

KATIE TOPS THE AVERAGES

The county average winners from the 2018 season assembled at Wrockwardine Wood in Shropshire at the beginning of the month with Cheshire's **KATIE HARROP** taking the title with victory over Clair Russell (North Lancs & Fylde) with some outstanding bowling from all the competitors during an excellent day.

Having received a first round bye, Katie began her path to the final with a 21-13 success over Nia Jones (Wales) in the second round and then was pleased to get past Chris Price, who had travelled over from the Isle of Man, 21-20 in the quarters. Things were a little easier in the semi-finals as she defeated Helen Williams from Dudley & District, 21-12, to book her place in the final.

Here she would face Clair Russell who had to play a game more than her final opponent having been drawn in the first round. She defeated Lesley Welling (North Derbyshire) 21-17 in her opener then eased past Sheila Lloyd (North Shropshire) and Claire West (Warwick & Worcester) with 21-4 and 21-5 cards respectively. Margaret Leech from Cumbria proved a tougher task but she progressed to the final with a 21-16 victory.

Katie showed her determination to win the trophy from the off and was soon celebrating her success with a resounding 21-9 triumph.

Ladies President, Lynsey Gorman, made the presentation to Katie and thanked Wrockwardine Wood for their excellent hospitality.

All results can be viewed via the [BCGBA website](#).



LADIES VETERANS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2019 Veterans County Championship will be played on the two greens at Washlands and Stretton Bowling Clubs, Burton-on-Trent, on Tuesday 11th June with play getting underway at both venues at 9.30am.

Sixteen counties have been divided into four groups of four playing on a round robin basis with the group winners qualifying for the semi-finals, which will be played on the third green at Washlands, together with the final.

Refreshments will be available at both venues.

Washlands, Green Two: Lancashire, North Shropshire, Shropshire, Greater Manchester

Washlands, Green Three: Wales, Cheshire, Staffordshire, Burton & District

Stretton, Green One: Merseyside, Warwick & Worcester, Dudley & District, South Staffordshire

Stretton, Green Two: North Midlands, Yorkshire, North Warwickshire, Isle of Man



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2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

- Sunday 2nd - Endsleigh Senior County Championship
 - Sunday 9th - Drakes Pride Junior County Championship
 - Tuesday 11th - Ladies Veterans County Championship *at Washlands and Stretton Bowling Clubs, Burton-on-Trent*
 - Sunday 16th - Ladies County Championship
 - Saturday 29th - Ladies Junior Team County Championship *at Owley Wood, Mid Cheshire*
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JULY

- Wednesday 3rd - Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Individual Championship *at Prees Cricket & Recreation Club, Shropshire*
 - Sunday 7th - Endsleigh Senior County Championship
 - Thursday 11th - Veterans County Championship Preliminary Round *at four regional venues*
 - Saturday 13th - Ladies Individual Merit *at Windle BC, Merseyside*
 - Sunday 14th - Drakes Pride Junior County Championship
 - Sunday 21st - Ladies County Championship
 - Saturday 27th - Senior Individual Merit *at Rolls Royce Leisure, Derbyshire*
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AUGUST

- Thursday 1st - Veterans County Championship Finals *at TBA*
 - Sunday 4th - Endsleigh Senior County Championship Semi-Finals
 - Endsleigh Senior Supplementary County Championship
 - Saturday 10th - Ladies Dorothy Pearce Memorial Pairs *at Garswood Hall, Lancashire*
 - Sunday 11th - Drakes Pride Junior County Championship
 - Saturday 17th - Junior Individual Merit *at Netherfield Bowling Club, Cumbria*
 - Sunday 18th - Ladies County Championship Semi-Finals
 - Mavis Deaden Supplementary County Championship *at TBA*
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SEPTEMBER

- Sunday 1st - Senior County Championship Final
 - Saturday 7th - Ladies Junior Merit *at Heswall RBL, Merseyside*
 - Sunday 8th - Drakes Pride Junior County Championship Final
 - Sunday 15th - Ladies County Championship Final *at TBA*
 - Saturday 28th - Champion of Champions *at Waterloo Hotel, Blackpool FY4 2AF*
 - Sunday 29th - Ladies Champion of Champions *at Waterloo Hotel, Blackpool FY4 2AF*
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OCTOBER

- Saturday 5th - Centenary Mixed Pairs *at Horwich RMI, Lancashire*

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS UNDERWAY



With the defending Champions, Warwick & Worcester, sitting out the opening fixtures of the 2019 Endsleigh Senior County Championship, last season's runners-up, South Yorkshire, made a winning start to their **Section 2** campaign. They came through a tough game with Cheshire to win by 16 chinks overall, thirteen at home and three away. Both legs were close throughout but a 21-7 card by Lee Johnstone for Cheshire at Dearne Sports (South Yorkshire) in the back four looked like securing a well-earned victory for his side. Andrew Sorsby had other ideas as his 21-7 card in the last game of the day ensured South Yorkshire would secure a home victory. Over at Rudheath in Cheshire, it was a similar scenario with Cheshire's Steve Curbishley a 21-4 back four winner but South Yorkshire took the spoils in the final game thanks to Jonathan Sneddon's 21-7 victory, which earned him the Man of the Match award and his side a three-chalk victory.

NEXT UP: Sunday 2nd June (2pm) – Cheshire v Warwick & Worcester

The match of the day came in **Section 3** when Shropshire and Yorkshire meet in the opening round of fixtures, in a repeat of the 2016 Crosfield Cup final. Yorkshire won on that occasion by four chinks but Shropshire got their revenge this season with an overall five chalk victory, with the sides sharing the winning jacks, twelve apiece. Despite Jon Palmer (Man of the Match) and Callum Wraight both winning 21-6 at Crosland Moor in Yorkshire, Shropshire still lost by nine after Jack Dyson produced the best card of the day for his Yorkshire side, winning 21-8. At Newport No 2 green, the Salopians won by fourteen overall with James Davison's (Yorkshire) late 21-7 success cancelled out immediately by Wayne Rogers 21-8 Man of the Match performance.

North Lancs & Fylde had a comfortable 40 chalk victory over Cumbria in the other section match. There wasn't much between the two sides when they met at North Scale in Cumbria where Tommy King's opening 21-5 victory for the Fylde Coast side proved pivotal in their eleven-chalk victory. Dave Jones late 21-9 card for the home side kept the deficit to a minimum. Over at Bamber Bridge (Browndedge) it was two resounding victories by Derek Ainsworth (21-5) and Mike Leach (21-9) that gave North Lancs an overall 29 chalk victory in a match that was heading for a closer finish.

NEXT UP: Sunday 2nd June (2pm) – Cumbria v Yorkshire; North Lancs & Fylde v Shropshire

In **Section 1**, Potteries & District produced the biggest win of the day with an 89-chalk overall victory over Lancashire. Kevan Shaw (21-20) was Lancashire's only success on the Florence No 1 green where Kerry Morris won the Man of the Match award with the best score of the day, winning 21-6. Lancashire's Paul Winrow's 21-9 card couldn't stop the Potteries from returning from Garswood Hall No 1 green with eleven chinks in hand.

Derbyshire won home and away against North Midlands to get their first points on the section table. Richard Gill handed in the best card of the day at his home green in Derby Co-op with his side winning by 24. Darren Plenderleith (21-5) and Tyler Dewis (21-9) got North Midlands off to a good start on their Dunlop No 2 green but Derbyshire responded through Paul Hawker 21-8, Craig Shore 21-9 and Steve Adams whose 21-8 Man of the Match card ensured his side won by a solitary chalk.

NEXT UP: Sunday 2nd June (2pm) – Derbyshire v Potteries & District; Lancashire v North Midlands

Section 4 produced two fairly evenly matched contests with Staffordshire and Wales opening their season with victories. Wales won home and away against Greater Manchester, coming away from Ashton Cricket Club with eight winners and a three-chalk advantage, despite suffering a 21-6 loss to Man of the Match, Jimmy Hynes. At Broughton & Bretton, Robbie Ellis claimed the Man of the Match award with a 21-4 card for the visitors but Wales produced three single winning cards in Andy Delooze (21-3), Kevin Nicholas (21-8) and Lewis Scott (21-9) in their 26-chalk victory.

The home sides of Merseyside and Staffordshire both won well but it was Staffordshire who would claim victory with an overall 16 chalk win. Merseyside were hoping to pile on the pressure and claim a clean sweep of victories on the carpet at Mossley Hill Athletic and must have thought that their fifty-three-chalk advantage would have been enough to see them claim the points. Phil Lee (21-6) and Lee Downing (21-9) were their best of nine winners. However, Staffordshire had other ideas and restricted the merseysiders to just two winning cards at Hammerwich in a sixty-nine-chalk home victory. Ben Dixon, Glynn Storer and Chris Ward with 21-6, 7 and 8 scores respectively ensured the points belonged to Staffordshire.

NEXT UP: Sunday 2nd June (2pm) – Greater Manchester v Merseyside; Staffordshire v Wales



DRAKES PRIDE JUNIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

The gulf between junior sides was once again prevalent in the opening round of matches in the 2019 Drakes Pride Junior County Championship with three of the five matches played resulting in wins in excess of 100 chalks with the remaining two 50 chalks and above. It was good to hear of a number of experienced junior bowlers helping out their inexperienced counterparts during their games and hope that they will learn from their experience and gain confidence as their crown green bowling career takes off.

Yorkshire and Shropshire won their opening **Premier Division** fixtures against Staffordshire and Warwick & Worcester respectively and meet in the second round of fixtures on Sunday 9th June. Wales, having sat out the opening fixtures, make their season's debut with a match against Warwick & Worcester, hoping to avenge last season's defeat.

Derbyshire claimed all twenty-four winners in their **Division 1** opener against Lancashire and now face North Lancs & Fylde who also suffered a heavy defeat in their first match of the 2019 campaign against South Yorkshire. Lancashire now have the chance to regroup as North Midlands join the competition and start their campaign against South Yorkshire.

In the three-team **Division 2**, Cheshire got off to a winning start with victory over Greater Manchester and now sit out the June fixtures as Potteries & District make their season's debut against the Mancunians.

LADIES COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Burton & District and South Yorkshire were first to get points on the **Section 1** table after hard-fought victories over North Derbyshire and North Shropshire. Both sides won home and away with South Yorkshire winning by 37 overall and Burton & District by 12. Such was the closeness of games, there were only three single figure winning cards across all forty-eight games – Kellie Hill (21-4) and Jasnet Bisatt (21-7) for South Yorkshire and Jeanette Briddon (21-9) for North Derbyshire.

NEXT UP: Sunday 16th June (2pm) – Burton & District v North Shropshire; North Derbyshire v South Yorkshire

Warwick & Worcester made the perfect start to the defence of their title with a century win against North Lancs & Fylde in **Section 2**. Although they lost by 7 on the Fylde coast, their home side showed no mercy at Ye Olde Knowle No 1 green as only five of the visitors reached double figures. In the other fixture, Staffordshire just got the better of Dudley & District by sixteen chalks overall with the home sides winning well – Staffordshire's by 52 and Dudley & District by 36.

NEXT UP: Sunday 16th June (2pm) – Dudley & District v Warwick & Worcester; North Lancs & Fylde v Staffordshire

Section 3 looks like being a very open section as there was little between all sides after the opening fixtures. Wales won by 41 in their home leg against South Staffordshire but lost away by 11 to give them an overall 30 chalk success while Shropshire won by 51 in their home leg against Mid Cheshire but lost away by 25 to give them an overall 26 chalk victory.

NEXT UP: Sunday 16th June (2pm) – Mid Cheshire v Wales; Shropshire v South Staffordshire

Yorkshire made their intentions known in **Section 4** with a resounding 112 chalk defeat over Lancashire in their 'Battle of the Roses' clash, winning home and away. Despite suffering a 44-chalk reversal in Cumbria, North Warwickshire home side responded with an emphatic 87 chalk victory to give them an overall 43 chalk success.

NEXT UP: Sunday 16th June (2pm) – Cumbria v Yorkshire; Lancashire v North Warwickshire

In the **Presidents Section**, Merseyside recorded a welcome victory after a run of heavy defeats. They won home and away against North Midlands as they triumphed by 55 chalks overall. Greater Manchester edged out Cheshire by 20 in the other section match.

NEXT UP: Sunday 16th June (2pm) – Cheshire v Merseyside; Greater Manchester v North Midlands

Results of all [Senior](#), [Junior](#) and [Ladies](#) county championship matches can be viewed via the BCGBA Website, by clicking on the respective link. It is hoped that all matches will be 'live-scored' by each county.



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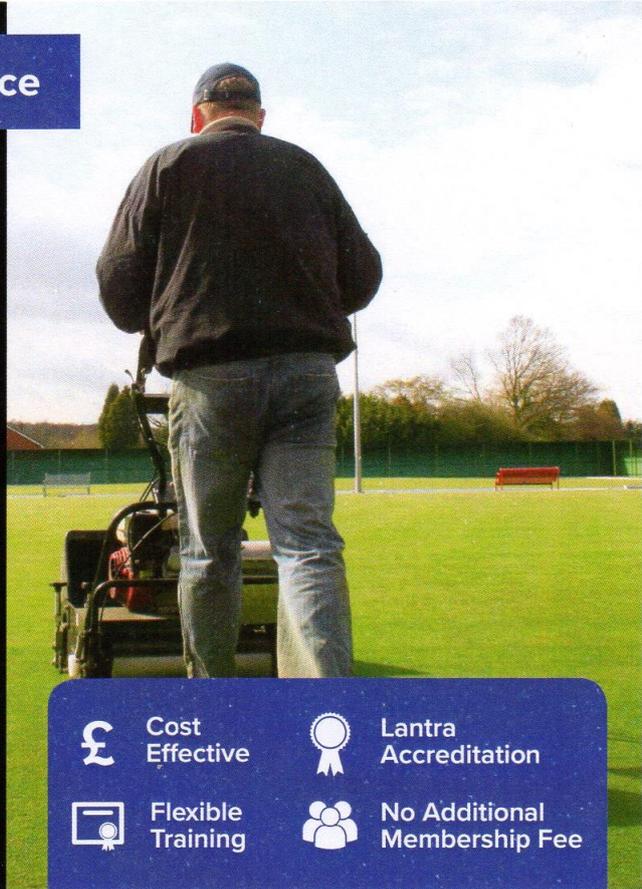
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VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIP QUALIFIERS ANNOUNCED

Entries are now in from all county associations for this season's Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship. The number of qualifiers each county will have on finals day is based on the current year's entry - minimum of one to a maximum of four - and are shown alongside each county below.

Among the early qualifiers are the defending champion, Ian Johnson (Derbyshire), Martin Gilpin (Cumbria) and Robert Hitchen (Yorkshire).

This season's competition takes place on Wednesday 3rd July (10am), once again at the excellent Prees Cricket & Recreation Club in Shropshire. We now have a new title sponsor, **The Grocott Family Charitable Trust**.

2 Cheshire	1 North Midlands
2 Cumbria (Martin Gilpin, Mike Fieldhouse)	2 Potteries & District
3 Derbyshire (Ian Johnson, Terry Bosworth, Paul Stretton)	2 Shropshire (Derek Wright, Ian Foster)
3 Greater Manchester	2 South Yorkshire
2 Isle of Man	1 Staffordshire (Barrie Sadler)
1 Lancashire (Bill Griffiths)	3 Warwick & Worcester
1 Merseyside	4 Wales
1 North Lancs & Fylde (Pedro Yates)	2 Yorkshire (Robert Hitchen, Stuart Hanson)



The Grocott Family Charitable Trust was formed five years ago by the Grocott family, the former owners of Grocontinental, the Shropshire-based storage and distribution company. The company is now owned by the AGRO Merchants Group.

Trustee, Ray Grocott, the former Chairman of Grocontinental, lives in the village of Prees and, over the years, has been instrumental in the continuing development of Prees Cricket and Recreation Club. As long-term club Chairman and now as President, Ray oversaw and helped to finance, the regeneration of the club in 1997 which included the construction of a new club house and a multi-purpose sports pitch with floodlighting.

Ray continues to personally invest in the future of the village which is so close to his heart. As well as continuing to support the club he has, over the last few years, financed the construction of a state-of-the-art medical practice in Prees and the build of eight new bungalows for older people, located next to the practice.

He is delighted to be sponsoring this year's BCGBA Veterans' Tournament and, once again, to be bringing the tournament to Prees Cricket & Recreation Club.

BRIAN CHAMBERLAIN RIP

It is with great sadness that we received the news that Brian Chamberlain passed away in the early hours of Wednesday 8th May. The BCGBA extend our sincere condolences to his wife, Cath, her family and his many bowling colleagues. He will be sorely missed by all.

Brian was BCGBA President in 2007 and was a stalwart on the Management Committee. He played a major role in coaching and was a Trustee of the Association. He was also a member of Staffordshire County committee and many of his local leagues.

Brian funeral will take place at St Bernadette's Church, Rennison Drive, Wombourne, Wolverhampton WV5 9HW on Thursday 6th June, commencing at 11.30am. Committal will follow (12.20pm) at Gornal Crematorium, Chase Road, Dudley DY3 2RL.

2019 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

The list of qualifying competitions for this season's Champion of Champions have now been confirmed, which will be played on Saturday 28th September at the Waterloo Hotel, Blackpool. Following the cancellation of the Spring Waterloo, the Wharton Cons Beer Traders Open will be promoted from the Reserve List to become a main qualifier.

Cheshire Merit	Sunday 23rd June
Cumbria Merit	Sunday 12th May
Derbyshire Merit	Sunday 30th June
Greater Manchester Merit	Saturday 15th June
Isle of Man Merit	Sunday 12th May
Lancashire Merit	Sunday 9th June
Merseyside Merit	Kevin Kearns
North Lancs & Fylde Merit	Saturday 25th May
North Midlands Merit	Sunday 23rd June
Potteries & District Merit	Sunday 26th May
Shropshire Merit	Sunday 23rd June
South Yorkshire Merit	Sunday 23rd June
Staffordshire Merit	Sunday 23rd June
Warwick & Worcester Merit	Sunday 23rd June
Welsh Merit	Sunday 23rd June
Yorkshire Merit	Monday 27th May
BCGBA Senior Individual Merit	Saturday 27th July
BCGBA Junior Individual Merit	Saturday 17th August
BCGBA Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship	Wednesday 3rd July
British Parks Merit	Sunday 11th August
Autumn Waterloo Handicap	Wednesday 25th September
Isle of Man June Festival	Friday 21st June
Midland Masters	Sunday 15th September
Coors Meole Brace Open	Callum Wraight
Talbot Trophy	Thursday 26th September
West Brom BowlsComps Open (CCF)	Gary Owen
St Georges Open	Ryan Prosser
Isle of Man September Festival	Friday 6th September
Hill Crest Classic	Saturday 29th June
Pudsey Classic	Saturday 17th August
Brighthouse Classic	Saturday 14th September
Wharton Cons Beer Traders Open	Sunday 25th August
Reserve List (in order)	
1 Carlsberg Richmond Classic	Sunday 11th August
2 Sandal Classic	Sunday 14th July
3 George Masters (2018)	Ant Bracken
4 Wrockwardine Wood (2018)	Scott Simpson
5 Castle Private Classic	Saturday 10th August
6 Isle of Man June Festival Tourism	Friday 21st June
7 Isle of Man Sept Festival Tourism	Friday 6th September