



BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

SIMON CLAIMS ANOTHER 'MAJOR' IN MERIT SUCCESS

SIMON COUPE (North Lancs & Fylde) added his name to the illustrious list of winners of the BCGBA Senior Individual Merit Trophy when he saw off the challenge of Reece Farr (Staffordshire) in this year's final, played on the greens of Heaton Park Bowling Club, Greater Manchester.

After a shaky start in the final, which saw him trail 4-nil, 5-1 and 10-9, Coupe went on a run of five two's to get within two of the game at 19-10. Farr saved game at the next end but any hopes of a comeback were thwarted by Coupe who scored the required chalks at the next two ends. BCGBA President, Martin Goddard, made the presentations and the trophy to the worthy winner.

Coupe's opening game of the day was against Natty Tonks (North Midlands) on Green 1. From an 8-3 deficit, he fought his way back into the game to lead 12-8 and 20-13 but was made to sweat for the last chalk as Tonks got back to 18-20 before he secured the final chalk that would see him through to Round 2.

In Round 2, on Green 2, he got the better start against Grant Eckersley from the host county. His 7-2 advantage was soon whittled away to an 11-14 deficit but he finished the stronger, running out to game with four two's in a six-end break. Back on Green 1 for Round 3, against Shropshire's Ashley Wellings, there was nothing between the pair as neither player could get a decent run with the jack. From 10-8 in favour of Coupe, Wellings had no answer as his opponent went on a seven-end run without reply to get to 20-8 and two ends later a 21-9 victory.

The quarter-finals onwards were all played on Green 1 and Coupe's opponent, the Isle of Man Merit winner, Neil Withers, could not get going in the first half of the game, trailing 15-4 after thirteen ends. He did rally to claw his way back to get within two of Coupe at 13-15 but couldn't retain his momentum as Coupe moved on to a 21-14 success.

Coupe booked his place in the final courtesy of a 21-9 triumph against Robbie Ellis, winner of the prestigious Yorkshire Merit. Coupe had scored 8 before Ellis got on the scorecard and he was unable to put any meaningful run together to deny his opponent a place in the final.



Simon Coupe's victory makes him one of the select few who have won the BCGBA Senior Individual Merit, BCGBA Champion of Champions and Waterloo Autumn Handicap. He scored 42 'two's' in the six games he played on the day and was the player who scored the most 'two's' in a single game, 9, v Natty Tonks.

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SUZIE IN CONTROL TO WIN LADIES AVERAGES

SUZIE LAWSON overcame the wet conditions when she crossed the border into Wales to win the 2023 BCGBA Ladies County Average Winners Classic.

The Lancashire average winner found the Abergele green to her liking as she recorded a comfortable 21-9 final victory over Alyson Evans (North Warwickshire), winner of the inaugural competition in 2010. BCGBA Ladies President, Mavis Hancock, was on hand to make the presentations.

Lawson was rarely troubled on her way to the final. Sarah Edmondson (North Lancs & Fylde) lost her way from seven across in the first round to suffer a 21-10 defeat, while Lynn Carter (Yorkshire) was restricted to just a further chalk as she was unable to recover from a bad start which saw her trail 17-6 and an eventual 21-11 loss.

She booked her place in the final at the expense of Gillian Greenbank (North Midlands) who, like Carter, found herself 16-6 behind in no time. A series of two's gave her hope, but Lawson dug deep to win 21-12.



COOKSON A WORTHY CHAMPION



OWEN COOKSON claimed the 2023 BCGBA 18-23 Open Championship title when the competition returned to Windle Bowling Club on Merseyside.

The Cheshire player's path to the final started with a comfortable 21-13 victory over Jodie Dickenson (South Yorkshire) in a game which he controlled from start to finish. Against Shannon Kernick (Warwick & Worcester) in round 2 there was nothing between the players at 11 across but Cookson scored heavily with a series of 'two's' to eventually win 21-15.

Tom Killen (Shropshire) gave Cookson his toughest game of the day with the Cheshire player relived to be on the right side of a 21-19 scoreline after the players had been level on six occasions throughout the game.

From here, Cookson powered his way to victory. In the semi-final, after losing the first end to Josh Thomas (Yorkshire) he went on to win 21-6 and in the final against Louis Jones (Warwick & Worcester), he turned a 4-nil deficit into a 21-8 victory.



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SOUTH YORKSHIRE MEN MAKE IT A VETERANS DOUBLE

South Yorkshire's men won the 2023 BCGBA Veterans County Championship emulating the feat of their Ladies who won the Ladies Veterans County Championship at Centre Vale Park, Todmorden back in June.



Having qualified by winning their regional qualifier at Matlock Golf Club with victories over hosts, Derbyshire, their British Parks colleagues, South Yorkshire Parks and neighbours Yorkshire, they travelled to Monk Sports & Social Club, Warrington, where they faced the three other regional winners, Cumbria, Greater Manchester and Warwick & Worcester in this round-robin format.

In Round 1, they finished comfortable winners against Cumbria in a 32-chalk victory claiming six of the eight winning cards with Greater Manchester also making a good start in their 16-chalk defeat of Warwick & Worcester in the other group match.

In Round 2, South Yorkshire went down by 11 chinks against Warwick & Worcester while Cumbria defeated Greater Manchester by 8 to leave all four teams on two points each going into the final round of matches.

In Round 3, the Cumbria v Warwick & Worcester match finished first with both sides having an equal share of the winning jacks. It was Bill Kinchen's opening 21-9 card for the Midlands that was instrumental in his side's 17-chalk victory. Warwick & Worcester's victory put them on top of the table but they had to wait for the outcome of the South Yorkshire v Greater Manchester match as play was still underway. With Greater Manchester 3 chinks in front with one game left on the green, Warwick & Worcester's hopes of claiming victory were dashed by South Yorkshire's Jack Clarke whose 21-9 card ensured his side would top the group by having a better aggregate and their first outright victory in the competition's history.

BCGBA President, Martin Goddard, congratulated all teams on their performances throughout the day and made the presentation to the winning team, South Yorkshire.

LADIES JUNIOR MERIT RETURNS TO HESWALL

The BCGBA Ladies will be playing their Junior Individual Merit on Saturday 2nd September, once again at Heswall RBL.

16 junior girls, representing just seven of the twenty-one ladies counties in membership, will be divided into four groups of four players and will play one another on a round-robin basis. The four group winners will contest the semi-finals with the two winners playing in the final.

The overall winner will take their place in the 2023 BCGBA Ladies Champions of Champions, to be played at Monk Sports & Social Club on Sunday 1st October 2023.

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BROWN & MILES MAKE THE TRIP TO CUMBRIA WORTHWHILE

Finalist in the 2023 BCGBA Ladies Dorothy Pearce Memorial Pairs made the journey to Roose Conservative Club in Cumbria for this year's finals with Kerry Brown & Danielle Miles from South Yorkshire getting their names engraved on the trophy.



Gillian Alliot & Marylin Kelly-Wally (Burton & District) were their first of five opponents on the day and from 11 across the South Yorkshire pair only gave the jack away on one occasion in their 21-12 opening victory. Linda Harpin & Lynn Wood (North Midlands) lost by the same score in round two having trailed 20-4 at one stage.

Kathryn Gee & Ronnie Lyon (Cheshire) gave them the toughest game of the day. They turned a 10-7 deficit into a 14-12 advantage but were unable to maintain the momentum in the quarter-finals as Brown & Miles claimed a place in the penultimate stage, courtesy of a 21-17 victory. Here, they ran out on Lyn Bolton & Jane Smith who made the long trip from the Isle of Man, something some of the mainland counties couldn't do, not entering due to the travel involved! They were in the game at 12-14 following a 'three' at the fourteenth end

but lost the jack at the next end and never saw it again as once again Brown & Miles finished the stronger, winning 21-12.

BCGBA Ladies Deputy President, Sue Todd presented Brown & Miles with the trophy after they had recorded a comfortable 21-10 victory over Emma Earlam & Katie Harrop (Cheshire) in the final. From seven across, the South Yorkshire duo took control of the game and proved worthy winners.

WARWICK & WORCESTER CLAIM SUPPLEMENTARY TITLE

Warwick & Worcester made a rare appearance in the BCGBA Supplementary County Championship as they are usually otherwise engaged by competing in the semi-finals of the Senior County Championship.

But, having lost to arch-rivals, Yorkshire, in this season's opening match they ensured they didn't finish the season empty-handed by defeating Cheshire by just four chalks in this year's final.

They won their group with an unblemished record by defeating Merseyside (7), Potteries & District (34) and North Midlands (5) while



Cheshire progressed to the final courtesy of having a better aggregate score than the Isle of Man and South Yorkshire who all ended their group matches on four points each.

In the final, played over both greens at Bellingham BC, Lancashire, Warwick Worcester took a 22-chalk advantage to the second green with Callum Mitchell's 21-6 card proving crucial when all scores were added up. Cheshire won all four games on the second green but just fell short of victory despite Ian Howell's 21-9 card.

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FAVOURITES BOW OUT A COUNTY SEMI-FINALS

Derbyshire will play Staffordshire in this season's Senior County Championship Final on Sunday 3rd September (2pm) after both sides surprised many by defeating the favoured Yorkshire and Shropshire.

Derbyshire booked their place in the final courtesy of a hard-fought 13-chalk victory over the defending champions, Yorkshire. They suffered a 38-chalk loss at Ossett Cricket & Athletic Club where they could only muster three winning cards. However, on their home green at Stretton Anglesey BC, they ensured the visiting team could fair no better with Richard Gill's early 21-6 card the best of their nine winners in a 51-chalk triumph.

Staffordshire meanwhile turned in a tremendous performance to overcome last season's runners-up,

Shropshire, winning home and away and having seven winning jacks at each venue. Owen Evans's 21-9 card was pivotal in their 16-chalk victory on Shropshire's Meole Brace (No 2) green while at home, on The Rag, Darrell Handley (21-8) and Stuart Edwards (21-9) were the best of the Staffordshire winners in a 24-chalk success and an overall 40-chalk victory.

For both sides, you have to go back to the nineties for the last time they won the coveted Crosfield Cup.

Derbyshire's only success came in 1990 when they defeated Greater Manchester while Staffordshire's victory over Warwick & Worcester in 1996 was their fourth success in the competition's history having won in 1929, 1932 and 1938.

Both counties have now declared their sides for the final and you can follow the live scores via the BCGBA website.

STRETTON BOWS CLUB NO 1 GREEN (DE13 OHB)

DERBYSHIRE	v	STAFFORDSHIRE
Conor Chamberlain	v	Nathan Dawes
Darren Carter	v	Reece Farr
Dave May	v	Dan Davies
Brian Barrass	v	Mark Jones
Matt Kelly-Walley	v	Jamie Wyatt
Andy Fearn	v	David East
Rikki Higgs	v	Owen Evans
Tom Brown	v	Craig Cartwright
Dave Allsop	v	Peter Cookson
Adam Stubbs	v	Dave Semper
John Dewey	v	Mick Ledwidge
Ian Brown	v	Dave Wright

STAFFORD BOWLING CLUB (ST16 1BG)

STAFFORDSHIRE	v	DERBYSHIRE
Scott Simpson	v	Gareth Nash
Dan Bodley	v	Dale Spragg
Stuart Edwards	v	Adam Hartley
Chris Ward	v	Phil Clapham
Darrell Handley	v	Richard Gill
Glynn Storer	v	Nigel Iliff
Aaron Tapper	v	Joshua Furniss
Jack Hill	v	Luke Guess
Kevin Hocknull	v	Dan Hartley
Danny Statham	v	Jack Brooks
Kevin Handley	v	Ed Furniss
Gordon Hawkins	v	Steve Barber

In the Ladies final, Shropshire will play Warwick & Worcester on Sunday 17th September. Shropshire won a close-fought semi-final match with Yorkshire, the team that beat them in last season's final. They only managed a single chalk victory on their Shifnal BC home green but came away from Golcar Central Liberal Club with eight winning cards and an 11-chalk advantage, to secure a 12-chalk overall victory. In the other semi-final, Warwick & Worcester won home and away against Dudley & District to book their place in the final, winning by 42 chinks overall.

In the Mavis Dearden Supplementary County Championship, South Yorkshire will get the chance to defend the title they won last season following victory over North Warwickshire. They easily overcame the challenge of Greater Manchester in the semi-final, winning by 113 chinks overall. They will now play Burton & District who narrowly defeated Cheshire by just 6 chinks when all twenty-four scores were added up.

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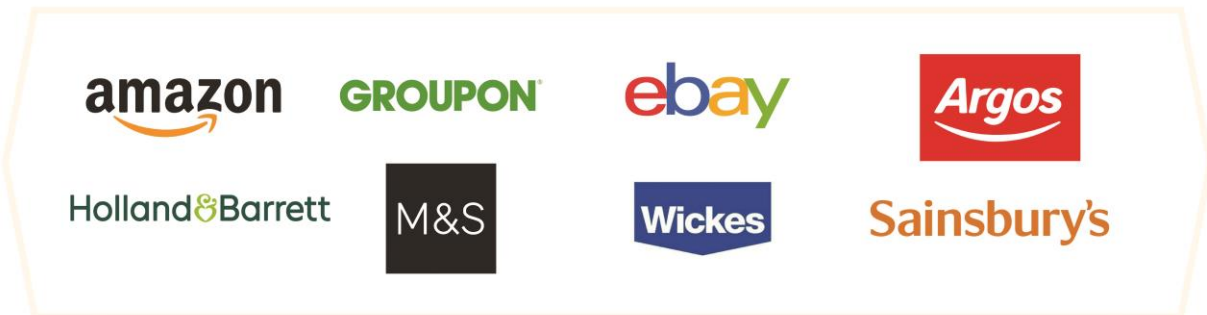


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