



BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

FOUR FINALS TO END THE SEASON

In this truncated season, all of our 2021 competitions will be completed by the first weekend in October when the finals of the Ladies County Cup, Ladies 2019 Champion of Champions, Mel Evans MBE Centenary Mixed Pairs and Senior County Championship Knockout Trophy reach their climax.

The Ladies County Cup Final takes place at Grange Sports & Social Club (Warrington, WA4 1HQ) on Sunday 19th September, commencing at 9.30pm. The five group winners – Yorkshire 1, Yorkshire 2, Mid Cheshire 2, Warwick & Worcester 1 and Warwick & Worcester 2 – will play off on a round-robin basis to determine the winner. Spectators are welcome and can bring in their own seating into the venue. Refreshments will be available for purchase throughout the day.

The following weekend, the resumption of the Ladies 2019 Champion of Champions will be played to its conclusion by the remaining sixteen competitors, some 728 days since it first got underway. Following the postponement of the competition two years ago due to the condition of the Waterloo Hotel green following heavy rainfall, the competition will conclude at Marton Institute BC (Blackpool, FY4 4DR). Entry will be free to all spectators and refreshments will be available for purchase throughout the day. Play gets underway at 11am and the remaining draw is as follows:

Helen Jackson (Burton & District Merit)	v	Rebecca Teare (Isle of Man June Tourism)
Sharon Rigden (Lancashire Merit)	v	Donna Bennett (North Shropshire Merit)
Sonia Robson (North Warwickshire Merit)	v	Gill Simm (Isle of Man September Festival)
Vicky Mosley (Stretton Anglesey Ladies)	v	Jane Bowler (Nercwys Ladies Open)
Emma Tobin (BCG Ladies Junior Merit)	v	Katie Harrop (BCG Ladies Average Classic)
Violet Dennison (Cumbria Merit)	v	Nicola Boulton (BCG Ladies Individual Merit)
Samantha Murray (South Staffordshire Merit)	v	Lynsey Gorman (Merseyside Merit)
Tracy Ryan (Shropshire Merit)	v	Steph Witherspoon (Warwick & Worcester Merit)

Our competitions conclude with two finals over the first weekend in October.

On Saturday 2nd, the Mel Evans MBE Centenary Mixed Pairs takes place at Washlands Sports Club (Burton-on-Trent, DE14 1TD), commencing at 10am. The BCGBA are very grateful to Lynn Pritchatt for continuing the generous sponsorship of the competition in memory of our former Commercial Officer. Mel received his MBE from Prince Charles in March 2014. Fern Beaumont & Jack Dyson (Yorkshire) will be back to defend their 2019 title and the full draw can be found on page 3.



Then on Sunday 3rd, the final of the Senior County Championship Knockout Trophy takes place between arch rivals Yorkshire and Warwick & Worcester. Its nine years since they last met in the final where Warwick & Worcester inflicted a 35 chalk defeat over Yorkshire. The teams and venues for the final will be posted on the BCGBA website at noon on Monday 20th September.

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MEL EVANS MBE

CENTENARY MIXED PAIRS

Saturday, 2nd October 2021

10am

Washlands Sports Club, Meadow Rd, Burton-on-Trent DE14 1TD

1 Linda & Tony Picariello (Potteries & District)	v	2 Pat & Tony Roscoe (Lancashire)
3 Clare Cooper & Bob Clark (Isle of Man)	v	4 Belinda Lloyd & Jordan Davies (Wales)
5 Jackie Fraser & Craig Bamford (South Yorkshire)	v	6 Vikki Wilson & Darrell Handley (Staffordshire)
7 Kellie Hill & Andrew Spragg (Derbyshire)	v	8 Karen Hill & Mark Regan (Yorkshire)
9 Anita Richardson & John Lloyd (Merseyside)	v	10 Emily Kernick & Ryan Prosser (Warwick & Worcester)
11 Natalia Connor & Scott Moseley (Shropshire)	v	12 Lyn Bolton & Trevor Quayle (Isle of Man)
13 Janelle Pertoldi & Mark Garbett (Greater Manchester)	v	14 Fern Beaumont & Jack Dyson (Yorkshire)
15 Sarah Edmondson & Josh Mordue (North Lancs & Fylde)	v	16 Beverley & Steve Shannon (South Yorkshire)
17 Michelle Jones & Ben Harris (Warwick & Worcester)	v	18 Karen Fletcher & Mike Bailey (Lancashire)
19 Linda & Peter Wheeldon (Derbyshire)	v	20 Sue Williamson & John Simpson (Potteries & District)
21 Jenny Moore & James Teare (Isle of Man)	v	22 Sophie Rigney & Bradley Cooke (Greater Manchester)
23 Viv Roberts & John Jones (Wales)	v	24 Katrina & Tony Bannister (Yorkshire)
25 Lauren Smith & Steve Morecroft (Staffordshire)	v	26 Margaret Smith & David Rogers (South Yorkshire)
27 Cathy & Graeme Wilson (Greater Manchester)	v	28 Sam Stanley & Les Henderson (Merseyside)
29 Karl Parker & Helen Withers (Isle of Man)	v	30 Michelle Meadowcroft & John Newsome (Warwick & Worcester)
31 Amanda & Kevin Nicholas (Wales)	v	32 Susie & Rich Lawson (Shropshire)

Free Admission - Programmes £1

Refreshments available

- Breakfast sandwiches / Jacket Potatoes / Pie & Peas / Tea & Coffee / Bar -

Spectators can bring in their own seating

BCGBA DRESS CODE

The BCGBA Dress Code has been in operation now for some years but we continually endure problems at our events with players turning up not conforming to the rule. This is despite all qualifiers being made aware of our Dress Code rule and receiving a printed copy of the rule.

The main issue is trousers which must be single coloured, either full length or tailored knee length shorts. In both instances they must be Black in colour - not Grey, not Navy, just plain Black. Nothing in our rule allows for the wearing of tracksuits, shell suits, denims, combat trousers, jeggings, skinny jeans or leggings.

Players are also required to wear a collared shirt and suitable footwear but in the event of rain wet weather gear can be worn.

The Ladies do allow for the wearing of Black or Navy trousers but any lady competitor playing in a Men's event must wear Black.



PESSALL CLAIMS VETERANS TITLE

KEITH PESSALL (Shropshire) proved to be a worthy winner of the Veterans Handicap Trophy, played at Prees Cricket & Recreation Club in Shropshire.



With all players off 3, he soon found his form to open with a 21-11 defeat of Martin Bacon (Lancashire) and, after seeing his 11-8 and 16-12 advantage over South Yorkshire's Phillip Goulding whittle away to 16 across, he finished the stronger with a 21-17 victory in Round 2. His toughest challenge came in the quarter-finals where he faced Neil Sherbrooke from Merseyside. From an initial 7-4 deficit he got his nose in front at 8-7 and 14-9. Sherbrooke hit back to level at 14 across only to see Pessall lay game at 20-15. He was made to

sweat for his winning wood with Sherbrooke reaching 19. In his semi-final game with Steve Davies (Staffordshire), he was back into his stride and was soon holding a 13-7 advantage. Davies managed to fight back to 16-18 but a double and a single saw Pessall progress to the final.

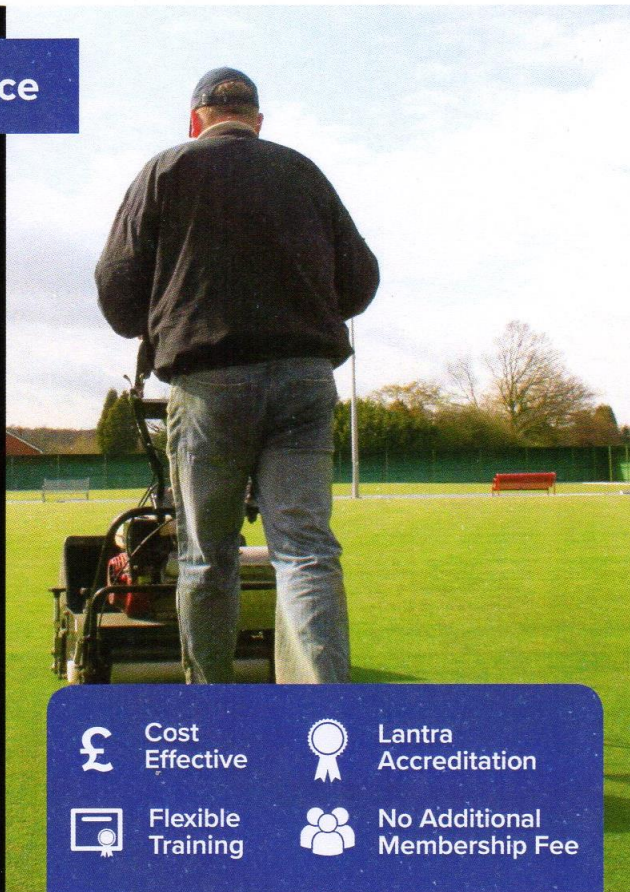
In the final he was up against Nigel McDermott from South Yorkshire who had just come through a titanic battle with Les Holmes (Yorkshire) in his semi-final, winning 21-20. McDermott had previously beaten Ronnie Newton (Greater Manchester) 21-15, the 2019 runner-up, Mike Fieldhouse (Cumbria) 21-17 and Ray Taylor (North Lancs & Fylde) 21-13. It appeared to be a game too far for McDermott as Pessall was quickest out of the blocks on his way to a comfortable 21-9 victory and was presented with his trophy and prize money by the BCGBA President, Ken Haworth.



Bowls Green Maintenance

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The course comprises a series of online training videos, each followed by multi-choice questions and answers. To continue to the next part of the course, you need to successfully answer the required questions. You can re-view the videos and undertake the Q&As as many times as necessary; there will be a different selection of questions each time. You have to successfully complete all sections to achieve your Lantra qualification.



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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 September. You can access these diary entries via their website pitchcare.com – click on the link for Sports Diaries.

Now that things are getting back to some form of normality, do not be afraid to take a couple of core samples from your green, enabling you to see what lies below the surface. On examination, you should be able to see how much thatch you have and the condition of the soil.

Grass growth will start to slow down once soil and air temperatures drop below double figures. Your main concern for September will be organising your end of season renovation work; the extent and nature of the work will be entirely down to the condition of the green and what work you can afford to carry out. Unfortunately, one of the deciding factors that often reduces the effectiveness of these planned works is the amount of money budget the club has available. 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).

The best way to balance the health of the grass plant and to achieve good green speed is to promote and carry out effective cultural practices to maintain surface playability.

The following activities are generally implemented during autumn renovations and usually carried out in the following order, when conditions allow. The sequence of operations and their intensity will vary from green to green according to the condition at the end of the season.

MOWING the sward, preparing surfaces for renovation: lower cutting height to about 3-4mm to clean and prepare green for renovation operations. The mower can then be used to clean up the green after scarifying has been completed. With the season finished and the green closed down for the winter, mowing will only be required to maintain a winter height of cut at 8-12mm. Some clubs are now using rotary mowers to keep the greens tidy through the winter months. This method does two jobs in one, it keeps the grass topped and hoovers up any surface debris, such as twigs and leaves.

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. However, in most cases, if regular verticutting/grooming has taken place during the growing season, you would probably only be required to scarify in two directions. Do not scarify at right angles to the previous scarification line. Depth of scarification between 4-15mm, depending on the depth of thatch to remove.

AERATION is the decompaction of soil, improving air and gas exchange in the soil profile. Depending on the turf's condition, you can choose to carry out hollow or solid tine spiking. Hollow tines are generally used on a bi-annual basis or when you have a severe thatch problem. Depth of aeration will be determined by the depth of your soil profile and what problems you want to rectify. Hollow tining is best achieved to a depth of between 75-100mm. Solid or slit tines can be set to penetrate deeper, ideally between 150-200mm.

TOPDRESSING restores levels and improves surface drainage. Ensure you use compatible topdressing materials, sands, sand/soil mixes. Spreading can be achieved by several methods, utilising pedestrian or ride-on, disc or drop action top spreaders, or by hand using a shovel and a barrow. Best carried out in dry weather. It is important that the topdressings are spread uniformly. Brush to incorporate dressings and to help the grass stand back up. Brush in with a lute or drag brush/mat to restore levels.

OVERSEEDING restores grass populations. 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.

FERTILISING provides nutrients for grass growth. Apply a low N nitrogen fertiliser product, something like an NPK 5:5:15 to help the sward through the autumn period.

IRRIGATION is essential after renovations to ensure your seed germinates.

AARON A WORTHY JUNIOR CHAMPION

AARON BRINE (Yorkshire) proved too strong for Kian Thomas (Wales) in the final of the Junior Merit Trophy, played on the greens at Heaton Park, recovering from an early 4-2 deficit to record a comfortable 21-9 victory.

Both finalists eased past their first round opponents with Brine defeating Samuel Davies (Derbyshire) 21-8 and Thomas giving an early exit to North Midlands Owen Wood, 21-9.

In the Last 16, Brine had a tough encounter with Matthew Brown from North Lancs & Fylde. Brine had held the lead throughout the game until they levelled at 14 across and then again 15 across. From here, Brine pulled away to within two for game but a double for Brown brought him close at 17-19 only to see his opponent finish with two singles for game. Thomas, meanwhile, had no problem in despatching South Yorkshire's Jacob Parratt, 21-10.

Both players were comfortable victors in their quarter-final games, Brine recording a 21-7 success over Cheshire's Abi Harris while Thomas ended a spirited fightback by Jordyn Hughes (Staffordshire) who lost 21-13 but had trailed 17-6 at one stage.

The semi-finals saw two brothers – Joseph and Thomas Killen (Shropshire) – reach the penultimate stage with both on the wrong end of a 21-18 score line. Joseph had a tremendous tussle with Aaron Brine taking a 15-13 lead having trailed 10-4 and 13-8. Brine then went on a 7-break to need one for game but had to wait three ends to claim his victory as Joseph got back to 18. Thomas Killen was always trailing his Welsh opponent and was on the verge of a 21-12 defeat. However, a succession of two's saw him move to one point behind at 18-19 only for Kian to inflict the killer blow with the two he needed for game at the next end.



BOWLS DEVELOPMENT ALLIANCE UPDATE

The Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) have a number of vacancies for which they welcome applications.

- A Club and Community Development Officer for the Midlands
- A Lead Safeguarding role for bowls
- An Independent Non-Executive Director



The BDA has also formally introduced a Bowls Inclusion Advisory Group and you can read their story and find details of the advertised vacancies via the BCGBA website – bcgba.org.uk.

JENNY - FIRST MANX WINNER OF LADIES MERIT



JENNY MOORE made her trip over from the Isle of Man worthwhile by winning the 2021 Ladies Singles Merit Trophy, sponsored by the Marjorie Fryer Memorial, with victory over Louise Ollerton (Greater Manchester).

Played on the greens at Heaton Park, the South Ramsey player started on Green 1 with an emphatic 21-2 victory over Merseyside's Sue Nugent but was given a sterner test in round two by Mandy Wilks (North Derbyshire). Mandy had led 6-3 and stayed with her Manx opponent at 10-12, 14-16 and 16-18 but succumbed to a 21-16 defeat. In Round three, Jenny started with a couple of two's but would not take the lead again until the final end. She was always playing catch up and, as in her previous

game, won the final two ends to claim a narrow 21-19 success.

The quarter-finals were all played on Green 1 where Jayne Kent (South Yorkshire) gave Jenny another tough match. Jenny held the lead throughout but from 11-4 up Jayne fought back to go one behind and stayed with her until she took the lead at 18-17. Jenny once again finished strong by claiming the last ends with a double at each end. In her semi-final she was up against Sue Worrall (Mid Cheshire) who had been playing full corners for most of the day. Jenny soon found herself 5-1 down but rallied to lead 7-5 and kept her nose in front for the remainder of the game, eventually winning 21-17.

In the other half of the draw, Louise Ollerton was rarely troubled in most of her games on the way to the final opening up big leads to leave her opponents on the back foot. After an opening 21-5 card against Ashley Zepeda (Wales) she ousted North Midlands Carol Verdon 21-11 and then recorded a 21-12 success over Anita Richardson (Merseyside). In her quarter-final clash with Clair Russell (North Lancs & Fylde) it was Louise who would have to come from behind after finding herself trailing 6-2, 10-6 and 12-10. From here, she went 16-12 in front but Clair hit back to fall just one behind at 17-16 but couldn't keep hold of the jack as Louise won 21-16. At the penultimate stage, Louise was heading for a comfortable victory over South Staffordshire's Julie Alderman, leading 18-6 after eighteen ends. Julie fought back to 14-18 and 17-19 but succumbed to two singles which saw Louise take her place in the final.

In the final, Jenny got off to a dream start by taking the first five ends to lead 7-0 and onto a 10-2 advantage. Louise fought her way back into the game and got close at 10-14 but never saw the jack for the remaining six ends as Jenny ran out a 21-10 winner. Sponsor, Nigel Fryer, was on hand to make the presentations.

OLD FOES MEET IN COUNTY FINAL

Yorkshire and Warwick & Worcester will do battle in the final of the 2021 Senior County Championship Knockout Trophy after their semi-final victories over North Midlands and Greater Manchester respectively. This will be the first time that the sides have met in the final since 2012 where Warwick & Worcester inflicted a 35 chalk defeat over Yorkshire, who at the time were the defending champions.



YORKSHIRE won home and away against North Midlands with 39 chalks to spare when all scores were added up. At their home venue at Ossett Flying Horse, there was nothing between the sides in a match that saw the winning jacks shared six apiece and only seven chalks the difference, with Yorkshire taking the spoils.

It was a different story on the Coundon No 2 green where the White Rose County took the opening seven jacks to open up a 46 chalk advantage. North Midlands claimed the next three jacks to reduce the deficit to 26 but any hopes of a comeback were ended by James Davison and Ian Booth who both won 21-17.



WARWICK & WORCESTER got off to a dream start in their home leg at Moor Lane when Ben Harris' opening 21-5 card set them on the way to a 24 chalk victory over their Mancunian opposition. The first four jacks were shared with the Midlands having a slender 8 chalk lead. This was increased to 30 after 8 jacks and victory was assured when Neil Clarke handed in a 21-9 card, although a late 21-7 card from Jack Hargreaves proved too little, too late for the visitors.

Over in Manchester, at Moorside Cricket Club, Warwick & Worcester held the advantage through most of the match, thanks to Tom Palmer's 21-7 victory in the opening game. However, two late cards – a 21-7 from Nicky Brookes and a 21-8 from Adam Higgins – ensured Greater Manchester would secure victory with 3 chalks to spare.

All scores can be viewed via the BCGBA website.

COMPETITION FINALS ON VIDEO

Our Media Officer, Steve Davies, has been recording the final games in this season's competitions through his Bowls Observer platform, the online independent magazine for crown green bowls.

To date, the final of the Men's Senior Merit Trophy, Veterans Merit Trophy and Junior Merit Trophy along with the final of the Ladies Singles Merit Trophy have all been posted on the BCGBA website. Steve hopes to get along to some of our remaining competitions to record their finals also.

Also on our website are recordings of our other events from previous seasons and they can be accessed via the 'Watch Now' button on the homepage. All videos are also available to view on YouTube.

