

KELLY MAKES CHAMPS HISTORY

COLIN KELLY created a piece of Champion of Champions history by becoming the first player from the Isle of Man to lift the coveted trophy. The Isle of Man champion powered his way to a 21-10 victory over Scott Simpson (2018 Wrockwardine Wood) on a waterlogged Waterloo Hotel green.

The players began their practice on a sodden green following the overnight rain in Blackpool but by the time play began at 10 o'clock the standing water had disappeared and the sun shone brightly.

There were no real shock results in the First Round with our finalists having comfortable victories in their opening games. Kelly stormed into a 13-1 lead against the Lancashire Merit champion, Damien Morrison, eventually winning 21-13 while Simpson eased past the BCGBA Junior Merit winner, Callum Sharples, 21-7, pulling away from a five across.

In the Second Round, Simpson continued his dominant start with another fine performance, this time against Jamie King, winner of the Midland Masters, 21-9. Kelly meanwhile had a tough encounter with the Greater Manchester Merit winner, Jack Hargreaves, finishing with a double and single in a 21-17 victory. Defending champion, John Bailey (Isle of Man September Festival) bowed out to James Higgins (South Yorkshire Merit), 21-11, with many people's favourite, Callum Wraight, a multiple qualifier, just edged out 21-19 in a tremendous game by another multiple qualifier, Graeme Wilson.

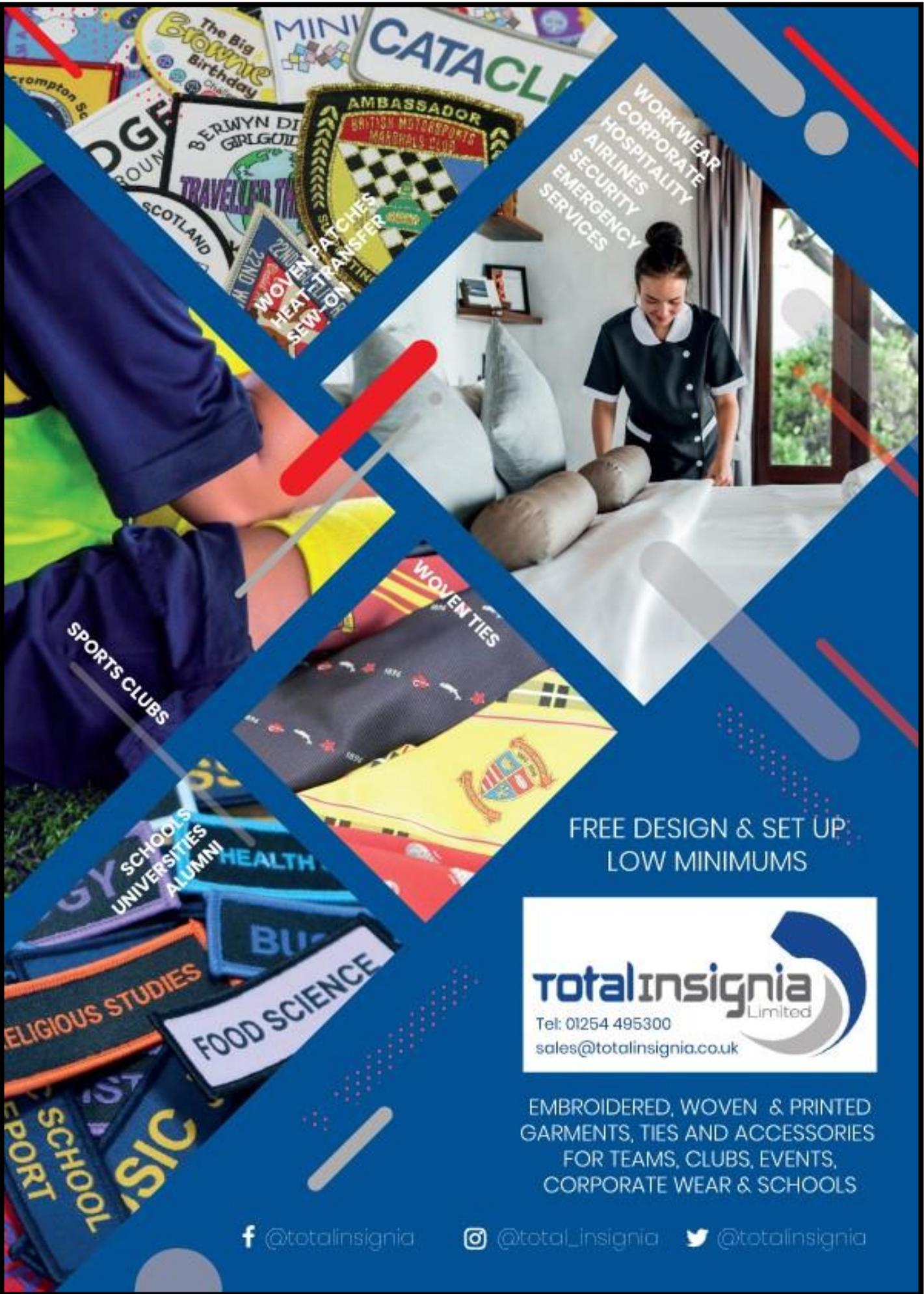


In the Quarter-Finals, Kelly was heading for an early flight home as he trailed James Higgins 17-12. An eight-break saw him one away from victory only to succumb to a Higgins double at the next end. Kelly though secured the point he needed at the following end to record a 21-19 victory.

Simpson meanwhile recovered from a 6-1 opening deficit to Graeme Wilson to lead 10-6, a lead he was never to surrender, finishing with a 21-14 success.

Josh Towe, winner of the British Parks Merit and Spencer Clarke, the Shropshire Merit champion, joined Kelly and Simpson in the semi-finals. Towe led Matt Gilmore (Isle of Man September Tourism Trophy) all the way in a close fought game only to go 18-17 behind in the latter stages. He dug deep to win 21-18 while Clarke stormed past the BCGBA Senior Merit winner, Ryan Prosser, 21-6.

The rain came down in the semi-finals but that didn't affect Kelly who adapted to the changing green conditions in a comfortable 21-11 victory over Clarke. Simpson and Towe had a right old tussle with Simpson booking his place in the final with a 21-18 triumph with little between them throughout the whole game.



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FERN & JACK DOUBLE UP FOR PAIRS TITLE

Yorkshire bowlers, **FERN BEAUMONT & JACK DYSON**, paired up to win the final BCGBA competition of the season, the Mel Evans MBE Centenary Mixed Pairs. Played at Horwich RMI, Bolton, the duo found the big green to their liking, ending in victory over Jayne Bates & Adam Walker (Warwick & Worcester).

Paula Firth & Sid Bolton (Isle of Man) were just a solitary chalk behind at 17-16 in the opening game against the eventual winners, only to lose the next three ends without scoring in a 21-16 defeat. They eased passed Vikki Wilson & Darrell Handley in the second round, allowing the Staffordshire pairing only three more chinks after the fourth end when the scores were level at six across. Their toughest game was reserved for the quarter-finals with only a good start (8-3 up) the difference between themselves and Sarah Edmondson & Dean Butler (North Lancs & Fylde). Although they never lost the lead their opponents pushed them all the way with some fine bowling and getting to within one at 19-18. A double at the next end saw the White Rose pairing book their place in the semi-finals.

Bates & Walker were comfortable 21-9 winners in their opening game with Elaine Caddick & Colin Haywood (Staffordshire) then just got the better of Jackie Owen & Nigel Fryer (Greater Manchester), 21-17, in the second round. They booked their place in the semi-finals courtesy of another 21-17 victory, this time against the Shropshire pairing of Molly Sullivan & Rich Lawson.

Both semi-finals were very different. Beaumont & Dyson were in tremendous form as they left the defending champions, Kellie Hill & Andy Spragg (Derbyshire) on 6 while Bates & Walker saw their leads of 11-7 and 15-11 eaten away by Linda Williams & Ritchie Jamieson (Wales) who drew level at 15 across. From here it was anyone's game and having peeled again at 18 across the Warwick & Worcester duo finished with a three for game.

In the final, with the rain coming down, Bates & Walker held the upper hand with leads of 11-7 and 16-12 but Beaumont and Dyson hit back which saw them run out to game and become the 2019 champions. Immediate Past President, Keith Andrews, joined Lynn Pritchatt, partner of the late Mel Evans, in making the presentations.



Results of all BCGBA competitions can be viewed via the BCGBA website - bcgba.org.uk



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LADIES TO RETURN TO COMPLETE CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

Torrential rain caused the abandonment of this year's Champion of Champions once the First Round had been completed. The green looked more like a lake than a bowling green with the Waterloo, regrettably, calling time on proceedings due to unsafe underfoot conditions, not withstanding any damage that may be caused to the green.

The sixteen remaining ladies will now return to the Waterloo Hotel green on Saturday 18th April with play getting underway at 11am. The Second Round draw is:

Helen Jackson (Burton & District Merit)	v	Rebecca Teare (Isle of Man June Tourism Trophy)
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 Winners 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)

LADIES COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RULE CHANGES

County Delegates attending the Annual Meeting at the beginning of November voted to change the format of the County Championship Final. From next season, the final will now be played on a home and away basis rather than being played on a neutral two-green venue, as has been the case for the last few years. The meeting also agreed to change the format of the Mavis Dearden Supplementary County Championship. This will now be contested between the runners-up in each of the four sections with a home and away semi-final and final taking place.

SUNDAY 17th MAY

Section 1:	Dudley & District v Wales, Greater Manchester v Lancashire
Section 2:	Cheshire v Merseyside, South Yorkshire v Yorkshire
Section 3:	North Derbyshire v North Midlands, North Lancs & Fylde v Shropshire
Section 4:	Burton & District v North Warwickshire, Mid Cheshire v Warwick & Worcester
Presidents:	Cumbria v South Staffordshire, North Shropshire v Staffordshire

SUNDAY 21st JUNE

Section 1:	Dudley & District v Greater Manchester, Lancashire v Wales
Section 2:	Cheshire v South Yorkshire, Merseyside v Yorkshire
Section 3:	North Derbyshire v North Lancs & Fylde, North Midlands v Shropshire
Section 4:	Burton & District v Warwick & Worcester, Mid Cheshire v North Warwickshire
Presidents:	Cumbria v Staffordshire, North Shropshire v South Staffordshire

SUNDAY 19th JULY

Section 1:	Dudley & District v Lancashire, Greater Manchester v Wales
Section 2:	Cheshire v Yorkshire, Merseyside v South Yorkshire
Section 3:	North Derbyshire v Shropshire, North Lancs & Fylde v North Midlands
Section 4:	Burton & District v Mid Cheshire, North Warwickshire v Warwick & Worcester
Presidents:	Cumbria v North Shropshire, South Staffordshire v Staffordshire

Semi-Finals: Sunday 16th August

Final: Sunday 20th September

CROWN GREENS RETURN TO HEATON PARK

The British Crown Green Bowling Association have been working with Manchester City Council to return Crown Green to Heaton Park. Since the Commonwealth Games in 2002 there has been the intention to convert two of the four greens in the Park to Crown Green.

Phase 1 of the planning process is now being completed with the works now in progress on site with a plan for these to be available for the start of the 2020 season. Phase 2 of the planning will work with the existing flat green club, Heaton Hall Bowls Club, to increase the use of this valuable resource for the promotion of the sport across Manchester and the Crown Green game.

This is an exciting project both for the Park and British Crown Green with the relocation of our Association meetings to the Park. We will also be planning Coaching courses with Coach Bowls for the development of Level 1 and Level 2 Coaches as part of the Association's development strategy.

We are also working with the Beaver, Cubs, Brownies and Scouts groups to introduce the game to a new audience. As part of the Association development plan this will give us a fantastic opportunity to work on development projects to promote the game to all. We will also be looking to engage with Health Professionals to promote an active lifestyle and the sociability our sport can offer to all ages.



WHEN FLAT MET CROWN

Report & Pictures Courtesy of Coach Bowls and Michelle Meadowcroft

For the first time, Coach Bowls brought together top flat outdoor bowlers and top crown green bowlers to the home of Flat Green during their Championship Events at Victoria Park, Royal Leamington Spa on Saturday 24th August. Both teams would demonstrate and compete against each other in their respective bowls code. This was a great opportunity to get different versions of the game mixing together in what is likely to become an annual challenge between Crown Green and Lawn Bowls.

Amanda Scriven-Purcell, Coaching Manager of Coach Bowls, Malcolm Evans, Director of Coaching for Bowls England and Mark Bircumshaw of the British Crown Green Bowling Association, requested Warwickshire & Worcestershire Counties Crown Green Bowling Association Development Officer, Phil Ellett, to provide a Crown Green team for a coaching session followed by games of Crown and Flat between two teams of four bowlers. Phil quickly gained the support of Michelle Meadowcroft, with a wealth of experience, to obtain and manage a youthful squad of volunteers.



The Crown Green WWCBA team were represented by Ryan Prosser, Ben Harris, Mitchell Harvey and Emily Kernick. The Flat team were represented by four bowlers from Leamington Avenue of Adam Smith, Mark Smith, Hannah Smith and Dan Ellicott.

The crown green challenge took place first on Green E and all four flat players were drawn against all four crown green bowlers in individual singles games. This was probably the first time the flat bowlers had taken part in crown and most of them found this interesting but certainly a challenge going in all directions including diagonal on a flat green.

The matches were drawn out and saw Mitchell Harvey play Mark Smith, Emily Kernick play Hannah Smith and Ben Harris play Dan Ellicott. All the crown green bowlers had comfortable wins of 21-4, 21-4 and 21-6 respectively. The closest game saw the Crown Green All Britain Champion, Ryan Prosser, take on Adam Smith of Warwickshire. Ryan raced into a big lead at 14-3 but Adam got onto a mark playing across the green in a similar mark to flat green and managed to get right back into the game at 13-14. However, Ryan won the jack back and played a long diagonal mark to eventually run out winning 21-13.

So, all four games were won by the crown green bowlers, but the second part of the contest would see the challenge in a game of fours at flat green over eight ends. This is where the flat green bowlers could then get revenge on the crown green bowlers.

The flat team saw Mark leading followed by Adam, Dan and Hannah as skip.

The crown green team had Mitch leading, followed by Emily, Ryan and Ben as skip.

The crown green team, who all play indoor, had a good idea of the game and raced into a 4-1 lead after four ends. However, the flat team came back strong over the next two ends to lead 6-4 after six ends. Two shots to the crown green bowlers on end seven saw the match level at 6-6 with just one end to play. The last end was certainly eventful and a killed end by Hannah to save match, before finally the crown green team scored the 1 shot to take the victory 7-6.

The event was witnessed by several interested flat green bowlers including The President of Bowls England, Hazel Marke, and immediate Past President, Bill Smith.

So, the 2019 event of Flat vs Crown saw the crown green team winning both codes. However, more importantly both versions of the game came together thanks to Coach Bowls, BCGBA and WWCBA. It is hoped this event will take place again next year with further details being available from Mark Bircumshaw, BCGBA CEO.



SOMERSET CLUB PLAY CROWN GREEN FOR CHARITY

Nailsea Bowls Club are well known in the Somerset area for playing Lawn Bowls but during the summer they held a Charity event to raise money for their local St Peters Hospice by playing Crown Green Bowls.

The Federation of Crown Green Bowls generously supplied them with four Standard Jacks and over 50 bowlers took part raising over £600 for their hospice.

Club Chairman, Brian Powell, was delighted with the support for the event and is a little more aware of the challenge to get near the jack without the traditional lines within rinks. So much so, he is thinking of starting an internal weekly crown green bowling league next year to increase accuracy and the challenge.



NEW COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP PLAN PAIRS SEMI-FINALISTS TOGETHER

2020 sees the start of new Five-Year Plan in the Endsleigh Senior County Championship, which ensures that each county will only play each other once within that period in the section matches.

YEAR 1 - 2020

SUNDAY 3rd MAY

- Section 1:** Cheshire v Staffordshire, Derbyshire v Warwick & Worcester
Section 2: Greater Manchester v Potteries & District, North Lancs & Fylde v Yorkshire
Section 3: Cumbria v Merseyside, Shropshire v South Yorkshire
Section 4: Lancashire v Wales, North Midlands (no match)

SUNDAY 7th JUNE

- Section 1:** Cheshire v Warwick & Worcester, Derbyshire v Staffordshire
Section 2: Greater Manchester v North Lancs & Fylde, Potteries & District v Yorkshire
Section 3: Cumbria v South Yorkshire, Merseyside v Shropshire
Section 4: North Midlands v Losing team from Lancashire v Wales

SUNDAY 5th JULY

- Section 1:** Cheshire v Derbyshire, Staffordshire v Warwick and Worcester
Section 2: Greater Manchester v Yorkshire, North Lancs & Fylde v Potteries & District
Section 3: Cumbria v Shropshire, Merseyside v South Yorkshire
Section 4: North Midlands v Winning team from Lancashire v Wales

Semi-Finals: Sunday 2nd August

Final: Sunday 6h September

YEAR 2 - 2021

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4
Derbyshire	Warwick & Worcester	Staffordshire	Cheshire
North Lancs & Fylde	Yorkshire	Potteries & District	Greater Manchester
Merseyside	South Yorkshire	Cumbria	Shropshire
Wales	Lancashire		North Midlands

YEAR 3 - 2022

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4
Derbyshire	Warwick & Worcester	Cheshire	Staffordshire
Greater Manchester	Potteries & District	North Lancs & Fylde	Yorkshire
Cumbria	Shropshire	South Yorkshire	Merseyside
Lancashire	Wales		North Midlands

YEAR 4 - 2023

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4
Derbyshire	Staffordshire	Cheshire	Warwick & Worcester
Yorkshire	Greater Manchester	Potteries & District	North Lancs & Fylde
Shropshire	South Yorkshire	Merseyside	Cumbria
	Wales	Lancashire	North Midlands

YEAR 5 - 2024

Section 1	Section 2	Section 3	Section 4
Warwick & Worcester	Staffordshire	Cheshire	Derbyshire
Greater Manchester	North Lancs & Fylde	Yorkshire	Potteries & District
Merseyside	Shropshire	Cumbria	South Yorkshire
	Lancashire	Wales	North Midlands