



## ST. CHAMPIONS



The finals of the British Crown Green mens and ladies team events provided two outstanding finals with the two saints – St Oswalds and St Josephs winning by the narrowest of margins.

Twice winners of the BGCLBA Club Championship, St Oswalds (Cheshire), added a third title when they defeated Warwickshire side Acocks Green by just two shots in a thrilling final.

St Josephs (North Lancs & Fylde) beat Garswood Hall by three at Irlam Steel in the new BCGBA World Club Championship.

Further details on both events are elsewhere in **BCGBA NEWS** and all scores from both competitions can be viewed or downloaded at [www.crowngreenbowls.org](http://www.crowngreenbowls.org)

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## ***Interested in becoming part of the Standard Jacks Sub Committee?***

Vacancies have arisen on this important Committee and we would be interested in hearing from you if you would like to join this team.

The Committee meet with the leading bowls manufacturers and bias testers throughout the Country on a regular basis with the aim to ensure that all standard jacks are equal. The next phase of the Committee's work will involve standardising the testing tables.

Ideally, you will possess excellent negotiating skills, have a real interest in the development of the game and have your own transport as the role will involve some travel.

If this appeals to you, in the first instance please contact the Chief Executive Officer, John Crowther, at: 94 Fishers Lane, Pensby, Wirral, Merseyside, CH61 8SB - 0151 648 5740 - jac21up@aol.com

**All enquiries should be received by the end of April.**

## **SENIOR INDIVIDUAL MERIT QUALIFIERS ANNOUNCED**

Ever wondered how the number of qualifiers for the BCGBA Senior Individual Merit is arrived at? Well, it is all down to the number of entries your County Association has in its previous year's Merit competition.

Entries from all the County Merits are totalled together and then divided by 64, the number of competitors on finals day, to get an average figure. From here the CEO works out the number of qualifiers per County Association allocated on a minimum number of one up to a maximum of eight.

The number of qualifiers per County for this year's Senior Individual Merit, sponsored by **Paddersfeelgoodfeet** and which will be played on Saturday 30th July (10am) at Meole Brace Bowling Club, Shrewsbury, are listed below. To stand a chance of your County Association increasing the number of qualifiers for next year's event, which will be played in Cheshire, you will need to support your County competition this season. Please see your County Secretary for entry details.

Cumbria were the first County Association to complete their Merit. Martin Gilpin defeated John Reilly 21-15 in the final and both players will represent Cumbria at Meole Brace. The Isle of Man, Lancashire and Merseyside play their finals in time for us to report on in the next edition of **BCGBA NEWS**.



Cheshire (4); Cumbria (2 – Martin Gilpin, John Reilly); Derbyshire (6); Greater Manchester (1); Isle of Man (2); Lancashire (2); Merseyside (3); North Lancs & Fylde (3); North Midlands (4); Potteries & District (4); Shropshire (6); South Yorkshire (3); Staffordshire (4); Warwick & Worcester (7); Wales (5); Yorkshire (8).

***Results of all BCGBA competitions are updated as soon as each round is completed and can be viewed or downloaded at [www.crowngreenbowls.org](http://www.crowngreenbowls.org)***

## ST OSWALDS – ONCE, TWICE, THREE TIMES THE LADIES CHAMPIONS

There was an emotional end to the British Crown Green Ladies Bowling Association Club Championship as St Oswalds (Cheshire) emulated the feat of the men's champions, Tonge, by claiming a third title in a pulsating match with Acocks Green (Warwickshire) on what had been a gloriously sunny day at Centre Vale Park, Todmorden.

The week prior to the competition, St Oswalds ladies had paid the final respects to their team mate, Yvonne O'Neill, and their victory was dedicated to her memory with Yvonne's husband on hand to witness their victory which was one of his wife's last wishes.

The final itself was an excellent advert for ladies bowls with the lead changing hands constantly thanks to Kelly Martin's 15-8 winning card for the youthful Warwickshire side only to be bettered by Ronnie Lyons (15-7) and Margaret Williams (15-3) for the former winners

But with one game left on the green Acocks Green led by two and it was left to the St Oswalds captain, Irene Reardon, who used her experience to see off a determined Faye 'Monty' Montgomery 15-11 to secure a three shot overall victory

Earlier, both sides came through their round-robin groups unscathed with 100% victories. St Oswalds saw off the challenge of Anglesey (Burton & District) and Wirral sides Lairds and Melrose. Acocks Green comprehensively accounted for Marehay (South Derbyshire), Norley (Mid Cheshire) and Amasal (South Staffordshire).

In the semi-finals St Oswalds three single winners were instrumental in a 14 shot victory over Fairfield (North Derbyshire) while Acocks Green won five of the eight cards in their 35 shot victory over Acregate (North Lancs & Fylde), all to single figures.



St Oswalds captain, Irene Reardon, receives the trophy from BCGLBA President, Isabel Jones

### Acocks Green

Maliza Herbert	15	10
Jacque Pearce	15	11
Denise Taylor	15	14
Sam Edwards	15	10
Lorraine Kirby	07	15
Kirsty Darling	03	15
Kelly Martin	15	08
Faye Montgomery	11	15
<b>96</b>	<b>98</b>	

### St Oswalds

Elaine Berry
Glenda Carroll
Leslie Smith
Jean Wanbon
Ronnie Lyons
Margaret Williams
Maureen Lyon
Irene Reardon

## FEEDBACK

Thanks for the feedback we have received, most of which has been positive and is greatly appreciated. In answer to a couple of the emails received:

**STANDARD JACKS** – The decision to limit the number of date stamps on a Standard Jacks to four was made by the County Associations at the Rules Revision Meeting. The cost implication was raised by those speaking against the proposal but lost out comprehensively in the vote by 60 in favour, 24 against with 8 abstentions.

The feeling I got from the author of the email was that reading it in **BCGBA NEWS** was the first he had heard about it. Hopefully, all Clubs will know what is going to be included on the agenda of the 2012 Rules Revision Meeting as we intend to include all proposals in the December issue. It will then be down to Clubs to lobby their County Association with their views.

**DISCUSSION PAGE** – The main intention of **BCGBA NEWS** is to provide a communication process between the BCGBA and our members. There are no plans to introduce such a page but if anyone has a question they need answering then by all means send it to [bcgbanews@aol.com](mailto:bcgbanews@aol.com) and I will pass it on to the appropriate Official.

# COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP NEARLY HERE



The eagerly awaited **Endsleigh Senior County Championship** takes its bow on Sunday 1st May with holders, Warwick & Worcester, hoping to retain the trophy they won in dramatic style last September.

In the final with Greater Manchester, billed as one of the best ever County Championship finals, the Midlanders came from a mile behind to win by 4 shots in a truly memorable match.

They start their 2011 campaign against Potteries & District while Greater Manchester, with three titles behind them already in the new millennium, will be hoping to add title number four by first defeating South Yorkshire in their opening game.

The fifteen County Associations are divided into four qualifying groups each playing one another on a round robin basis, home and away, in 12-a-side matches on the first Sunday of each month from May through to July. The winners of each group qualify for the semi-finals which will be played on Sunday 7th August with the final set for Sunday 4th September which will be filmed by Crown Duels for Sky TV.

A Supplementary County Championship competition for Counties finishing in second and third positions, except in the three-team Group 4 where the third place County will be replaced by the Isle of Man, is played on the same day as the semi-finals at a neutral venue.

County Match Day proceedings start at 1pm with the home side allowed practice until 1.15pm, the visitors being allowed 30 minutes from 1.20pm. The match itself gets underway at 2pm and any support would be appreciated by the bowlers and County Associations. If you are at a loose end, a visit to watch one of the matches listed will be an afternoon well spent.

Full match cards will be available to view or downloaded from the BCGBA website – [www.crowngreenbowls.org](http://www.crowngreenbowls.org).

## GROUP 1

### Greater Manchester v South Yorkshire

at Chadderton C&BC, OL9 8LU / Woodlands Park Social BC, DN6 7RB

### Lancashire v North Lincs & Fylde

at Bucks Head BC, WN2 5RQ / The Reading Rooms, PR3 6HB

## GROUP 2

### Cheshire v Staffordshire

at Alderley S&SC, SK9 7NL / Chadsmoor Progressive BC, WS11 6DR

### North Midlands v Yorkshire

at Atherstone Grove BC, CV9 1HR / Thornhill C&BC, WF12 0QL

## GROUP 3

### Derbyshire v Merseyside

at Holbrook MW, DE56 0TG / Unison BC, WA10 6SX

### Potteries & District v Warwick & Worcester

at Middleport Park BC, ST6 3NP / Solihull Marsh Lane BC, B91 2PF

## GROUP 4

### Cumbria v Shropshire

at Lindal BC, LA12 0LA / Meole Brace BC No 2, SY3 9JF

Wales (bye)

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## ST JOSEPHS ON TOP OF THE WORLD

There was a fitting finale to the inaugural BCGBA World Club Championship, in association with Irlam Steel, when two of the north-west's leading sides met in the final.

St Josephs (North Lanes & Fylde) and Garswood Hall (Lancashire) met in last year's British Team Championships at Irlam Steel with St Josephs coming out on top by 9. Whilst it was another St Josephs victory, the winning margin this time was just three on a finals day played in glorious sunshine.

Both sides eased through qualification, St Josephs ousting Thongsbridge (Yorkshire) by 15 and Springbank (Greater Manchester) by 49 while Garswood Hall easily saw off previous Irlam winners Lloyd Hotel (Cheshire) by 23 and King Alfred (Cumbria) by 78.

On finals day both sides had to be on top of their game in a strong final eight. St Josephs were fairly comfortable 18 shot winners over Willenhall Nordley (Staffordshire) in their opening game and then ended Middleport Park's (Potteries & District) title hopes by a too close for comfort 7.

Garswood Hall, however, kept everyone on tenter hooks as they scraped past Meersbrook (South Yorkshire) by 4 then the resilient Pudsey (Yorkshire) by a solitary point.

Garswoods 'anchor man', Nicky Shaw, was a pivotal player in the outcome of each game. Against Meersbrook he saw his 16-1 lead whittled away to a 21-20 defeat but made amends against Pudsey as he ran out to game from 12-15 to secure his side's one shot victory.

Garswood drew first blood in the final with a resounding 21-8 card from Phil Boydell only to be equalled by St, Josephs skipper Mick Prescott. With one game left on the green it all came down to that man Nicky Shaw to pull another remarkable victory out of the bag, as if he wins 21-7, Garswood would lift the trophy by virtue of having the best winner with the games tied at four each.

With his side trailing by 14, and Shaw leading 15-7, he gradually got closer to victory but at 18-7 his opponent, Duncan Watkins, secured the vital point for victory as St Josephs became World Club Champions.



BCGBA President, Barry Jennings, presents St Josephs captain, Mick Prescott, with the World Club Championship trophy

### Garswood Hall

|              |            |    |
|--------------|------------|----|
| John Hodson  | 21         | 20 |
| Phil Boydell | 21         | 08 |
| Kevin Kearns | 21         | 15 |
| Neil Bithell | 11         | 21 |
| John Taylor  | 18         | 21 |
| Alan Manuel  | 08         | 21 |
| Bill Farrell | 13         | 21 |
| Nicky Shaw   | 21         | 10 |
| <b>134</b>   | <b>137</b> |    |

### St Josephs

|                  |
|------------------|
| Neil Helm        |
| Martin Gilpin    |
| Lee Heaton       |
| Ian Nicholson    |
| Wayne Ditchfield |
| Mick Prescott    |
| Martin Bacon     |
| Duncan Watkins   |

## YORKSHIRE HOPING TO CONTINUE THEIR REIGN OF JUNIOR BOWLS



Sunday 8th May sees the start of the **Drakes Pride Junior County Championship** where the stars of tomorrow will compete in the same format as their seniors and have their own supplementary event.

The holders, Yorkshire, have dominated junior bowls in the last decade winning the title on no fewer than seven occasions and will be keen to hold on to their crown.

They start the defence of their title against Potteries & District, the same opponents as the senior champions, whilst beaten finalists, Wales, face Staffordshire in a repeat of last year's semi-final where just 10 shots separated the two sides.

Further qualifying takes place on Sunday 12th June and 10th July with the semi-finals scheduled for Sunday 14th August. The final is on Sunday 11th September.

Full match cards will be available to view or downloaded from the BCGBA website – [www.crowngreenbowls.org](http://www.crowngreenbowls.org).

**Group 1:** Merseyside v South Yorkshire; Shropshire v Warwick & Worcester

**Group 2:** Greater Manchester v North Midlands; Lancashire v North Lincs & Fylde

**Group 3:** Potteries & District v Yorkshire; Staffordshire v Wales

**Group 4:** Cheshire v Derbyshire; Cumbria (bye)

### PERSONAL ACCIDENT INSURANCE – ARE YOU INSURED?

Personal Accident insurance provides set Monetary Benefits which are paid to an Insured Person following Accidental Bodily Injury.

The main purpose of Personal Accident insurance is to assist with any financial difficulties encountered by an Injured Person due solely to the injury suffered. Personal Accident insurance policies do not provide any cover for 'pain and suffering'. Personal Accident insurance differs from Public Liability insurance in that Monetary Benefits are paid in the event of an accident resulting in Bodily Injury, regardless of any negligence.

The cover arranged in conjunction with the British Crown Green Bowling Association is operative whilst Playing, Practising and Training, including travelling to and from any venue for these purposes.

One of the most popular benefits of the Personal Accident scheme is the 'broken bones' policy. This means that when an accident occurs however simple and a bone is found to have been broken then a payment of £80 is available from the Insurers. It is so easy to trip and fall breaking a wrist, leg or arm etc and the £80 goes a long way to ease the pain.

Cover can be arranged for Registered Members, Club Officials, Voluntary Workers and Match Officials aged up to 85 years of age and at a cost of a **one-off** payment (each year) of just 90p.

#### The brief benefits of the scheme are :-

- Underwritten by Sportscover Europe group of Insurers
- Cover is operative when travelling to and from training or games. Cover for all referees, officials and players.
- Accidental Death £20,000 (senior) £1,000 (10-15 years)
- Loss of Eyes/Limbs £20,000
- Permanent Total Disablement £20,000 (From normal business profession or occupation)
- Temporary Total Disablement £50 per week 7 day deferred maximum 104 weeks (From attending usual business profession or occupation)
- Hospital Benefit £10 per day 30 days payable

#### Exclusions

- Accidental Bodily Injury sustained by any person over the age of 85 years
- Armed forces, suicide or war

For further details and a full explanation of the benefits please contact the BCGBA National Registrar, Ron Holt, on 0151 526 8367 or [ronholtatmaghull@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:ronholtatmaghull@blueyonder.co.uk).

## STEVE AND DAVE, WORTHY OF THEIR COC PLACE

Steve Curbishley (right) and Dave McDermott followed Ross Dunkley into the BCGBA Champion of Champions by claiming the Coors Meole Brace Open and CCF Open respectively.



Photograph courtesy of Dave West



Photograph courtesy of Dave West

Curbishley started the day as a 40/1 outsider at Meole Brace in Shrewsbury and his 21-15 win over fellow Welsh County player Kevin Nicholas was made all the more remarkable by the turn of events that led to his success.

He only got into the competition as a late reserve – 10.30pm the night before his qualifying round.

Then, in his final game to qualify for the last 32, he found himself 7-17 down only to find a mark that saw him reach finals day with a 14-break.

The rest as they say is history and on his way to the final he accounted for the fancied Ant Aldridge, winner in 2008 and 2009, 21-17 in his opening game. Victories over Andy Milsom 21-9 and young Elliot McGuinness 21-12 followed then he capped off his day with a tremendous 21-18 victory over Callum Wraight in the semi-finals.

Meanwhile Merseyside's Dave McDermott had to battle hard to come through another strong line-up in the CCF Open at West Bromwich Supporters Club.

McDermott, who finished last season by winning the St Josephs Dean Classic at Chorley, brought his end of season form to the new campaign and opened his march to the title with two 21-17 victories. Peter Davenport and current Waterloo Champion Simon Coupe making early exits.

A hard-fought 21-20 quarter-final triumph over Kevin Jones seemed to settle McDermott as he stepped up a gear to dispose of former Waterloo champion Andy Moss 21-14 in his semi-final. In the final, Paul Lamb stood in his way of a Champion of Champion place but he was rarely troubled in a 21-10 victory.

The next of the Open Competition qualifiers is the Spring Waterloo which takes place on Sunday 29th May. Defending champion, Gary Ellis, is through to the last 64 and he will be joined by the early qualifiers which include former winners Andy Buckley, Glynn Cookson and Tommy Johnstone as well as Martin Gilpin, Robert Hitchen and Mike Leach. Play gets underway at 9.30am at the Waterloo Hotel in Blackpool.

Before that, one of the reserve competitions – the Riley Trophy at Wolstanton Bowling Club – reaches its climax on Sunday 8th May.

## SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

Drakes Pride ♦ Endsleigh ♦ Paddersfeelgoodfeet ♦ Grocontinental

## LADIES COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP GETS UNDERWAY

The 2011 British Crown Green Ladies Senior County Championship made its traditional April start with Burton & District finding some outstanding early form. They had a resounding success against Wirral Ladies in a 131 aggregate victory in which they only succumbed to just 4 losing cards.

Wirral Secretary, Pat Crowther, made her 100th county appearance just a few months after undergoing surgery to remove a cancerous kidney. Pat won her game 21-11 and was presented with a bouquet of flowers and signed card from her county team mates during the after-match speeches.

In contrast, North Lancs & Fylde and Wales could only be separated by eight shots when all their scores were added up.

Wales used the carpet at Betws yn Rhos as their home venue and the visitors left with a credible 30 shot deficit on this tricky surface. The Welsh duo of Pauline Jackson (21-9) and Jane Bowler (21-8) put on a late show with two fine wins in the last three blocks and with their away side keeping the deficit to 22 at Fulwood Conservative Club a thrilling match was brought to an end.

### Results from Sunday 17th April

**Group 1:** North Derbyshire 432 v North Shropshire 405; North Lancs & Fylde 421 v Wales 429.

**Group 2:** Cumbria 427 v Staffordshire 395; South Yorkshire 398 v Yorkshire 445.

**Group 3:** Greater Manchester 392 v Shropshire 442; Lancashire 367 v Mid Cheshire 432.

**Group 4:** Burton & District 467 v Wirral 336; Coventry & District 420 v South Staffordshire 398; North Warwickshire 419 v South Derbyshire 386.

The next round of matches takes place on Sunday 15th May where County Champions Warwickshire make their season's debut against Waterloo Cup winners South Yorkshire. The full fixtures list is as follows:

**Group 1:** Dudley & District v North Lancs & Fylde; North Derbyshire v Wales; North Shropshire (bye).

**Group 2:** South Yorkshire v Warwickshire; Staffordshire v Yorkshire; Cumbria (bye).

**Group 3:** Cheshire v Lancashire; Mid Cheshire v Shropshire; Greater Manchester (bye).

**Group 4:** Burton & District v South Derbyshire; Coventry & District v Wirral; North Warwickshire v South Staffordshire.

## DEVELOPMENT MEETING

Members of the Development Committee are reminded that the next meeting takes place on Saturday 30th April at Winnington Park, commencing 10am.

## REFEREES TO RAISE MORE MONEY IN THEIR PATRONS DAY

The British Crown Green Bowling Referees Society Secretary (BCGRBA), Barrie Cotterell, has announced that this year's Patrons Day will take place on Saturday 11th June at Winsford Conservative Club.

Each year the referees take a day off to compete in their own competition with the sole aim of raising monies for St Luke's Hospice adjacent to the green.

To date, the referees have raised over £4,950 and would be grateful of any donations to boost the cheque amount to be presented to this worthy cause.

If you would like to make a donation then please contact Barrie on 01543 277546.

## CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS DIARY

**Saturday 1st October 2011 – Waterloo Hotel, Blackpool – 10am**

### FINAL

Sunday 27 March (11am)  
Sunday 3 April (11.30am)  
Sunday 3 April  
Sunday 10 April (11am)  
Sunday 22 May  
Sunday 22 May (1pm)  
Saturday 28 May  
Sunday 29 May (9.30am)  
Monday 30 May  
Monday 30 May  
Monday 30 May  
Saturday 4 June  
Sunday 19 June  
Sunday 19 June  
Friday 24 June  
Saturday 25 June  
Sunday 26 June  
Sunday 26 June  
Sunday 26 June  
Sunday 26 June  
Sunday 26 June  
Saturday 2nd July (5.30pm)  
Wednesday 6 July (10am)  
Saturday 16 July (5pm)  
Sunday 24 July (11am)  
Friday 29 July  
Saturday 30 July (10am)  
Sunday 14 August  
Saturday 20 August (10am)  
Wednesday 14 September (10am)  
Sunday 18 September  
Friday 23 September

### COMPETITION

**Tony Pagett Open** at Cradley Liberal Club (B63 2TN)  
**Coors Meole Brace Open** at Meole Brace BC (SY3 9JJ)  
**Cumbria Merit** at Kendal Victoria BC & Burneside BC  
**CCF Open (WBFSC)** at West Bromwich Supporters Club (B70 8LD)  
**Isle of Man Merit**  
**Lancashire Merit**  
**Merseyside Merit**  
**Spring Waterloo** at Waterloo Hotel (FY4 2AF)  
**Potteries & District Merit**  
**South Yorkshire Merit**  
**Yorkshire Merit** at Harold Club (BD12 0UD)  
**North Lancs & Fylde Merit** at Skerton Libs BC (LA1 2AJ)  
**Cheshire Merit** at Grapes Inn BC (WA7 5EG)  
**Staffordshire Merit**  
**Isle of Man June Festival**  
**Greater Manchester Merit** at Middleton Cons  
**Derbyshire Merit**  
**North Midlands Merit**  
**Shropshire Merit**  
**Wales Merit**  
**Warwick & Worcester Merit**  
**John Smiths Classic** at Cleckheaton Sports (BD19 3UD)  
**BCGBA Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship** at Prees C & R Club (SY13 2DX)  
**Hillcrest Complete Packaging Services Classic** at Hillcrest BC (HX6 2HD)  
**South Leeds Classic**  
**Freeport Fleetwood Bowls Festival**  
**BCGBA Padders feelgoodfeet Senior Individual Merit** at Meole Brace BC (SY3 9JT)  
**British Parks Merit**  
**BCGBA Junior Individual Merit** at Winnington Park BC (CW8 4BH)  
**Waterloo World Championship** at Waterloo Hotel (FY4 2AF)  
**James Birks Memorial Midland Masters**  
**Isle of Man September Festival**

### QUALIFIER

Ross Dunkley  
Steve Curbishley  
Martin Gilpin  
Dave McDermott

### RESERVE COMPETITIONS (in order)

Saturday 17 September (5.30pm) **Brighouse Classic** at Brighouse Sports Club (HD6 4LX)  
Saturday 3 September (5.30pm) **Spen Masters** at Spen Victoria CB & AC (BD19 4PJ)  
Saturday 24 September (5.30pm) **Coors Pudsey Classic** at Pusey BC (LS28 8JQ)  
Played in October 2010 **Donnington Wood Dickie Bond Classic**  
Sunday 8 May (2pm) **The Riley Trophy (Wolstanton)** at Wolstanton BC (ST5 0HU)  
Saturday 13 August (5.30pm) **Carlsberg Olympic Classic** at Olympic BC (L9 2DG)  
Sunday 14 August (1pm) **Richmond Classic** at Richmond BC (L6 5AB)  
Sunday 21 August (1.30pm) **Moorside Classic** at Moorside Cricket & Bowling Club (OL4 2ND)  
Saturday 8 October (10am) **George Masters** at The George BC (B68 9LN)  
Sunday 28 August (5.30pm) **Wharton Cons Open** at Wharton Conservative Club (CW7 3EE)  
Sunday 14 August (1pm) **West Melton Victory Cup** at West Melton WMC (S63 6DG)  
Played in October 2010 **Arthur Johnson Memorial**

Dean Ferris

Darren Plenderleith