales)
21	Louis Furniss (Derbyshire)	v	22	Ryan Hocknull (Warwick & Worcester)
23	Shannon McMullan (Isle of Man)	v	24	Jordyn Hughes (Staffordshire)
25	Thomas Killen (Shropshire)	v	26	Kyle Tootle (North Lancs & Fylde)
27	Dylan Porter (Potteries & District)	v	28	Lucas Wainwright (Merseyside)
29	Matthew Marrow (Lancashire)	v	30	Sasha Spencer (Cheshire)
31	Tom Hirst (Yorkshire)	v	32	Meghan Millward (Greater Manchester)



HEATON PARK BOWLING CLUB

St Margaret's Road, Prestwich, Manchester M25 2GT



BCGBA JUNIOR MERIT TROPHY

Saturday 14th August 2021

10am

Free Admission – Programmes £1



BCG LADIES SINGLES MERIT TROPHY

Sponsored by

The Marjorie Fryer Memorial

Sunday 15th August 2021

10am

Admission: £1 – Programmes £1

**Refreshments available
Spectators can bring in their own seating
Car parking charges payable (£3)**

LADIES SINGLES MERIT TROPHY

1 Christine Wellesby (Lancashire)	v	2 Marie Worthington (Burton & District)
3 Gill Simm (Cumbria)	v	4 Carole Darley (North Lancs & Fylde)
5 Mandy Wilks (North Derbyshire)	v	6 Andrea Buckley (Yorkshire)
7 Jenny Moore (Isle of Man)	v	8 Sue Nugent (Merseyside)
9 Margaret Brookes (Greater Manchester)	v	10 Lynn Morgan (Dudley & District)
11 Sasha Spencer (Cheshire)	v	12 Lauren Smith (South Staffordshire)
13 Linda Kirkham (Wales)	v	14 Tina Ralphs (North Shropshire)
15 Jayne Kent (South Yorkshire)	v	16 Emily Weaver (Warwick & Worcester)
17 Donna Bennett (North Shropshire)	v	18 Angela Gaut (Shropshire)
19 Susan Pugh (Dudley & District)	v	20 Gill Nelson (Lancashire)
21 Sue Walkden (Greater Manchester)	v	22 Maggie Pailing (Warwick & Worcester)
23 Samantha Stanley (Merseyside)	v	24 Sue Worrall (Mid Cheshire)
25 Jackie Burdett (North Midlands)	v	26 Sonia Robson (North Warwickshire)
27 Linda Williams (Wales)	v	28 Harriet Nettel (Burton & District)
29 Vikki Wilson (South Staffordshire)	v	30 Kathryn Gee (Cheshire)
31 Kellie Hill (South Yorkshire)	v	32 Liz Bennett (North Lancs & Fylde)
33 Alexis Lunn-Gadd (Yorkshire)	v	34 Tasmin Birkett (Mid Cheshire)
35 Wendy Smart (North Warwickshire)	v	36 Debbie Whitworth (South Yorkshire)
37 Karen Rolls (Dudley & District)	v	38 Christine Ainscough (Cumbria)
39 Jackie Owen (Lancashire)	v	40 Clair Russell (North Lancs & Fylde)
41 Carol Verdon (North Midlands)	v	42 Jan Pratley (Warwick & Worcester)
43 Louise Ollerton (Greater Manchester)	v	44 Ashley Zepeda (Wales)
45 Sally King (Shropshire)	v	46 Heather Rowe (South Staffordshire)
47 Elaine Rigby (North Derbyshire)	v	48 Anita Richardson (Merseyside)
49 Sophie Saywell (North Shropshire)	v	50 Heather Johnson (North Derbyshire)
51 Violet Dennison (Cumbria)	v	52 Julie Alderman (South Staffordshire)
53 Donna Stancliffe (South Yorkshire)	v	54 Linda Gledhill (Yorkshire)
55 Janet Monk (Isle of Man)	v	56 Steph Witherspoon (Warwick & Worcester)
57 Marilyn Lea (Lancashire)	v	58 Sian Skelton (Shropshire)
59 Ronni Lyon (Cheshire)	v	60 Nicola Gilmore-Coupe (Merseyside)
61 Liz Buckley (North Warwickshire)	v	62 Nicola Boulton (Mid Cheshire)
63 Carol Blakey (North Midlands)	v	64 Hannah McDonald (Burton & District)



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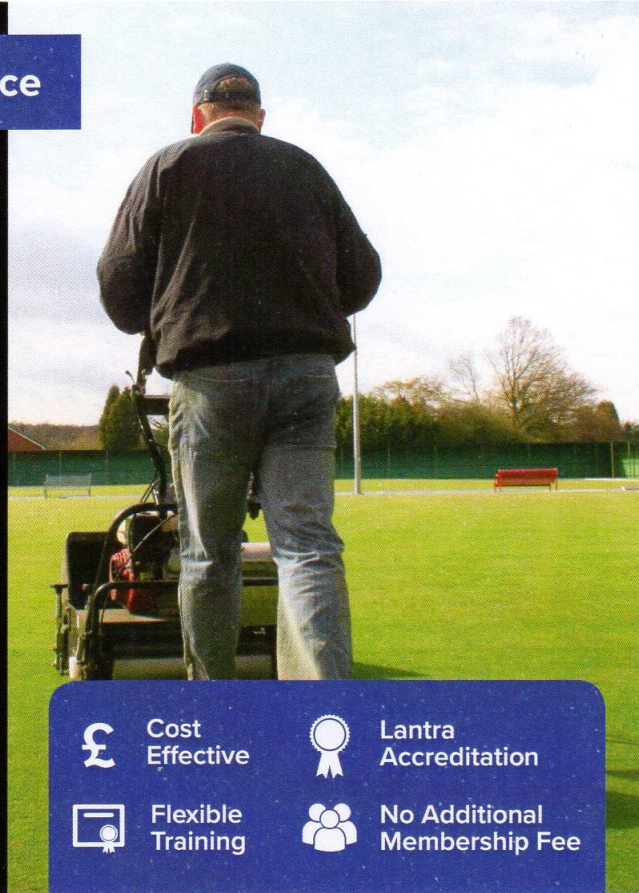
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Bowls Green Maintenance

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The experts at **Pitchcare** have produced a diary of Key Green Maintenance Tasks for each month of the year. Below are the key tasks for August. You can access these diary entries via their website Pitchcare.com – click on the link for Sports Diaries.

General Maintenance

Mowing daily, or at least three times a week, to maintain sward height at around 4-8mm. Some clubs reduce their mowing heights further, perhaps down to 3mm to help speed up the greens for club competitions. Prolonged mowing at these heights will lead to plant stress.

The speed of greens can be affected by other factors - too much thatch is the main cause of slow greens, or the fact that the greens have not had enough topdressings to maintain levels.

Many bowlers complain about slow, inconsistent greens, often resulting in clubs trying to speed them up by shaving off more grass. In the short term, this may increase speed but, in the long term, it will be very damaging to the green.

- Remove and control the rate of unwanted vegetative growth (thatch and side growth) by regular grooming and verticutting operations.
- Light applications of topdressing will restore and maintain surface levels, thus increasing green speed.
- Mowing in several directions to reduce nap layering will help increase green speed.
- Double cutting for matches will increase green speed.
- Controlling soil moisture will help influence green speed.
- Brushing/switching of the playing surface keeps the green clean and removes any dew or surface water. Keeping the surface dry will improve resistance to disease.

Mowing

Too many bowls clubs choose to cut their greens far too low during the summer months, mainly influenced by club members who want faster greens. Do not be tempted to cut below 4mm unless you have the expertise, resources and knowledge to support this type of maintenance regime. Mowing the green below 4mm will, in the short term, give the members what they want - fast greens - however, there is often a cost to bear for doing this. It generally comes in the form of the green suffering in many ways, grass cover begins to thin out, bare areas develop which allow weeds and mosses to establish. Beneath the surface, the constant rolling will have compacted the soil profile, reducing the air spaces. This leads to poorer root growth, less movement of water and resulting in flooded surfaces.

In fact, the most common cause of slow bowling greens is the presence of a layer of accumulated organic fibre, commonly known as thatch. This is found just below the surface and is caused by the accumulation of matted grass stems. This is easily detectable when you walk across the green and the surface feels soft.

Aeration

is a key activity to ensure that there is a good air/gas exchange going on in the soil profile. The use of a sarel roller (depth 5mm) helps to keep the surface open without disturbing the playing surface. Deeper aeration should only be done with micro tines when moist conditions allow penetration.

Irrigation

Water is influential in all chemical, physiological and biological processes of plant growth. The soil/plant water relationships is critical to the sustainability of any grass plant. Having an understanding of these relationships is critical. All grass plants are a continuum of water movement. Over 90% of the plant's water requirements are transported through the plant from the soil profile, via the roots and stem tissues into the leaves and out into the atmosphere. Knowledge of these relationships is important when designing and operating irrigation systems. The main aim is to achieve a water balance within the soil profile ensuring that the grass plant is able to access available water from the soil.

Irrigation scheduling by the water balance approach is based on estimating the soil water content. In the field, daily evapotranspiration (ET) amounts are withdrawn from storage in the soil profile. Any rainfall or irrigation are added to storage. Should the water balance calculations project soil water to drop below some minimum level, irrigation is indicated. Weather forecasts enable prediction of ET rates and projection of soil water balance to indicate whether irrigation is needed in the near future. Soil water relationships are key drivers in maintaining plant health, so it is vitally important you readily water your bowling green and ensure the plant does not become stressed from the lack of water, on the other hand you do not want to be over watering, as this may bring you other problems.

Renovations

Generally, you should be looking at a programme of scarifying in several directions to remove unwanted thatch layers and dead matter, aerating with some deep solid tines to break up compaction, topdressing with some 70-30 topdressing to restore levels, and overseeding with some new grass seed.

Unfortunately, one of the deciding factors that often reduces the effectiveness of these planned works is the amount of money the club has available, especially given the current circumstances. It can cost anything between £1200-£1500 for a contractor to come in and do all the work. Savings can be made if the club undertake the work themselves, however, the effectiveness of the work carried out will be determined by the equipment they have at their disposal.

Savings can also be made if clubs buy materials in bulk (several clubs group buying).

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ROSS WINS ON MERIT

Ross Dunkley got the better of his Warwick & Worcester teammate, Jason Galvin, to win the 2021 Senior Merit Trophy. Thirty-two bowlers, two from each county, took to the greens at the inaugural BCGBA competition at Heaton Park, Manchester.

As many eventual winners do, Dunkley was a relieved first round winner as he edged out Cumbria's Mark Ashburn 21-20. Two further close encounters followed, a 21-18 defeat of Paul Garwood from Cheshire in round two and a 21-16 victory over Jordan Baddeley (North Midlands) in the quarter-finals. James Grimston stood in his way of a place in the final but he overcame the challenge of his North Lancs & Fylde opponent, winning 21-12.



In the other half of the draw, Jason Galvin made short work in his opening game, winning 21-6 against his Welsh opponent, John Short. His second round match pitted him against the favourite, Callum Wraight (Shropshire). In a close match, Galvin secured a 21-18 victory and then progressed to the penultimate stage at the expense of Derbyshire's Dan Petcher, 21-16. In his semi, he was involved in a tremendous battle to defeat the 2017 Senior Merit runner-up, Ross Meese (South Yorkshire), 21-20.

BCGBA President, Ken Howarth was on hand to present Ross with his winner's trophy and prize money. All scores are on the BCGBA website – click on the 2021 Competitions link.

2021 BCGBA SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP KNOCKOUT TROPHY



Sunday 1st August was Yorkshire Day and their county side celebrated it by booking a place in the semi-finals of the Senior County Championship Knockout Trophy at the expense of Wales.

Yorkshire won by 36 overall – by 49 at their Ossett Cricket & Athletic Club venue but lost by only 13 at Esclusham, despite only having four winners. They now play North Midlands in the semi-final who romped home against Cumbria with an overall 115 chalk victory. The 2017 champions won by 48 on their Dunlop No 2 green but by 67 on their travels at Hawcoat Park No 2.

In total contrast, Greater Manchester booked their semi-final place by the narrowest of margins, a single chalk victory over Shropshire. They won by 28 in their home leg at Tonge Social & Bowling Club and kept the Salopians at bay at Hanmer BC with a 27 chalk deficit. They now face the might of Warwick & Worcester who finished comfortable winners over Derbyshire. Their home side did the damage in a 49 chalk success at King George V with the away side succumbing to a narrow 5 chalk defeat at Barton BC No 2.

You can view all match cards and results on the BCGBA website – click on the 2021 Competitions link. Teams for the semi-finals will be on the BCGBA website from 12pm on Monday 23rd August.

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