

104th SENIOR INDIVIDUAL MERIT

The stage is all set for the 104th BCGBA Senior Individual Merit which returns to the excellent Rolls Royce complex in Derbyshire (27th July) with the first games getting underway at 10am. Sixty-four county qualifiers will battle it out to become the supreme champion and earn himself a place in the Champion of Champions at the end of September.

The Derbyshire County Association and Rolls Royce Leisure have worked tirelessly to ensure the greens and venue are there for all to enjoy. In addition to the bar area, there will be hot and cold food available throughout the day, including a barbeque. There is also a cash machine available on site.

This is the seventh time the Rolls Royce venue has been selected to host one of our premier competitions, the first back in 1928 when Joe Gleave defeated W T Wilcock, 21-15, in an all Lancashire final. In 1948, Dick Meyrick of Shropshire beat Lancashire's Harry Pennington by the same score and in 1973 W Line (Cheshire) lifted the trophy with victory over G Wainwright (Shropshire), also 21-15. Six years later, Jackie Hunt eased to a 21-5 victory over his Welsh counterpart, W Wilson and in 1989 Chris Squires from Yorkshire ended the hopes of a young John Gommersall (Merseyside) claiming the trophy with a hard-fought 21-19 victory. The most recent final was in 2004 when Graeme Wilson (Yorkshire) won by the same score against Kerry Morris (Potteries & District) and Wilson is back to try and emulate his 2004 success. He starts against North Midlands Shane Day and will be hoping to play in all six rounds and lift the trophy for a third time, having won it in 2000 when he defeated Richard Brittan (Warwick & Worcester), 21-13, at Florence Tennis & Bowling Club in the Potteries.

Another former winner looking for a third title is Noel Burrows. Noel first won the competition in 1976 when he overcame the challenge of David Blackburn (Yorkshire), 21-16, and some thirty-four years later won his second title with victory over Andy Spragg by the same score at Fleetwood Bowling Club in North Lancs & Fylde. Burrows first round match is against Yorkshire's Tom Hanson.

The only other former winner in the line-up is the man in form, Shropshire's Callum Wraight. Wraight won a tremendous final at the Northern Club, Merseyside, ten years ago with Glynn Cookson (Cheshire) ending up on the wrong side of a 21-19 score line. He must

first get past the experienced Roy Moxham from Cumbria if he has any chance of equalling Graeme Wilson and Noel Burrows two titles.

Paul Wilson will be hoping to go one better this year after finishing runner-up to Stuart Perry in 1998 when the finals were played at Victoria Park in his home county of North Lancs & Fylde. The Cumbria Merit winner, Paul Clark, is his opponent in his opening match.

Rolls Royce Leisure is situated on Moor Lane (off Osmaston Park Road), Derby DE24 9HY. Car parking is available in the lower car park.

Admission is the usual £10 per person with an additional cost of £10 for those wanting a reserved seat. Enquiries for seating should be directed to the BCGBA CEO, Mark Bircumshaw, on 07887 713 009.



As there is no planned live streaming of this year's Senior Merit, all the results will be updated via the BCGBA website.



104th BCGBA Senior Individual Merit

**Saturday, 27th July 2019, commencing at 10am
at Rolls Royce Leisure, Moor Lane, (off Osmaston Park Road) Derby DE24 9HY**

1	Stuart Marshall (North Lancs & Fylde)	v	2	Jordan Cain (Isle of Man)
3	Matt Kelly-Walley (Derbyshire)	v	4	* Matt Allen (North Midlands)
5	* Geraint Booth (Wales)	v	6	Nathan Dobson (Yorkshire)
7	Roy Moxham (Cumbria)	v	8	Callum Wraight (Shropshire)
9	Gareth Gwilliam (Greater Manchester)	v	10	Richard Bate (Staffordshire)
11	Karl Shanks (North Midlands)	v	12	* Damien Morrison (Lancashire)
13	Tom Hanson (Yorkshire)	v	14	Noel Burrows (Cheshire)
15	Adam Weaver (Warwick & Worcester)	v	16	* Gary Owen (Potteries & District)
17	* Graeme Wilson (Yorkshire)	v	18	Shane Day (North Midlands)
19	Stuart Rutter (Shropshire)	v	20	Steve Parkin (Potteries & District)
21	* Jack Hargreaves (Greater Manchester)	v	22	Matt Milsom (Derbyshire)
23	Ross Dunkley (Warwick & Worcester)	v	24	Daniel Jones (Wales)
25	Dave Bennett (Lancashire)	v	26	* Steve Morrey (Cheshire)
27	James Hanson (Yorkshire)	v	28	* Kevin Kearns (Merseyside)
29	Gary Roberts (Wales)	v	30	Colin Leishman (Greater Manchester)
31	Andrew Sorsby (South Yorkshire)	v	32	Liam Lowery (Warwick & Worcester)
33	Owen Jackson (North Lancs & Fylde)	v	34	Ed Furniss (Derbyshire)
35	* Colin Kelly (Isle of Man)	v	36	Kevin Newbery (Greater Manchester)
37	Ian Wassell (Potteries & District)	v	38	Wayne Moseley (Yorkshire)
39	Paul Hallett (Wales)	v	40	Lee Johnstone (Cheshire)
41	Liam Griffin (Yorkshire)	v	42	Danny Roberts (Lancashire)
43	* David May (Derbyshire)	v	44	Aaron Williams (South Yorkshire)
45	Michael Lynch (North Midlands)	v	46	Josh Hale (Warwick & Worcester)
47	Paul Williams (Shropshire)	v	48	* Steve Freer (Staffordshire)
49	Lewis Scott (Wales)	v	50	Joe Bown (Warwick & Worcester)
51	James Wilcox (Yorkshire)	v	52	Nigel Greenhalgh (Greater Manchester)
53	Paul Wilson (North Lancs & Fylde)	v	54	* Paul Clark (Cumbria)
55	Dave McDermott (Merseyside)	v	56	* Spencer Clarke (Shropshire)
57	Mitchell Toth (Greater Manchester)	v	58	Alex Wolfenden (Yorkshire)
59	Noel Bates (North Midlands)	v	60	Paul Clegg (Lancashire)
61	* James Higgins (South Yorkshire)	v	62	Gordon Hawkins (Staffordshire)
63	* Ryan Prosser (Warwick & Worcester)	v	64	Dan Petcher (Derbyshire)

* Denotes County Merit winner (North Lancs & Fylde Merit winner is unable to play)



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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP SEMI-FINALISTS CONFIRMED



After three months of qualifying, the semi-final line for the 2019 Endsleigh Senior County Championship is now confirmed. Defending champions, Warwick & Worcester, will play Derbyshire while Shropshire take on Merseyside on Sunday 4th August. The teams can be viewed via the BCGBA website – bcgba.org.uk.

Derbyshire emerged unscathed from **Section 1** following their 30-chalk overall victory over Lancashire, having already defeated North Midlands and Potteries & District. A 56-chalk home victory on Stretton No 1 green was enough to cover the 26-chalk loss in Lancashire. Darren Carter (21-7), Richard Gill (21-8) and John Dewy (21-8) were the main protagonists at Stretton.

Warwick & Worcester were in the three-team **Section 2** and having beaten Cheshire in their June fixture faced South Yorkshire in a repeat of last season's final with winners going through to the penultimate stage. A solitary chalk separated the sides last year but this year the holders made sure there was to be breathing space between the two as they won by 35. South Yorkshire won by 7 at Crookesmoor Recreation with Warwick & Worcester winning by 42 at King George V.

Like Derbyshire, Shropshire finished their three **Section 3** matches undefeated, securing their semi-final place courtesy of a 162 trouncing of Cumbria. They only allowed Cumbria five winning cards over both legs, winning by 74 at Burton-in-Kendal and by 88 on home turf at Hanmer.

Merseyside qualified for the last four on aggregate with three sides finishing level on four points in **Section 4**. They won home and away against Wales to deny the Welsh county a semi-final place who only needed a draw to progress. Merseyside's overall 27 chalk victory left them with an aggregate of plus 40 meaning that if Staffordshire defeated Greater Manchester by 54 in the other section match, they would qualify for the last four. Staffordshire though fell four chalks short, beating Greater Manchester by 50 and finishing on plus 37.

SENIOR SUPPLEMENTARY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Counties finishing in second and third positions in their sections now enter the Endsleigh Senior Supplementary County Championship on Sunday 4th August (10am), which this year will be played at Garswood Hall (WN4 8LU). The eight qualifiers have been divided into two groups playing on a round-robin basis in an eight-a-side competition. The two group winners will contest the final. Last season's winners, Cheshire, have been drawn to play in the same group as Wales, who they beat in the 2018 final.

GROUP 1 – Potteries & District, Cheshire, Yorkshire, Wales

GROUP 2 – North Midlands, South Yorkshire, North Lancs & Fylde, Staffordshire



DRAKES PRIDE JUNIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

There are just three junior matches scheduled on Sunday 11th August following the withdrawal of Lancashire from **Division 1** of this season's competition. This reduces the number of teams in this division to four, leaving North Lancs & Fylde and South Yorkshire without a match. Derbyshire take on North Midlands in the divisions only match with both teams level on two points. Whoever wins will join South Yorkshire at the top of the table.

In the **Premier Division**, Shropshire take on Staffordshire and Yorkshire play Wales. Shropshire and Yorkshire have the opportunity to pull away from Warwick & Worcester with all three teams currently level on four points each. Staffordshire and Wales however, are still looking for their first points of the season.

In the three-team **Division 2**, Cheshire were crowned champions after their comprehensive 112 chalk victory over Potteries & District in the final match of the division and are now promoted to Division 1 next season. The Cheshire county and junior officials are to be congratulated on their success when only a few seasons ago they couldn't field a team. They have taken some hidings along the way but they persisted and the fruits of their efforts are now beginning to pay off.

NICOLA ADDS A SECOND MERIT TITLE

Nicola Boulton added to her 2014 success by winning the Ladies Senior Individual Merit, sponsored by **Country Garden Roses** and the **Chester Partnership**, for a second time. She was in tremendous form throughout the day on the greens of Windle Bowling Club, played in Merseyside, the county of the Ladies President, Lynsey Gorman.

Lynsey herself qualified but bowed out to Nicola in the quarter-final stage having earlier defeated Adele Chadwick (Lancashire), 21-13, and Hannah McDonald (Burton & District) and Eileen Pye (North Lancs & Fylde), both 21-6.

With the winners swapping greens for the first three rounds, from the quarter-finals onwards all games were played on the No 1 green and in glorious sunshine.

Louise Ollerton (Greater Manchester) was a comfortable 21-12 winner over Heather Johnson (North Derbyshire) and would meet Nicola Boulton in the first semi-final. Nicola getting the better of Lynsey Gorman, 21-14, in her quarter-final game. Both ladies were involved in a tremendous semi-final game which saw the 2014 winner a relieved finalist after a narrow 21-18 victory.

In the other half of the draw, former Lady President, Joan Lewis, eased past Julie Alderman (South Staffordshire) 21-8 in her quarter-final match having earlier ended Maliza Herbert's (Warwick & Worcester) hopes of a third title in a 21-20 thriller. Emily Kernick (Warwick & Worcester) reached the penultimate stage courtesy of a 21-11 success against Mid Cheshire's Stacey Linegar. Like Joan, Emily put out a former winner, Tracy Ryan (2016) 21-16 in the first round but just couldn't get over the line in her semi-final succumbing to a 21-19 defeat.

In the final, Nicola got off to a great start to open up a 10-4 lead. Joan fought back to draw level at ten across only for Nicola to regain the jack and lead on to a 21-12 victory. All scores are on the BCGLBA website.

Lady President, Lynsey Gorman, made the presentations to all competitors with the finalists, Nicola (left) and Joan (right) receiving rose bushes courtesy of the sponsors, Country Garden Roses.



BCGBA

Junior Individual Merit

Saturday, 17th August 2019, commencing at 10am

at Netherfield BC, Parkside Road, Kendal LA9 7BJ

Free Admission

A Charity Raffle will be held in support of the local St John Ambulance group



**The full draw will be published on the BCGBA website
bcgba.org.uk**

LADIES REACH THE SEMI-FINALS

The ladies are also down to their penultimate stage with their semi-finals being played on Sunday 18th August. Defending champions, Warwick & Worcester, will play South Yorkshire while Shropshire take on Yorkshire in a repeat of last season's semi-final. All four semi-finalists qualified by winning their sections undefeated.

South Yorkshire finished their **Section 1** matches with a 39-chalk overall victory over Burton & District, winning home and away. The Clarke's were in tremendous form in Burton & District at Tutbury BC, with Sarah winning 21-3 and Rachel 21-4.

Warwick & Worcester proved far too strong for Staffordshire in their final **Section 2** match, winning by 140. They had eight winners at Bucknall Bowling & Recreational Club, including a 21-1 from Steph Witherspoon, and ten winners in their home leg at Solihull Marsh Lane where they won by 95.

Shropshire were comfortable winners against Wales in **Section 3**. Their away side returned from Esclusham with just an 8-chalk deficit but at home Natalie Connor and Helen Clee, both 21-9 winners, were instrumental in securing a 73-chalk victory at Newport.

In **Section 4**, it came down to a winner-takes-all clash between North Warwickshire and Yorkshire as to who will progress to the penultimate stage as both counties started the match level on four points. Any hopes of a North Warwickshire victory were dashed on the Yorkshire Rastrick green where only Kate Williams (21-18) and Charlotte Biddle (21-20) could muster a win in a century plus defeat.

Like the section winners in the main County Championship, Greater Manchester finished their season in the **Presidents Section** with a 100% record. They topped the table following a comprehensive victory over Merseyside, by 70 at home and 23 away. Cheshire's overall 47 chalk victory over North Midlands saw them leap frog Merseyside to claim the runners-up spot. All four counties will now be promoted to the main competition next season with North Shropshire, Staffordshire, South Staffordshire and Cumbria contesting the Presidents Section next season as they finished bottom of their sections.

LYNSEY JOINS THE 100 CLUB

Ladies President, Lynsey Gorman, played her 100th game for Merseyside Ladies (formerly Wirral Ladies) in the July county fixtures.

Although her team lost, Lynsey received Lady of the Match award by turning a 14-6 deficit into a 21-18 victory.

She also received a bouquet of flowers from Noreen Bunting (left), herself a member of the 100 Club, on behalf of her county colleagues.



TWO LADIES FINALS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST

The Dorothy Pearce Memorial Pairs takes place on Saturday 10th August, commencing at 10am. Thirty-two pairs will descend on at Garswood Hall (WN4 8LU) to decide this season's champions. The 2016/2017 winners, Lynsey Gorman & Anita Richardson (Merseyside) have qualified as have the 2015 winners, Liz Rowley & Gill Welsh (Staffordshire). The full draw will appear on the BCGBA website.

Like the men, Counties finishing in second and third positions in their respective sections of the main County Championship are eligible to enter the Mavis Dearden Supplementary County Championship on Sunday 18th August (10am). At the time of writing, no venue has been confirmed but once known it will be posted on the BCGBA website.

STETTON CLAIMS VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIP TITLE

PAUL STRETTON is the 2019 Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship winner after a great day of bowls at the excellent Prees Cricket & Recreation Club in Shropshire. The Derbyshire bowler defeated Mike Fieldhouse (Cumbria), 21-14 in the final and received the trophy from Ray Grocott (right), of sponsors **The Grocott Family Charitable Trust**, and BCGBA Deputy President, Ken Howarth.



Stretton's day began with a 21-19 defeat of John Bonatti (Wales) and then accounted for Ronnie Newton (Greater Manchester), 21-12. His quarter-final opponent was Stuart Hanson (Yorkshire) who had just knocked out the 2016 winner, Noel Burrows (Cheshire), but he couldn't repeat his performance against Stretton who won 21-14. In the semi-final he eased past Mark Melvin (Potteries & District), 21-7.

Mike Fieldhouse had a close opening game, just getting the better of Lancashire's Bill Griffiths, 21-20. Wins against Mick O'Donnell (Greater Manchester) and Tony Eades (Warwick & Worcester) 21-17 and 21-12 respectively saw him book a semi-final place with the defending champion, Ian Johnson (Derbyshire). Hopes of an all Derbyshire final were dashed with Fieldhouse rarely troubled in his 21-11 victory.

In the final, Fieldhouse started where he left off against Johnson to open up a slender 5-3 lead. Stretton responded to go 10-5 in front and was always able to keep a gap between himself and his Cumbrian opponent. Fieldhouse rallied from 10-17 to get within three of Stretton at 14-17 but he was never to see the jack again as Stretton ran out to a 21-14 victory.

All results can be viewed via the BCGBA website.

VETERANS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The finals of 2019 Veterans County Championship, which will be contested between Lancashire, Potteries & District, Warwick & Worcester and Yorkshire, will be held at Ashton Cricket Club on Thursday 1st August (10am). Ashton Cricket Club (OL7 0AU) is just two minutes off the M60 junction and the entrance to the green is opposite KFC on Lord Sheldon Way. The club will provide food and drink from 9.15am and the bar will be open from 12 noon.

The finals will follow the same format as the regional qualifying rounds with all matches played on a round-robin basis, 21up off 3, the winners being the county with the most points after each have played their three matches.

Results of the regional qualifiers can be viewed via the BCGBA website and the final day results will be 'live-scored' throughout the day.



COMPETITION DATES 2020

ENDSLEIGH SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday 3rd May Sunday 7th June Sunday 5th July Sunday 2nd August Sunday 6th September

DRAKES PRIDE JUNIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday 10th May Sunday 14th June Sunday 12th July Sunday 9th August Sunday 13th September

ENDSLEIGH SENIOR SUPPLEMENTARY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Sunday 2nd August, 10am, at a venue to be advised.

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Spen Victoria CB & AC, Spen Lane, Gomersal, Cleckheaton BD19 4PJ – 11am

Sunday 22nd March Sunday 29th March Sunday 5th April Sunday 12th April Sunday 19th April

JACK & JEAN ISHERWOOD VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIP

Wednesday 1st July, 10am at Prees Cricket & Recreation Club, Brades Road, Prees, Shropshire, SY13 2DX

VETERANS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Qualifying Thursday 9th July, 10am at four regional venues

Final Thursday 6th August, 10am at a venue to be advised

SENIOR INDIVIDUAL MERIT

Saturday 25th July, 10am at Hawcoat Park BC, Hawcoat Lane, Barrow-in-Furness LA14 4HF

JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL MERIT

Saturday 15th August, 10am at a Greater Manchester venue to be advised

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

Saturday 26th September, 10am at Waterloo Hotel, Waterloo Road, Blackpool FY4 2AF

CENTENARY MIXED PAIRS

Saturday 3rd October, 10am at a venue to be advised