

SIMPLY THE BEST

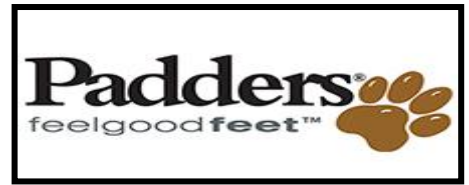


The 96th British Crown Green Bowling Association's Senior Individual Merit, sponsored by Padders feelgoodfeet, will go down as one of the most memorable of all time after an outstanding day's bowling. Known to many as 'The All England', Welsh wizard Mike Riley raided the excellent Meole Brace Bowling Club in Shrewsbury to beat North Lancs & Fylde's, Wayne 'The Beast' Ditchfield in a classic final, 21-19.

Everything about the day was superb. Meole Brace were excellent hosts providing superb organisation with plenty of hard working staff on hand to ensure the 1200 plus spectators were well watered and fed. BCGBA President, Barry Jennings, must be a proud man with his County and Club doing him proud.

The last eight onwards was filmed for Sky TV for a showing later in the year but those with internet access could watch live streaming via the 21up and talkingbowls websites. Bowls is often criticised as not being a television sport but the electric atmosphere during the later stages will certainly change this perception when the competitions hit our television screens. Thanks must go to the BCGBA for funding this and two other events (County Championship final and Champion of Champions) to promote our game and to Jimmy Parker, Mel Evans, Lynn Pritchatt and Martin Marks from the production company who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make it happen.

Mike Riley was first of the finalists to take to the green at the 10'oclock start with an opening game with Yorkshire's Gordon Flower. Once the players had worked each others tactics out, Riley pulled away from 11-9 scoring three doubles in a four end burst and went on to a 21-12 victory. It was a similar story for Ditchfield in his opener with Greater Manchester Merit winner, Gareth Gwilliam. Gwilliam never saw the jack again from being 9-10 down as The Beast roared into round two to set up an eagerly anticipated clash with Shropshire favourite, Callum Wraight.



Callum knows how to play the crowd and he was on top form in creating plenty of noise and looking good for a place in the last 16 at 17-9 in front. Unfazed, Ditchfield went on another break as he did against Gwilliam, allowing Wraight just one more point in a 21-18 triumph. Whilst this was going on Riley was performing similar heroics on a subdued number one green against Kevin Boon (Potteries & District). Trailing 17-10, Riley was a relieved 21-20 winner.

Their last sixteen games could have gone either way only for a late flurry by bother players seeing them reach the televised last eight. Riley's six doubles against Steve Darling (Warwick & Worcester) proved vital in his 21-14 win while Ditchfield's seven against Tim Barnett (Derbyshire) including a six end of consecutive two's, four in favour of Ditchfield, saw him home 21-17.

The televised last eight moved to a packed number one green where Riley faced the fancied three-time Staffordshire Merit winner, Craig Barker. Riley was soon 10-3 up but four singles from Barker brought the players closer but once Riley retained the jack there was no stopping him as he stormed to a 21-7 victory. Ditchfield was up against Cumbrian Merit winner, Martin Gilpin. A similar start saw Ditchfield race to a 12-3 advantage but, using his vast experience, Gilpin drew level at 17 across. But his comeback was all in vain as Ditchfield finished with doubles at the next two ends.

Riley was in the first of the semi-finals to take to the green, facing Martin Lloyd of the host county, Shropshire, who just got the better of Mark Ferris (Potteries & District), 21-19 in his quarter-final. From 5-1 down, Riley went on a superb eight end break scoring 15 in the process with just a solitary single among his points. Lloyd fought back to 13-16 but couldn't push on to victory as Riley booked his place in the final, 21-15. Ditchfield meanwhile was involved in a cat and mouse encounter with North Midlands Paul Lamb. Neither player could get a decent run with the block but from 15 across it was Ditchfield who outscored his opponent to win 21-17.

The final was a great game with the lead changing hands constantly. Ditchfield drew first blood to go 4 nil up but Riley responded with a break of six without reply. Ditchfield regained the lead at 7-6 but then fell 10-7 behind. Back came Ditchfield to 12-10 with the players eventually drawing level at 12, 13, and 17 across. A single followed by a double left Riley in touching distance of the trophy but Ditchfield made him wait for victory with a double himself to bring the scores to 19-20. Riley capitalised on Ditchfield's poor lead and when The Beast failed to improve on his first wood it sent Welsh Wizard Mike Riley running round the green in sheer delight.



QUARTER-FINALS

Colin Weaver (Warwick & Worcester) **18**, Paul Lamb (North Midlands) **21**

Martin Gilpin (Cumbria) **17**, Wayne Ditchfield (North Lancs & Fylde) **21**

Craig Barker (Staffordshire) **07**, Mike Riley (Wales) **21**

Martin Lloyd (Shropshire) **21**, Mark Ferris (Potteries & District) **19**

SEMI-FINALS

Paul Lamb **17**, Wayne Ditchfield **21**

Mike Riley **21**, Martin Lloyd **15**

FINAL

Wayne Ditchfield **19**, Mike Riley **21**

FULL RESULTS CAN BE VIEWED VIA THE BCGBA WEBSITE
www.crowngreenbowls.org

SEMI-FINALS NEXT IN SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP



The final qualifying matches in the Endsleigh Senior County Championship went as many predicted with those in pole position at the start of the day's play reaching the semi-finals, to be played on Sunday 7th August.

The first semi-final will be between last season's runners-up, Greater Manchester, and Yorkshire with both sides finishing their sections with maximum points. Greater Manchester signed off with a rampant 118 chalk victory over North Lancs & Fylde, winning home and away, while Yorkshire were impressive in their 62 chalk defeat of Cheshire, also winning in both counties.

Potteries & District and Shropshire will contest the second semi-final after their final day victories secured their places in the last four. Potteries & District finished their section with two wins and a draw and their 35 chalk victory over Derbyshire put them one point clear of County Champions, Warwick & Worcester, who they beat in their crucial opening fixture.

Shropshire, the most recent winners (2009) of the four semi-finalists, were involved in a 'winner takes all' clash with Wales in the three-team Section Four. Both sides had beaten Cumbria so whoever won would progress. In an anticipated close match, Shropshire stormed into the semi-finals with an 84 chalk overall victory, winning at both venues.

SEMI-FINALS – Sunday 7th August – 2pm

Greater Manchester v Yorkshire @ Staylybridge Rec (SK15 5JT) / Almondbury (HD5 8ZH)

Potteries & District v Shropshire @ Florence T&BC (ST4 3EB) / Hanwood (SY5 8LJ)

Section One	Pts	Diff
Greater Manchester	6	+161
South Yorkshire	4	+90
Lancashire	2	-111
North Lancs & Fylde	0	-140

Greater Manchester 475 v North Lancs & Fylde 357

Lancashire 357 v South Yorkshire 441

Section Two	Pts	Diff
Yorkshire	6	+155
Cheshire	2	-18
North Midlands	2	-49
Staffordshire	2	-88

Cheshire 381 v Yorkshire 443

North Midlands 429 v Staffordshire 378

Section Three	Pts	Diff
Potteries & District	5	+51
Warwick & Worcester	4	+146
Merseyside	3	-92
Derbyshire	0	105

Derbyshire 424 v Potteries & District 459

Merseyside 378 v Warwick & Worcester 429

Section Four	Pts	Diff
Shropshire	4	+111
Shropshire	2	-32
Cumbria	0	-79

Shropshire 471 v Wales 387

With the exception of Section Four, sides finishing in second and third place qualify for the Supplementary County Championship, sponsored by Endsleigh. This year's competition will be played at Pennfields Bowls Club (WV3 7LZ) in Wolverhampton, venue of the BCGBA Merit in 2007, on the same day as the semi-finals. In Section Four, Isle of Man will replace third placed Cumbria.

The Supplementary County Championship is an eight-a-side competition consisting of two groups of four teams. The teams in each group play each other on a round robin basis with the group winners contesting the final. The groups are decided by a set formula, detailed in the BCGBA handbook (page 103).

Play gets underway at 10.00am and after a full day's play the winners will be presented with the Stan Higham Trophy, currently held by Wales.

GROUP A
 South Yorkshire
 North Midlands
 Warwick & Worcester
 Isle of Man

GROUP B
 Lancashire
 Cheshire
 Merseyside
 Wales

MERWYN HOLTS RON IN VETERANS FINAL

With a combined age of 155 years, Merwyn Williams from Wales was a worthy winner of the BCGBA Veterans Individual Championship defeating BCGBA National Registrar, Ron Holt (Merseyside), 21-12 in the final.

Played at the excellent Prees Cricket & Recreation Club in Shropshire and sponsored once again by Grocontinental, the thirty-two strong field contained current holder, Tony Rawlinson (Lancashire), who also won in 2007, along with several bowlers with plenty of recent Senior County experience - Barry Booth (Potteries & District), Roger Crowther (Yorkshire), Alan Hill (Lancashire) and Roy Nicholson (Yorkshire).

Tony Rawlinson started well with a 21-12 first round victory over Mick Brown (Staffordshire) then 21-11 against Mick Hewitson (North Lancs & Fylde). But hopes of a third title were ended by Potteries & District's Barry Booth who was always in control in his 21-13 win.

Booth was immediately installed favourite after this win but he was always playing second fiddle to Merwyn Williams throughout their semi-final clinging on to a 21-18 victory after Booth had fought back from 19-12 to get within one point of his Welsh opponent.

Williams had quietly been going about his business seeing off Alan Hill (Lancashire) to 12, Ged Briddon (Derbyshire) to 11 before being involved in the game of the day with Roy Nicholson. Nicholson led 13-8 and 16-11 only to see his lead whittled away to a 19-16 deficit. Back came Nicholson to lead 20-19 only to succumb to two singles in an epic encounter.

Ron Holt's target for the day was to get through the first round; anything else would be a bonus. Well, he certainly earned his bonus with some battling performances as he defeated Barry Phillips (Wales) and Paul Hillam (Yorkshire) 21-14, he ran out on 'local' Barry Thomas from 15-18 and then booked his place in the final at the expense of Fred Donaldson (Potteries & District) 21-18 after they peeled at 18 across.

Williams took full advantage of a tiring Ron Holt reaching 17 before the BCGBA official could get on the score sheet. A three-end rally got him to double figures before Williams reclaimed the jack and went on to a 21-10 victory.

The presentation was made by the BCGBA President, Barry Jennings, and Mrs Rose Grocott from sponsors Grocontinental who confirmed their continued sponsorship of this popular event.



HOLDERS THROUGH TO JUNIOR SEMI-FINALS



As expected, there were no surprises in the final matches of the Drakes Pride Junior County Championship with Warwick & Worcester facing Greater Manchester with the current champions, Yorkshire, taking on Derbyshire in the semi-finals on Sunday 14th August.

Warwick & Worcester continued their impressive form in Section One with a 130 shot victory over Merseyside, claiming all winning cards in their home leg at Boldmere St Michaels though Merseyside can boast being the first side to defeat the midlanders away side in two years.

Greater Manchester defeated North Lancs & Fylde by 47 in their final match of Section Two where all sides had two points each at the start of play. Lancashire and North Midlands drew their match leaving North Lancs bottom of their section but with a plus average.

Yorkshire once again got the better of Wales with an impressive 87 shot victory in a re-run of last year's final and will take some stopping in their quest for back-to-back titles. Derbyshire are faced with the mammoth task of taming the strong Yorkshire outfit after overcoming Cumbria by 8 when the two unbeaten sides from Section Four met in their final match.

Results from matches played Sunday 10th July

Group 1: Merseyside 325 v Warwick & Worcester 455; Shropshire 455 v South Yorkshire 348

Group 2: Greater Manchester 435 v North Lancs & Fylde 388; Lancashire 401 v North Midlands 401

Group 3: Potteries & District 419 v Staffordshire 397; Wales 38 v Yorkshire 467

Group 4: Derbyshire 420 v Cumbria 412

Like the seniors, sides finishing in second and third place, including Section Four, qualify for the Supplementary County Championship, sponsored by Drakes Pride which this year will be played at New Brighton Cricket & Bowling Club (CH45 5DE), Merseyside, on the same day as the junior semi-finals.

Shropshire will be able to defend their title when play gets underway at 10.00am.

Section One	Pts	Diff
Warwick & Worcester	6	+305
Shropshire	4	+1936
South Yorkshire	2	-138
Merseyside	0	-360

Section Two	Pts	Diff
Greater Manchester	4	+198
North Midlands	3	-97
Lancashire	3	-157
North Lancs & Fylde	2	+56

Section Three	Pts	Diff
Yorkshire	6	+258
Wales	4	+21
Staffordshire	2	-139
Potteries & District	0	-140

Section Four	Pts	Diff
Derbyshire	4	103
Cumbria	2	+10
Cheshire	0	-113

GROUP A

Shropshire
Lancashire
Wales
Cheshire

GROUP B

South Yorkshire
North Midlands
Staffordshire
Cumbria

SEMI-FINALS – SUNDAY 14th AUGUST - 2pm

Greater Manchester v Warwick & Worcester @ Royton Park (OL9 6SA) / Great Barr (B43 6JF)

Derbyshire v Yorkshire @ Barton (DE13 8DB) / Aldmondbury Liberal Club (HD5 8TA)

BCGBA JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL MERIT

Saturday 20th August 2011 – 10am - Winnington Park Recreation Club, Northwich, CW8 4BH

Admission £3.00

Refreshments available

THE MONTH AHEAD

Sunday 7th August (2pm)

BCGBA Senior County Championship Semi-Finals

Sunday 7th August (10am)

BCGBA Senior Supplementary County Championship at Pennfields BC (WV3 7LZ)

Saturday 13th August (10am)

BCGLBA Dorothy Pearce at Florence Tennis & Bowling Club (ST4 3EB)

Saturday 13th August (5.30pm)

Carlsberg Olympic Classic (L9 2DG)

Sunday 14th August (2pm)

BCGBA Junior County Championship Semi-Finals

Sunday 14th August (10am)

BCGBA Junior Supplementary County Championship at New Brighton Cricket & Bowling Club (CH45 5DE)

Sunday 14th August (2pm)

BCGLBA Senior County Championship / Waterloo Cup Semi-Finals

Sunday 14th August (1pm)

Richmond Classic (L6 5AB)

Sunday 14th August

British Parks Merit

Saturday 20th August (10am)

BCGBA Junior Individual Merit at Winnington Park Recreation Club (CW8 4BH)

Sunday 21st August (10am)

BCGLBA County Average Winners Classic at Winnington Park Recreation Club (CW8 4BH)

Sunday 21st August (1.30pm)

Moorside Classic (M27 9LD)

GAMSBY SETS A RECORD

Warwick & Worcester's Paul Gamsby (left) became a record breaker in his side's final group match of the Endsleigh Senior County Championship with Merseyside at the beginning of the month. Gamsby passed the previous record held by Alan Powell when he made his 144th appearance.

This came just days after he won the Warwick & Worcester Merit for a record fifth time.

To cap off a remarkable achievement, Gamsby was involved in a fantastic game with Merseyside's number one, Kevin Kearns, winning 21-19 with some outstanding bowling that earned him the Man of the Match award in his sides final group match of the Endsleigh Senior County Championship

The Warwick & Worcester officials made a presentation to Gamsby following the match.



*Results of all BCGBA competitions
are updated as soon as each round is completed and can be viewed or downloaded at
www.crowngreenbowls.org.*

SECOND LADIES TITLE FOR MALIZA

Maliza Herbert (Warwickshire) and Nicola Boulton (Mid Cheshire) played out a thrilling British Crown Green Ladies Bowling Association Merit final on a glorious sunny day at Bridgewater Bowling Club, North Shropshire with a good crowd in attendance.

End after end both ladies played tremendous bowls to deny each other vital points with rarely a stray wood bowled. What a pity there were no television cameras to record this one as it would have been a great advert for crown green bowls and the ladies game in particular. The men have got something to live up to in their merit.

Maliza added her second title in three years with her 21-11 win to keep the C S Green (St Paul's Square) Trophy in her Warwickshire county after Kirsty Darling's win last year. For Nicola, it was runner-up for the second year running though she can take some comfort that the score line didn't reflect her performance.

Maliza was one of the first of the 64 ladies to take to the green when play got underway at 10am and started her day with a 21-14 victory over North Derbyshire's Darlene Walker quickly followed by a 21-11 defeat of former Junior Merit winner Cheryl Caswell from Shropshire. She then had a titanic battle with Maureen Lyons (Cheshire) just scraping through 21-20 after the pair had been locked at 20 across to reach the last 8.

Her quarter and semi-final games were of a similar pattern, running out to game from 14-13 against Alexis Lunn-Gadd (Yorkshire) and 12 across with Sarah Weaver from host county North Shropshire.

Nicola meanwhile had a tougher route to the final as after a comfortable 21-10 victory over Sheila Trail (South Derbyshire) she had to get through two 21-19 battles with Sally Evans (South Staffordshire) and Linda Williams (Wales). She came from 14-10 down to beat Marie Rhodes (Shropshire) 21-16 in the last 8 but was rarely troubled in her 21-11 semi-final victory over Emma Broad (Wales).

Two other former winners made it through to finals day - Maggie Barnes (2005) and Betty Phillips (2006). Unfortunately, both made first round exits to Sarah Weaver and Kerry Brown respectively.



Maliza receives the BCGLBA Ladies Merit trophy from President Isobel Jones

WALES OUT TO STOP WARWICKSHIRE REACHING LADIES FINAL

SECTION 1	Pts	Diff
North Derbyshire	4	+42
North Shropshire	4	+18
Wales	4	+8
Dudley & District	2	-24
North Lancs & Fylde	2	-44

SECTION 2	Pts	Diff
Warwickshire	6	+151
Yorkshire	4	+58
South Yorkshire	4	+30
Cumbria	2	-62
Staffordshire	0	-117

SECTION 3	Pts	Diff
Cheshire	6	+119
Mid Cheshire	4	+81
Greater Manchester	2	-48
Shropshire	2	-64
Lancashire	2	-88

SECTION 4	Pts	Diff
Coventry & District	8	+229
North Warwickshire	8	+188
Burton & District	4	+66
South Staffordshire	2	-30
South Derbyshire	2	-57
Wirral	0	-396

Semi-Finals

Sunday 14th August

County Championship

Wales v Warwickshire
Mid Cheshire v North Warwickshire

Waterloo Cup

North Derbyshire v Yorkshire
Cheshire v Coventry & District

Wales will be the next county to try to end Warwickshire's domination of the British Crown Green Bowling Association Senior County Championship when they meet in the semi-final of the County Championship on Sunday 14th August.

Wales won Section One after their 45 shot victory over North Shropshire while Warwickshire remained undefeated in Section Two with Staffordshire going down by 70. Mid Cheshire won Section Three by aggregate difference pushing neighbours Cheshire into second place.

Cheshire lost by 6 to Shropshire and with Mid Cheshire winning by 64 against Greater Manchester their superior aggregate saw them through to meet North Warwickshire, who like their neighbours, won all their matches.

In the Waterloo Cup, for the runners-up in each section, Cheshire play Coventry & District while North Derbyshire play Yorkshire in the semi-finals, also on 14th August.

July results

SECTION 1

Dudley & District 394, North Derbyshire 389
North Shropshire 402, Wales 447

SECTION 2

Cumbria 391, Yorkshire 450
Staffordshire 368, Warwickshire 438

SECTION 3

Cheshire 402, Shropshire 408
Greater Manchester 390, Mid Cheshire 454

SECTION 4

Burton & District 405, South Staffordshire 426
Coventry & District 356, North Warwickshire 457
South Derbyshire 445, Wirral 340

The **COUNTY AVERAGE WINNERS CLASSIC** takes place on Sunday 21st August at Winnington Park Recreation Club (CW8 4BH)

IT'S A FAMILY AFFAIR



STEVE PRATT'S victory in the North Midlands Merit came at his fifth attempt after he had lost in four previous finals.

His victory completes a remarkable family achievement with his father and grandfather already having their names etched on the trophy.

Grandfather, Fred, was winner in 1955 with dad, Roly, a triple winner in 1963, 1967 and 1974.

SHORT MARKS

CEO ON RADIO

BCGLBA Chief Executive, John Crowther, was interviewed on the Simon Mayo Drivetime radio show on BBC Radio 2.

This followed an article on the previous day's programme in which a green (not sure if crown or flat) had been covered in topsoil to replicate mole hills as a prank.

DOROTHY PEARCE PAIRS

The BCGLBA play their 2011 Dorothy Pearce Pairs at Florence Tennis and Bowling Club, Cemetery Avenue, Dresden, Stoke-on-Trent, ST3 4EB on Saturday 13th August. Play gets underway at 10am and spectators are more than welcome.

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

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

The game's top two – Gary Ellis and Graeme Wilson – booked their places in the line-up after four more open qualifying competitions reached their climax during July.



Gary Ellis with the John Smiths Classic Trophy

Gary Ellis defeated Rob Fitzpatrick 21-15 to claim the £1,200 first prize in the final of the John Smiths Classic at Cleckheaton with Wayne 'The Beast' Ditchfield securing his place courtesy of his win at the Hillcrest Complete Packaging Services Classic in which he beat Richard Helliwell, 31-19.

Scott Fisher got the better of Ryan Clark in the final of the South Leeds Classic with a 21-14 success while the Fleetwood Festival rounded the month off where Graeme Wilson beat Swinton's David Walker 21-12 in the final.

After August's two qualifiers (British Parks Merit and BCGBA Junior Individual Merit), there will be just three more spaces left in the 32-strong field.

Unusually, no player has double qualified yet this year leaving a frustrated reserve list. First reserve, Brighthouse Classic, will be keeping their fingers crossed one of those already through to the Waterloo will win either the Waterloo World Championship, James Birks Midland Masters or Isle of Man September Festival.

COMPETITION	QUALIFIER	COMPETITION	QUALIFIER
Tony Pagett Open	Ross Dunkley	Isle of Man June Festival	Jack Hargreaves
Coors Meole Brace Open	Steve Curbishley	Greater Manchester Merit	Gareth Gwilliam
Cumbria Merit	Martin Gilpin	Derbyshire Merit	Nick Jellyman
CCF Open (WBFSC)	Dave McDermott	North Midlands Merit	Steve Pratt
Isle of Man Merit	Colin Kelly	Shropshire Merit	Callum Wraight
Lancashire Merit	Chris Goodhand	Wales Merit	Nick Jones
Merseyside Merit	John Hignett Jnr	Warwick & Worcester Merit	Paul Gamsby
Spring Waterloo	Colin Beaman	John Smiths Classic	Gary Ellis
Potteries & District Merit	Kevin Boon	BCGBA Veterans Championship	Merwyn Williams
South Yorkshire Merit	Richard Jackson	Hillcrest Complete Packaging Services Classic	Wayne Ditchfield
Yorkshire Merit	James Hanson	South Leeds Classic	Scott Fisher
North Lancs & Fylde Merit	Paul Brett	Freeport Fleetwood Bowls Festival	Graham Wilson
Cheshire Merit	Glynn Cookson	BCGBA Padders feelgoodfeet Senior	Mike Riley
Staffordshire Merit	Craig Barker		

RESERVE COMPETITIONS COMPLETED (number order in brackets)

(4) Donnington Wood Dickie Bond Classic	Dean Ferris	(5) The Riley Trophy (Wolstanton)	Darren Smith
(12) Arthur Johnson Memorial	Darren Plenderleith		

TODMORDEN HOST VETERANS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Both the British Crown Green men and British Crown Green ladies played their Veterans County Championship competitions on the excellent greens at Centre Vale Park, Todmorden.

Both events are for those players aged 60 and above, are played on a round-robin basis with 16 county teams split in for four groups with the group winners qualifying for the semi-finals and are 15up (although the men play to 21 with six on the card). Other similarities were that this year both events were played in glorious sunshine, new names were to be engraved on the trophy as neither finalists had won either event before and Yorkshire appeared in both finals.

THE LADIES were first to complete their competition and after the group stages were over holders Cheshire would play Yorkshire in one semi-final and the fancied Warwickshire would meet North Lancs & Fylde in the other semi.

Reputations went out of the window as Yorkshire left Cheshire shell-shocked by their 36 shot defeat in which the champions could only find one winner and Yorkshire's Freda Beaumont left her opponent on nil. North Lancs & Fylde were impressive as they defeated Warwickshire, in their splendid Osprey sponsored shirts, by 14. Both sides had four winners each but three single figure victories for North Lancs proved vital.

At the half way stage of the final, North Lancs & Fylde held a slender 4 shot lead despite claiming three winning cards. Yorkshire then got their noses in front for the first time thanks to a tremendous 15-5 victory for Linda Gledhill but their lead was short lived as North Lancs finished with three winning cards in which Gladys Gunby and Joan Jolly impressed with their respective 21-6 and 21-8 winning cards.

THE MEN meanwhile arrived to find no order of play as the new rule introduced at the Rules Revision Meeting in January meant the draw could not take place until the officials had arrived on day of the competition. This left many disgruntled players hanging around waiting to find out which green they needed to set up their home for the next seven hours. There were many grumblings of the late withdrawal (10pm the previous night) of the Potteries & District team particularly from Merseyside, North Lancs & Fylde and South Yorkshire who ended up in a group of three.

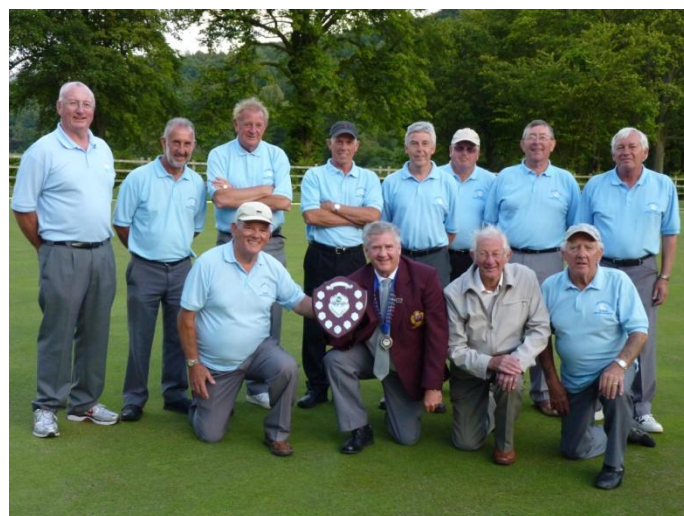
With defending champions, Cheshire, failing to get through the group stages, the semi-final line-up threw together two 'derby' matches. In the first semi-final, Yorkshire eased past South Yorkshire Parks by 44 with only one losing card while the other penultimate match was a close affair between Lancashire and North Lancs & Fylde with Lancashire getting home by 8 thanks in the main to Billy Farrell's 21-9 card.

The final was similar to the ladies as white rose county, Yorkshire, found themselves behind after the first four but the margin to pull back on red rose county, Lancashire, was 12. But, like in the ladies final, the winners finished strongly by claiming three winning cards but this time it was Yorkshire who were celebrating a Battle of the Roses victory with 10 shots to spare.



NORTH LANCS & FYLDE 107, YORKSHIRE 95:

Eileen Pye 15, Christine Kaye 11; Marjorie Dransfield 12, Barbara Wherrett 15; Liz Bennett 15, Eileen Wooltorton 13; Lorna Jackson 15, Ann Hinchliffe 14; Barbara Danson 5, Linda Gledhill 15; Gladys Gunby 15, Marie Lockwood 6; Joan Jolly 15, Carol Harpin 8; Kath Garnett 15, Freda Beaumont 13.



YORKSHIRE 144, LANCASHIRE 134:

Roy Nicholson 10, Tony Rawlinson 21; Brian Jenkins 13, Phil Boydell 21; Frank Griffin 21, Alan Hill 15; Richard Bentley 21, Bill Farrell 20; Ronnie Wormald 21, John Owen 11; Alan Thompson 21, Jim Carney 14; Mick Smith 16, Jeff Barlow 21; David Scott 21, Jimmy Glover 11.

LADIES FINALISE THEIR 'CHAMPIONS' LINE UP

The British Crown Green Ladies Bowling Association have now finalised their Champion of Champions line-up.

Thirty-two County and Open competition winners from the 2011 season will descend on the Waterloo Hotel, Blackpool, on Sunday 2nd October, the day after the men play their event.

The full list of qualifiers to date are:

Burton & District Ladies Merit : **Wendy Jackson**

Cheshire Ladies Merit :

Coventry & District Ladies Merit : **Maggie Barnes**

Cumbria Ladies Merit : **Debbie Hall**

Dudley & District Ladies Merit : **Claire Pugh**

Greater Manchester Ladies Merit : **Pat Roscoe**

Isle of Man Ladies Merit :

Lancashire Ladies Merit : **Jackie Owen**

Mid Cheshire Ladies Merit : **Wendy Allen**

North Derbyshire Ladies Merit : **Lisa Poole**

North Lancs & Fylde Ladies Merit :

North Shropshire Ladies Merit :

North Warwickshire Ladies Merit : **Jill Gibbon**

Shropshire Ladies Merit :

South Derbyshire Ladies Merit : **Linda Wheelodon**

South Staffordshire Ladies Merit : **Sharon Barlow**

South Yorkshire Ladies Merit : **Kerry Brown**

Staffordshire Ladies Merit : **Gill Welsh**

Warwickshire Ladies Merit : **Jodie Faulkner**

Welsh Ladies Merit : **Jane Bowler**

Wirral Ladies Merit : **Lynsey Gorman**

Yorkshire Ladies Merit : **Julie Best**

BCG Ladies Individual Merit : **Maliza Herbert**

BCG Ladies Junior Merit :

Isle of Man Ladies Festival - June : **Cynthia Tonge**

Isle of Man Ladies Festival - September :

Waterloo Ladies Open :

Freeport Fleetwood Ladies Bowls Festival : **Julie Gardner**

Talbot Ladies Open :

New Brighton Ladies Tournament :

Lisdoonie Ladies Cup :

Stretton Anglesey Ladies Open :

THOMAS STREET RECEIVE THEIR AWARD



The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

The MBE for volunteer groups

Queen's Award winners, Thomas Street Bowling Club from Nelson, received their certificate signed, by The Queen, and an exclusive commemorative crystal, presented by Her Majesty's representative in Lancashire, Lord Shuttleworth.

The group has also received an invitation for representatives to attend a Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace later in the summer.



NEVER HAVE SO MANY OWED SO MUCH TO SO FEW

My sincere thanks to everybody who helped with the staging of the BCGBA Merit at Meole Brace B C on 30 July 2011, both with the build up and on the day and after. The greens were in perfect condition.

The media coverage, Television, Radio, Internet and a special mention to The Shropshire Star, Shrewsbury Chronicle and Radio Shropshire were superb.

The behaviour of the massive attendance and the bowling on the day was impeccable. The running of the competition and the official work by the BCGBA officers allowed the event to run smoothly.

The many volunteers of Meole Brace B C, Ladies, Gentlemen and Juniors, were without exception brilliant when carrying out the numerous tasks asked of them on this Merit day which must rank as one of the best, if not the best ever, as agreed by all who were in attendance on the day. We had no problems.

A special mention must be made of the Ladies catering team who worked like slaves all day, the Bar staff in both sites who never rested all day, the stewards who carried out their duties in a very professional manner, and last but not least the co-ordinator in the build up and on the day, Mark Hinks, of the host club for a superb display of organisation. He was indispensable.

Foot Note;- The Mayor and Mayoress were only due to stay until 2pm but left at the end of the day at 8.30pm having enjoyed the day immensely and could not leave until its conclusion. Surely this is praise indeed.

Very many thanks and well done to all.

Barry Jennings
BCGBA President



**The Mayor of Shrewsbury presented Mrs Lynn Jennings with a memento of the day.
Lynn stepped in at the last minute to organise the catering so excellently with her team of hard working staff**