

BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

2021 BCGBA SENIOR MERIT TROPHY

Our first major final of this truncated season takes place on Saturday 24th July with the 32 competitors, two from each county, playing for the Senior Merit Trophy title at Heaton Park BC, Manchester.

Callum Wraight is the only previous winner of the Senior Merit following his 2007 victory and faces Cumbria's Paul Clark in his opening game. The 2017 runner-up, Ross Meese (Derbyshire), takes on Cheshire's Andy Hamman while the current holder of the Champion of Champions, Colin Kelly, will be making the trip over from the Isle of Man to take on Dan Petcher from Derbyshire.

Play gets underway at 10am and admission is £5. Refreshments will be available for purchase and spectators will be able bring in their own seating.

1	Aaron Clark (Isle of Man)	v	2	Anthony Lloyd (Potteries & District)
3	Chris Bly (Greater Manchester)	v	4	James Davison (Yorkshire)
5	Gareth W Hughes (Wales)	v	6	James Grimston (North Lancs & Fylde)
7	Damien Morrison (Lancashire)	v	8	Gareth Herbert (Staffordshire)
9	Paul Bailey (South Yorkshire)	v	10	Ed Furniss (Derbyshire)
11	Jordan Baddeley (North Midlands)	v	12	Andy Hayes (Merseyside)
13	Paul Garwood (Cheshire)	v	14	Paul Williams (Shropshire)
15	Mark Ashburn (Cumbria)	v	16	Ross Dunkley (Warwick & Worcester)
17	Dave Worthington (North Lancs & Fylde)	v	18	Nigel Fryer (Greater Manchester)
19	Phil Lee (Merseyside)	v	20	Michael Warrington (North Midlands)
21	Ross Meese (South Yorkshire)	v	22	Andy Hamman (Cheshire)
23	Dave Lunn (Potteries & District)	v	24	Duncan Watkins (Lancashire)
25	Colin Kelly (Isle of Man)	v	26	Dan Petcher (Derbyshire)
27	Kevin Keary (Staffordshire)	v	28	Philip Wilsdon (Yorkshire)
29	John Short (Wales)	v	30	Jason Galvin (Warwick & Worcester)
31	Paul Clark (Cumbria)	v	32	Callum Wraight (Shropshire)

BCGBA SENIOR MERIT TROPHY

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HEATON P

Supported by



Saturday 24th July 2021

10am

Heaton Park BC St Margaret's Road, Prestwich, Manchester M25 2GT

Admission: £5

Refreshments available Spectators can bring in their own seating

2021 BCGBA SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP KNOCKOUT TROPHY



There were no major shocks in the opening round of the Senior County Championship Knockout Trophy with the current holders, Warwick & Worcester, continuing their unbeaten run which stretches back to 2017.

Yorkshire defeated Merseyside by 45 chalks overall with Alex Wolfenden's 21-3 victory the standout card in a 66 chalk success for the White Rose county at Whitkirk BC. Despite suffering an early 21-5 loss to Wayne Moseley, Merseyside rallied to a 21 chalk triumph at Mossley Hill Athletic with Tex Allen and Craig Taylor both handing in 21-8 cards. Yorkshire now play Wales, who received a bye, in round two.

North Midlands overcame Potteries & District by 55 chalks overall with Stuart Perry's late 21-6 card ensuring an away win at Dilhorne BC. Over at Dunlop No 2, Stuart Nash (21-7), Jordie Baddeley (21-9) and Shane Day (21-3) gave the home side 30 chalks to play with when all the scores were added up. North Midlands now play Cumbria in round two after they got the better of South Yorkshire by 34 chalks overall. This was definitely a case of green advantage as they had a clean sweep of winners at Lindal BC to win by 95 but did enough to keep the South Yorkshire total to 61 on the Crookesmoor Recreation green. Marin Wilson and Kieran Clark the best of the winners, sharing the sweep with 21-2 romps.

Greater Manchester were the biggest winners of the round in an overall 75 chalk success over Staffordshire. John Ashton (21-9), Matt Gillies (21-9), Andy Lowe (21-7) and Tom Eccles (21-3) contributed to a 78 chalk victory at Crompton BC. A late 21-9 card from Scott Simpson secured a 3 chalk victory with Staffordshire at Woodfield Sports & Social No 1. Greater Manchester now face Shropshire in the next round after they were involved in the closest match of the round, winning by just 15 chalks overall against North Lancs & Fylde. Liam Stevens (21-4) and David Lloyd (21-6) were instrumental in a 37 chalk victory at Newport No 2 while Paul Evans 21-6 card at Rushton Street BC kept the deficit down to 22.

Warwick & Worcester had a fairly close match with Lancashire, winning by 48 chalks overall. Ben Harris' 21-8 card at The George BC was the best result from both venues where the Midlander's secured 14 winners to the Lancastrians 10. Warwick & Worcester now play Derbyshire in round two after their match with Cheshire could have gone either way. Two opening 21-8 (Connor Chamberlain and Adam Hartley) cards for Derbyshire helped them to a comfortable 71 chalk victory at Stretton Bowls No 2, while single figure wins for Tom Vickers 21-2 and Peter Illidge were not enough in their teams 44 chalk victory at Castle Sports No 1.

You can view all match cards and results on the BCGBA website – bcgba.org.uk. Click on the 2021 Competitions link on the left hand sidebar.

SECON ROUND – Sunday 1st August (2pm)

YORKSHIRE	v	WALES	
at Ossett Cricket & Athletic Club (WF5 8JT)		at Esclusham BC (LL14 4AR)	
NORTH MIDLANDS	v	CUMBRIA	
at Dunlop No 1 (CV6 4AU)		at Hawcoat Park No 2 (LA14 4HF)	
GREATER MANCHESTER	v	SHROPSHIRE	
at Tonge Social & Bowling Club (M24 2DQ)		at Hanmer (SY13 3DE)	
WARWICK & WORCESTER	v	DERBYSHIRE	
at King George V (B5 7RN)		at Barton Bowls No 2 (DE13 8AX	
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BCG LADIES COMPETITION COMMITTEE

The British Crown Green Ladies completed the qualifying rounds of their County Cup on a scorching hot day at four venues throughout the country. The teams, 8-a-side, were divided into groups and played each other on a round robin basis, 15up. The winners of each group qualifying for finals day on Sunday 19th September, venue to be advised.

Group A was played on Tetley Walker No 1 green with Yorkshire 2 qualifying undefeated. It all came down to the final match with Cheshire 1 with both teams level on four points each. Yorkshire won by just seven chalks with all players reaching double figures.

Group B, also played at Tetley Walker but on the No 2 green, saw their Yorkshire 1 team also qualifying undefeated. They were rarely troubled in any of their matches. Greater Manchester 1 finished runners-up having lost by 24 chalks when they played Yorkshire.

A strong Mid Cheshire 2 team qualified from Group C, played at Monk Sports, also with an unblemished record. Their decisive win came against Lancashire 1, who finished runners-up, in a comprehensive 29 chalk victory.

In Group D (together with Group E), played at Fenton Private, there were five teams in the group with Warwick & Worcester 2 rarely troubled as they topped the group on maximum points. Shropshire 1 gave them their closest match with 11 chalks separating the sides once all the scores were added up.

Warwick & Worcester 1 joined their county colleagues in finals day, emerging from Group E as winners. They finished level on points at Stretton BC with Shropshire 1 but a better plus average - +59 to Shropshire's +45 - saw them take top spot. Both sides lost one match each - Warwick & Worcester by 17 to Shropshire with Shropshire coming an agonising 2 chalks short against South Staffordshire 1.

Group A	Played	Won	Points	Agg	Group D	Played	Won	Points	Agg
Yorkshire 2	3	3	6	41	Warwick & Worcester 2	4	4	8	85
Cheshire 1	3	2	4	53	South Staffordshire 2	4	2	4	11
Greater Manchester 2	3	1	2	-13	North Midlands	4	2	4	-38
Lancashire 2	3	0	0	-81	Shropshire 2	4	1	2	-12
					Wales	4	1	2	-46
Group B									
Yorkshire 1	3	3	6	104	Group E				
Greater Manchester 1	3	2	4	12	Warwick & Worcester 1	4	3	6	85
Mid Cheshire 1	3	1	2	-25	Shropshire 1	4	3	6	11
Cheshire 2	3	0	0	-91	Dudley & District	4	2	4	-38
					North Shropshire	4	1	2	-12
Group C					South Staffordshire 1	4	1	2	-46
Mid Cheshire 2	3	3	6	57					
Lancashire 1	3	2	4	-8					
North Lancs & Fylde	3	1	2	-3					
Merseyside	3	0	0	-46					



BOWLS DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE



The Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) has recently appointed a new Club and Community Development Officer to cover the 'North West' area of the country, which largely coincides with the areas covered by crown green bowls, to support clubs to develop and grow. Ian Gill (pictured) is a crown green bowler himself, playing at Ormskirk Bowling Club in Lancashire, and Ian has been very much involved with developing new greens and growing his own club which was only formed in 2013 and whose new greens (one an artificial) were only built in 2016/17. Ian has also been heavily involved in junior bowling and he formed the West Lancs & Sefton Junior Bowls Forum, which oversees a local junior league, as well as managing the local Ormskirk West Lancs Junior and Youth teams in the Federation of Crown Green Bowls.

The BCGBA re-joined the BDA in 2020 and very much welcomes the extra support that this post will bring. The BDA currently covers three of the main bowling governing bodies, the BCGBA, Bowls England and the English Indoor Bowling Association. It was originally created by the governing bodies to channel Sport England investment into the game and, with a new round of Sport England investment due to be announced, it is more important than ever that the sport pulls together and ensures that all the different codes of bowls get appropriate investment. Initially Ian will be working with 9 crown green clubs on the Club Development Programme to finish off their development plans, as well as taking forward a new 'hub club' concept. This will involve one trial club initially which will act as a hub for surrounding bowls clubs and the local community. It is hoped that hub clubs will become centres of best practice where other clubs can go for help and advice as well as courses on coaching, safeguarding etc. As well as helping clubs to recruit more members and volunteers, the other important aspect of the BDA's role is to ensure that the sport is much more inclusive and accessible to all and Ian will be looking to see how best practice can be utilised to ensure the sport becomes more diverse and inviting to those, for example, with a disability or from a different ethnic origin.

lan said, "I am extremely excited to be starting in this new role and really want to see the sport going from strength to strength. Whilst Covid has been a real challenge for many clubs, I have already seen that people are now looking for new activities. I have also observed how the Bowls for Health initiative on Merseyside is resulting in clubs recruiting new members and my own club has seen a large influx of new members following participation in the Bowls' Big Weekend and running follow up taster sessions. I have also seen how a clear Club Development Plan has benefited clubs such as Penistone Bowling Club, where it has galvanised the Committee and already seen an increase in new members and in existing members volunteering to help out. This upsurge in interest in bowls is borne out by the fact that a local bowls shop cannot keep up with the demand from people taking up the sport. Just through a few simple steps like advertising and holding a taster day, having a few social bowling sessions for beginners, and creating links with your local community, clubs will see the benefits in terms of increased membership. Hopefully crown green bowls can learn from some of the initiatives being undertaken by the other codes, but we also have so many examples of good practice ourselves that can be shared. I will also deal with any flat green clubs within the North West so it will be good to see any examples of how the different codes are working together."

Mark Bircumshaw, the Chief Exec of the BCGBA, commented "*It is great to have lan in post and the BDA working alongside the BCGBA. It shows the importance of the BCGBA working in partnership and, by working with the BDA, we will help to ensure that crown green bowls get the necessary investment in the*

future from Sport England. Without a governing body we would not even be recognised as a sport and would receive no investment. Bowls is a sport that can be played by everyone and as well as growing participation generally, we also need to diversify the sport to make it more open to all in society."

If anyone would like to find out any more about the work of the BDA their website can be found at https://bowlsdevelopmentalliance.com/ and Ian can be contacted directly at iangill@playbowls.org or on 07379 338 884.

BOWLS DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE

2021 BCGBA CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday 24th July	10am	BCGBA Senior Merit Trophy	
Sunday 1st August	2pm	BCGBA Senior County Championship Knockout Cup Second Round	
Wednesday 11th August	10am	BCGBA Veterans Handicap Trophy	
Saturday 14th August	10am	BCGBA Junior Merit Trophy	
Sunday 15th August	10am	BCG Ladies Singles Merit	
Sunday 5th September	2pm	BCGBA Senior County Championship Knockout Cup Semi-Finals	
Sunday 19th September	9.30am	BCG Ladies County Cup Finals Day	
Saturday 25th September 11a		2019 BCG Ladies Champion of Champions	
Saturday 2nd October 10am		BCGBA Centenary Mixed Pairs	
Sunday 3rd October	2pm	BCGBA Senior County Championship Knockout Cup Final	

2022 COMPETITION DATES

The Competition dates for the 2022 season have now been confirmed. As usual, the dates are the corresponding dates of previous years to allow counties and competition organisers to plan their competitions.

MEN

Senior County Championship Sunday 1st May, 5th June, 3rd July, 7th August, 4th September

Junior County Championship Sunday 8th May, 12th June, 10th July, 14th August, 11th September

World Club Championship (Spen Victoria Cricket, Bowling & Athletic Club, Yorkshire) Sunday 20th March, 27th March, 3rd April, 10th April, 17th April

Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship (Prees Cricket & Recreation Club, Shropshire) Wednesday 6th July

Veterans County Championship (venue to be advised) Qualifying – Thursday 14th July Finals – Thursday 4th August

Senior Individual Merit (Hawcoat Park BC, Cumbria) Saturday 30th July

Supplementary County Championship (venue to be advised) Sunday 7th August

Junior Individual Merit (Royton Cricket, Bowling & Tennis Club, Greater Manchester) Saturday 20th August

Champion of Champions (venue to be advised) Saturday 24th September

Centenary Mixed Pairs (Heaton Park, Greater Manchester) Saturday 1st October

LADIES

County Championship Sunday 15th May, 19th June, 17th July, 21st August, 18th September

Club Championship (Bridgewater BC / Chester Road BC / District BC, North Shropshire) Sunday 24th April

Average Winners Classic (Poynton Sports Club, North Derbyshire) Saturday 7th May

Veterans County Championship (Cleckheaton Moorend /Cleckheaton Sports / Spen Victoria, Yorkshire) Tuesday 14th June

Junior Team County Championship (Heaton Park, Greater Manchester) Saturday 25th June

Individual Merit (Yorkshire, venue to be advised) Saturday 9th July

Dorothy Piearce Memorial Pairs (Lancashire, venue to be advised) Saturday 13th August

Junior Merit (Heswall RBL, Merseyside) Saturday 3rd September

Champion of Champions (venue to be advised) Sunday 25th September