

NEWSLETTER

Number 32
August 2019

A review of the past month, a preview of the coming month and more

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ROSE BOWL FINALS DAY SUNSHINE

Also in this issue...

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Thank you to **EDDIE HAIGH** of **LOCKWOOD CON** for sponsoring this issue of the Newsletter

This is the official monthly Newsletter of the HDVBA which provides friendly but competitive crown green bowling for the Over-60s in the Huddersfield area.

SEASON CLIMAX HERE ON ALL FRONTS

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AUGUST SPONSOR

Thankyou to **EDDIE HAIGH** of Lockwood Conservative Club for his support of the newsletter by sponsoring this issue. I am very grateful to all our sponsors and you can add your name to this list for just £20. Contact the Editor for full details and to book your month's sponsorship.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH

This month's front cover shows the two finalists in this year's Rose Bowl Final played in glorious sunshine at Almondbury Bowling Club on Thursday 25 July. Left to right on the cover is Tony Butterfield (Runner-up), Ray Tunnacliffe (Referee) and Mick Cox (Winner). Full report and more photos are within this issue of your newsletter.

HALF-TERM REPORT

This month's newsletter's looks back and looks forward in equal measure. There is the Half-Term Report on the 6-Man League as the 30 teams passed the half-way point in their season in mid-July. Every 6-man team is covered with tips for the top of each Section. We have a report and photographs of The Examiner Rose Bowl Final along with an extensive report on the Over-80s Quarter-Finals played at Outlane. The Inter-District season is building up to a great climax with our team right amongst the leading contenders for the title and we have all the facts and team photos as we look forward to a first title for five years.

HDVBA NEWS UPDATES EVERY DAY AT

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There is so much to cram into the final two months of the Veterans' League bowling season with many titles, honours and disappointments to be resolved and much heart-ache and soul-searching still to take place.

One matter already determined is the destination of our prime individual trophy, The Examiner Rose Bowl, with Mick Cox of Lockwood Con claiming the 49th holding of this, our most prestigious, competition. A wonderfully sunny day at Almondbury B.C. with temperatures north of 30 degrees with endurance added to the skill and tactical nous required to win this trophy all in evidence. Mick Cox was making his third appearance in the Final and no-one can begrudge him his first title in his day of success against a spirited Tony Butterfield of Kirkheaton Con making his first appearance in this competition after only qualifying by age this year. It could even have gone Tony's way as he held a 17-11 lead before Mick stormed back to win 6 of the final 7 ends to run out a 21-18 Champion.

The climax of the Inter-District season also has our attention as our side has a very real chance of lifting this title for the first time since 2014. With a final fixture between the top two teams with our representative team sat in second position just eight points behind leaders West Riding. Even Halifax in third spot can still lift the title if things are tight in the title decider then their game against lowly Leeds could be decisive.

Many Knock-Out competitions for individuals, pairs and teams are still to be decided and a packed August programme with resolve the outcome of six of those titles and the remaining three will have to wait until early September to determine their 2019 destinations.

The League programme is two-thirds complete but it would be a brave man who would confidently name any Section Champion or promotion certainty. Lowerhouses seem a strong bet in Section 4 and a couple of teams have been self-nominated for relegation but otherwise it will not be over until the fat lady sings!

MICK COX IS ROSE BOWL CHAMPION

Mick Cox of Lockwood Con is the 2019 Rose Bowl Champion after beating Tony Butterfield of Kirkheaton Con 21-18 in the Final.



Mick Cox receives his trophy from competition sponsor Paul Rangeley.

A glorious day at Almondbury B.C. with temperatures north of 30°C to add endurance to the skill and tactical acumen factors needed to win our top individual honour. For a long time it looked as if Tony Butterfield would make his four-handicap start pay dividends as he built an impressive 17-11 lead by using a long mark in front of the clubhouse.



Rose Bowl sponsor Paul Rangeley shows off the trophy to the eight quarter-finalists before the start of Finals Day

However Mick was in no mood to add a third runner-up position to his Rose Bowl record and he eventually broke the dominance of the jack that his challenger had established. He bravely then took on Tony on a slight variation of his own mark to win six of the last seven ends and lift our coveted trophy for the first time. The Final saw probably the best bowling of the day as both bowlers pushed to claim the title which was being competed for the 49th time.

Commiserations to the runner-up competing in his first Rose Bowl as a newly qualified bowler in our League and we can expect to see Tony competing at this level for some years to come. Congratulations to our new Champion who was not to be denied this year after losing in the final twice before.



One of the 21 photographs of Finals Day now available via a link on the HDVBA website.

FINALS DAY RESULTS

Quarter-Finals

Peter Hopkinson (Golcar Lib) 11

Keith Morris (Springwood) 21

Mick Cox (Lockwood Con) 21

Robert Mudd (Waterloo) 18

Tony Butterfield (Kirkheaton Con) 21

Mick Chapman (Golcar C&BC) 10

Ronnie Manning (Lockwood Con) 15

Andy Carter (Marsh Utd) 21

Semi-Finals

Keith Morris 16-21 Mick Cox

Tony Butterfield 21-8 Andy Carter

FINAL

Mick Cox 21-18 Tony Butterfield

INTER-DISTRICT CLIMAX

Our Inter-District season has one match to go with three teams in with a chance of lifting the trophy including our representative team. The final match of the season pitches our second-placed side against leaders West Riding and we are just eight points in arrears. Even then the winners of that are not guaranteed the title as third placed Halifax are only three points behind us and have a final match against sixth-placed Leeds.

Our latest result being our biggest win of the season defeating Castleford 43-13 with both teams winning but the Home team's 27-1 demolition of their visitors at Cowcliffe has given us a great chance of claiming the top spot. Halifax beating the leaders 33-23 has really set up a final day full of tension and swaying fortunes and they may be viewed as favourites if the top two have a tight encounter which could open the door for them if they can log a big win over Leeds.

RESULTS TO DATE

3 May v Leeds Won 34-22
 17 May v Wakefield Won 31-25
 31 May v Halifax Won 36-20
 14 June v Bradford Lost 26-30
 28 June v Skipton Won 30-26
 26 July v Castleford Won 43-13

LEAGUE TABLE

		P	W	L	Pts
1	West Riding	6	4	2	208
2	HUDDERSFIELD	6	5	1	200
3	Halifax	6	5	1	197
4	Bradford	5	3	2	154
5	Wakefield	6	2	4	148
6	Leeds	6	2	4	148
7	Castleford	6	2	4	117
8	Skipton	5	0	5	131

STILL TO COME

9 August v West Riding

HICKSON TROPHY

The one-day Hickson Trophy was hosted and won by Barnsley as our side went out in the opening round following defeat to the Bradford side who were the eventual runners-up.

Division 1		Fri 26th Jul	
Huddersfield Home		Castleford Away	
Alan Bamforth	21	John Lynch	14
Kevin Brown	21	Michael Sherman	17
Andy Carter	21	George Bradbury	10
Ronnie Manning	21	Peter Kendall	13
Peter Kain	21	Albert Wilson	11
Barry Gibson	21	Alan Box	7
Mick Cox	21	Edward Parker	12
Graham Howe	21	Geoffrey Robinson	13
Aggregate:	168	Aggregate:	97
Games:	8	Games:	0
Points:	27	Points:	1

Division 1		Fri 26th Jul	
Castleford Home		Huddersfield Away	
Brian Clarke	21	Derek Hewitt	20
Ian Lewis	21	Malcolm Gilbert	17
Jack Sharp	21	T Poulter	11
Bob Gore	17	Harold Hick	21
Denis Dobson	12	David Pollard	21
Peter Linley	10	Frank Griffin	21
Alan Wood	21	Roger Stopford	14
Kenneth Griffiths	11	Peter Hopkinson	21
Aggregate:	134	Aggregate:	146
Games:	4	Games:	4
Points:	12	Points:	16

FANTASY LEAGUE

sponsored by Well Bowled of Luddendenfoot

The Fantasy League competition continues on its merry way with John Earnshaw and Tom Kelly alternating the leadership like two Tour de France cyclists from opposing teams suddenly finding themselves out in front. However on this occasion the peloton is closing in with Ken Baxter and friends now just four points behind the leading pair and poised to pounce. The two leaders were amongst the lowest scorers in the latest round of results and will need to change gear if they are to ward off the threat to their long domination.

The competition this year has the added interest of three Mini-Leagues currently led by Tom Kelly of Thongsbridge (Mini-League 1), Colin Wood of Bradley & Colne (Mini-League 2) and John Earnshaw of Denby Dale (Mini-League 3). With a third of the season still to complete there is ample time for things to change dramatically as interest mounts in the destination of the £120 worth of Well Bowled Sales Vouchers becomes clearer and closer.

This month sees the start of the spin-off competition Knock-Out 2 which all our entrants are automatically put in. This is a head-to-head weekly K.O. format starting w/c 12 August and concluding with the final pair in opposition in the week commencing 17 September.

INTER-DISTRICT TEAMS 2019



The Home team for their match against Halifax at the Rugby Club where they recorded a 20-8 win.
Back Row (Left to Right): Graham Howe, Kevin Brown, Ronnie Manning, Graham Illingworth, David Armitage (Manager), Peter Kain, Andy Carter Front Row: Mick Cox (captain), Alan Bamforth.



The Away team for their match against Castleford at Garforth BC where they won 16-12
Back Row (Left to Right): Peter Hopkinson, Derek Hewitt, Dave Pollard, Harold Hick, Tim Poulter
Front Row: Frank Griffin, Malcolm Gilbert (captain), John Hoyle (Manager), Roger Stopford

OVER-80's KNOCK-OUT

The Over-80's Knock-Out competition is one of my favourites to observe as it tends to throw together bowlers who have known each other a very long time and mutual respect abounds. This season's Quarter-Finals was held on the Outlane green and what great shape that green is now in. Major reconstruction over the last 12 months has been rewarded with a wonderful surface although I don't think the Over-80's relished the visit at all as heavy rain right through the morning threatened to result in a 'chucking match' which is rarely the preferred format for our senior competitors. However the rain abated as the four Quarter-Finals got underway and the first match off was between a pairing with a combined age of 173, Frank Barraclough (91) of Marsh Utd and Eddie Hine (82) from Kirkheaton C&BC. It was quickly clear that a couple of the 'younger' Over-80's fancied a long mark to test the muscles of their opponents. However a quickly drying green soon eliminated that approach and good competition materialised. With match referee Ray Tunnacliffe busily patrolling the boundary and the ever-attentive markers provided by the

hosts in frequent demand as doubtful eye judgement and increasing desperation resulted in some dubious calls for measure, usually between woods but occasionally calling the long tape into action as marks were challenged. Then suddenly it was all over. Just 35 minutes after starting the business was completed in all four ties and all retired to the ever-available bar, serving more hot drinks than pints and the verbal post-mortems went ahead as the results were dissected and compliments shared between opponents. Another very enjoyable day and another to look forward to on Friday 16 August when the four survivors will tramp out to Hemplow for Finals Day. As is tradition the programme is shared with the Julie Fuller Trophy Final. The two Over-80's KO Semi-Finals begin at 1.00pm with the finalists having a rest whilst the Julie Fuller Final is played with all three pairs matches going ahead at the same time and then that is followed by the Over-80's Final. A really good day out with two competition finals completed before your very eyes on the same green on the same day. Great value, not to be missed!

THE QUARTER-FINAL LINE-UP AT OUTLANE



Frank Barraclough 13
Eddie Hine 21

Dennis Iredale 17
Ray Clayton 21

Graham Stock 14
Gordon Walker 21

John Cocking 21
Derek Sykes 9

EDDIE HINE v RAY CLAYTON

GORDON WALKER v JOHN COCKING

SEMI-FINALS & FINAL

16 August 2019 at Hemplow

KNOCK-OUT UPDATES (1)

Time for a full update on our Team and Individual Knock-Out competitions as we approach the business end of the season. The Rose Bowl and Over-80's have already been covered earlier in this newsletter so let's first of all concentrate on the team knock-out competitions to see which teams are still in contention and what chances they each have of lifting a trophy this year.

The Bistro is a unique 10-man competition with a team handicap system in place and a five-pairs format which has become a great leveler over the years with a series of surprise results and giant-killing acts and that continues to hold true once again this year. Brockholes B.C. continue to sponsor this event and the Final will be our last Final of the season when held on their green on Thursday 12 September.

The eight Quarter-Finalists include four from Section 1 with representatives in three of the four ties. The odd one out being the all-Section 3 meeting of Bradley & Colne and Slaithwaite. Both are in the top three in that Section, both are on a +20 handicap and Slaithwaite have a 9-0 drubbing over their opponents already under their belt this season.

There is one all-Section 1 tie when Marsh Utd A and Lockwood Con A meet at Almondbury Lib with a Section 1 v Section 3 semi-final lined up for the two winners. Lockwood Con are only at this stage courtesy of a 'penalty shoot-out' in their last tie against Netherton Con A following a 97-97 tie with Lockwood taking the game count 3-2 and passage to the quarter-final stage.

The other two Quarter-Finals are Section 1 v Section 2 formats with Longwood facing Brockholes A at Bradley & Colne and then Section 2 leaders Crosland Moor take on Golcar Lib A at Holmfirth with all four ties being contested on Yorkshire Day.

Bistro Quarter-Finals (Thursday 1 August)

Brockholes A(+8) v Longwood(+4) at Bradley & Colne
Crosland Moor(+8) v Golcar Lib A (0) at Holmfirth
Marsh Utd A(0) v Lockwood Con A(0) at Alm'dbury Lib
Slaithwaite(+20) v Bradley & Colne(+20) at Milnsbr'ge

The **Team KO** has a change in sponsor this year with Travel Counsellors of Lindley taking over the role. Three of the last eight standing in the Bistro also appear in the Semi-Finals of the Team KO. Lockwood Con A and Golcar Lib A from Section 1 and Brockholes A from Section 2 are well in contention with Section 2 side New Mill A joining them in the final quartet. The draw has ensured that we will have Sections 1 v 2 Final on 15 August.

Team KO Semi-Finals (Thursday 15 August)

New Mill A (+10) v Brockholes A (+10) at AlmB'y BC
Golcar Lib A (scr) v Lockw'd Con A (scr) at Broad Oak

The **Sub-Team KO** has also reached the Quarter-Final stage which includes an intriguing meeting of the Holmfirth A and B sides to be staged on their own green. The date of this tie has been put back a week until Tuesday 6 August. But it is not the only tie of interest as we have the top of Section 4 side Lowerhouses against second top of Section 3 Bradley & Colne going head-to-head with Lowerhouses having a 10-point start. The winners of this match are likely to be installed as favourites to take the title this year.

Four of the last eight come from Section 5 for along with Holmfirth B we have Kirkheaton Con B and Broad Oak B who meet at Brockholes and then Marsh Lib have to take on the homeless Canalside side from Section 4 at Almondbury Lib.

Sub-Team KO Quarter-Finals (Tuesday 30 July)

Holmfirth A (+25) v Holmfirth B (+40) at Holmfirth
above match to be played Tuesday 6 August
Bradley & C (+25) v Lowerhouses (+35) at Thorpe Gn
Broad Oak B(+40) v Kirkh'ton Con B(+45) at Brockh's
Canalside (+30) v Marsh Lib (+45) at Almondbury Lib

COMPETITION	TOTAL FUND	WINNER	R-UP
Bistro	£ 230	£ 150	£ 80
Team KO	£ 230	£ 150	£ 80
Sub-Team KO	£ 230	£ 150	£ 80
Julie Fuller Trophy	£ 180	£ 120	£ 60

The **Julie Fuller Trophy** is the well-established knock-out event for all 30 teams in the 6-Man League with a three-pairs format and the aggregate score determining the winners.

With all the Section A sides already eliminated we have a Section B v Section C set-up in both the Semi-Finals. Marsden Park have never lost any match since joining the 6-Man League this season which makes it 13 straight League and KO successes to date. They take that formidable form into their meeting with Section 2 mid-table team Skel Windmill B who have withdrawn and subsequently been re-instated into the competition following doubts about player availability and eligibility being resolved.

The other semi sees Section B high-fliers and four-times Julie Fuller winners, Longwood, giving a six-handicap start to Marsh Lib from Section C.

Julie Fuller Trophy Semi-Finals (Monday 29 July)

Marsh Lib (+18) v Longwood (+12) at Paddock I&C
Marsden PK(+18) v Skel Windmill B(+6) at Crosland Mr

KNOCK-OUT UPDATES (2)

Moving on to update you with our Individual Knock-Out competitions with four more to report on.

The **Pairs KO** are down to the last eight pairs who will meet up at Almondbury Lib on Thursday 29 August for Finals Day when we bowl down to a winner. Still in the frame are last year's unexpected winners the Holmfirth pairing of Geoff Rollinson and Peter Sykes and they take on Keith Morris and Colin Hampshaw of Springwood in the Quarter-Finals.

Pairs KO Quarter-Finals (Thursday 29 August)	
M Cox & E Haigh scr	v P Winterburn & D Garner 3
G Rollinson & P Sykes 4	v K Morris & C Hampshaw 4
E Haigh & T Poulter scr	v J Hirst & A Stephenson 2
D Emsall & C Lloyd 2	v D Simmons & A Carter 1

We are still at Round 1 in the **Over-70's KO** with two greens (Farnley Tyas and Huddersfield RUBC) in action on Thursday 8 August when two rounds will be played to get us down to the last 8 who will go through to Finals Day at Lockwood Con on Friday 6 September. Reigning Champion Graham Illingworth now of Crosland Moor remains in contention and he faces Eddie Haigh of Clayton West at the Rugby Club for a place in the last 16.

The **Lower Divisions Trophy** Finals Day will now be staged at Outlane on Friday 23 August but before then we have to bowl down to the last eight and that takes place at Broad Oak on Tuesday 6 August. Reigning Champion Mick Ralph of Springwood continues the defence of his title when he faces team-mate John Hoyle. There are six Springwood bowlers still in the competition and inevitably another couple of them will meet up as well as John Pix and Colin Hampshaw will be up for bragging rights in their head-to-head.

The new **Over-70's Pairs KO** has been well supported with 38 entries and we are already down to the last eight who will meet up at Brockholes on Friday 2 August to sort out who will be the first holders of this new trophy.

The eight quarter-finalists all come from Section 1 or Section 2 teams so we can expect some close contests of a good standard and we await the outcome with considerable interest.

Over-70's Pairs KO (Friday 2 August)	
A Crowther & G Howe (Longwood) 1	
v R Lees & D Crowther (Almondbury BC) 2	
F Greenwood & S Manson (Golcar Lib) 2	
v B Gibson & R Sutton (Meltham) 1	
N Bennett & D Beeby (Golcar Lib) 4	
v A Chapman & B Walsh (Meltham) 2	
R Manning & E Haigh (Lockwood Con) 0	
v A Kaye & E Haigh (Clayton West) 2	

CANALSIDE GREEN CLOSES

We have lost another green with the mid-season closedown of the Canalside green with just three weeks notice of intent to shut down at the end of June. Having lost the back green last year the final rights are being read for one of our founder clubs although they have been renamed several times as their landlords have changed over the last 50 years.

Promises of continuity of access to a playing surface have not been upheld and all 11 teams, including the Veterans team, have decanted to Moldgreen for the rest of the season. It is difficult to forecast what may happen in the future but having been misled by their landlord it is difficult to see any reason that members would want to get back into a relationship with someone who has scant regard for grassroots sports and the history that goes with it.

50th ANNIVERSARY PATRONS

We are very grateful to the growing list of Golden Jubilee Anniversary Patrons for their support of this scheme with Derek Sykes of Golcar Lib and Marsden Park and Ray Tunnacliffe of Netherton Con being the latest contributors to join the list, thank you. All funds raised go directly towards commemorating the Anniversary milestone. Further contributions are most welcome with a minimum donation of £10 getting your name on the list which will be widely shared over the next 18 months.

The current list of 19 Patrons is below and you can add your name to this list and show your support by contacting the League Secretary.

ANNIVERSARY PATRONS:

Peter & Judith Muff, David Sykes (Brockholes), Jeff Jacklin (Kirkheaton Con), Allan Dobson (Kirkheaton C&BC), Philip Walker (Lindley BC), Bob Swan (Cowcliffe), David Union (Outlane), Jeff & Ann Smith (Meltham), Paul Rushworth (Broad Oak), Ian Crawford (Longwood), David Blackburn (Thorpe Green), Brian Faichney (Canalside), Bill Blackburn (Lindley BC), Dougie Mellor (Lockwood Con), Tony Lockwood (Golcar C&BC), Derek Sykes (Marsden Park) and Ray Tunnacliffe (Netherton Con).

50th ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Meanwhile work continues on compiling the 50th Anniversary book and any articles or photographs of veterans teams from our clubs are still very welcome. There will be at least a page devoted to each member club and it would be great if each club contributed to that with current team photographs especially welcome.

HALF-TERM REVIEW

This Review looks back on the first half of the season in the **6-Man League** with the report compiled at exactly the half-way point and just prior to matches on 23 July.

SECTION A

	Pl	W	L	Pts
Lindley Lib. A	9	9	0	51
Netherton Con.	9	8	1	48
Shepley A	9	6	3	43
Milnsbridge BC	9	5	4	32
Paddock I & C	9	4	5	31
Crosland Moor	9	4	5	28
Brockholes A	9	3	6	26
Thongsbridge B	9	2	7	22
Oakfield T & BC	9	3	6	19
Farnley Tyas	9	1	8	15

It's a tight call at the top of Section A with three points separating the two prime contenders for the 2019 Championship with **Lindley Lib A** currently leading the way. They have won their first nine matches, the latest two by the ultimate 7-0 scoreline, including a 5-2 home win over current Champions **Netherton Con.** That is the only setback to the defence of their title for the Netherton team but despite that they are only three points off the top with the crucial match against Lindley Lib being on their own green so every point is vital before that fixture on the 'Glorious Twelve'.

Shepley A continue to niggle away in the slipstream of the top two and it is not inconceivable that they could yet move into contention. First half defeats against the top two and crucially away at Crosland Moor have dented their challenge but no team has recorded more 7-0 wins than them and they remain just one good win away from a serious threat to the two leaders. In addition, they have the Section's top individual bowler, W Hartley, with a 10-0 win record so the potential to creep up on the leaders is certainly within their grasp.

Milnsbridge, Paddock I&C and **Crosland Moor** keep exchanging places in a keen mid-table contest but it difficult to see any of them progressing higher than their current status and the depth of their ambition will probably remain at being top of the mid-table battle.

The only fixtures that **Brockholes A** have won have been against the three teams below them in the half-way league table probably determining the limits of their current capabilities and with away games against the top three scheduled a mid-table destiny seems their best hope.

Thongsbridge A lost their opening four fixtures before recovering somewhat but then succumbed to Farnley Tyas in their first and only win of the season to date to close the first half-season campaign on a down note. Yet they could still have a considerable influence on the top positions as all three of the prime contenders have still to visit them on their own green.

Oakfield T&BC have a terrible away record this season with five straight defeats, three of them by the 0-7 score and only picking up a point in each of the other two to log the worst away record in the Section. Their good home form will have to continue if they are to avoid relegation but with home games to come against the two teams immediately above them in the table then their fate is in their own hands. **Farnley Tyas** have had a difficult first half of the season only recording their first win in the final fixture. Key player availability being a major problem this year but after finishing last season just two points off of second place they will be disappointed to find themselves at the very foot of the table. Those bowler availability problems may be easing and with all four of their remaining home fixtures against teams outside the top three then all is not lost.

SECTION B

	Pl	W	L	Pts
Lockwood Con	9	8	1	49
Longwood	9	6	3	43
Golcar C & BC	9	7	2	42
Skel Windmill A	9	6	3	34
Skel Windmill B	9	5	4	29
Clayton West	9	4	5	29
Primrose Hill Lib	9	3	6	26
Golcar Lib.	9	3	6	25
Holmfirth	9	2	7	20
Almondbury Lib.	9	1	8	18

It is just like the good old days with **Lockwood Con** and **Longwood** locked together at the top of the league table the only difference being that this year it is the Section B table rather than the top Section. That wont matter a jot to these two old rivals as their re-entry into the league after a one-year sabbatical has been warmly welcomed and their rivalry regenerated and closely monitored.

Currently Lockwood Con have the advantage having recorded eight victories including crucially a 4-3 away win at Longwood. Three defeats so far for Longwood is not title winning form and when one of those is the only win of the season for bottom team Almondbury Lib then they have some way to go to push their way into the title

race. However, despite all that, they remain just one good win off top spot and their history suggests that they will not be satisfied with anything less so expect a determined second-half of the season performance from our three-times Section A Champions.

Golcar C&BC have built on their first season finishing position of fourth in Section B to register considerable progress this term. Away wins at the top two show their potential, still within striking distance of a promotion place but home defeats by both Skel Windmill sides shows a weakness that will need to be addressed before the top two come calling in key August fixtures. Promotion is very much in their own hands and gate-crashing the Lockwood-Longwood promotion party would be a welcome interruption to the otherwise inevitable cruise back to the top level for two old campaigners.

The two **Skel Windmill** teams sit together in fourth and fifth positions with similar playing records but very different balances. The A side have a 4-1 win home record whilst the B team has that same record for their away performances. The season opened with the two teams meeting each other and the A side coming out on top with a 6-1 'away' win. They also became the first team to win away at third-placed **Golcar C&BC** this season but 1-6 defeats at the hands of the top two shows how far they still have to go to become a significant threat at this level. Only the leaders have collected more away points than Skel Windmill B but only one win from four home games identifies the area of improvement required if the team are to overtake their clubmates and ultimately post a promotion threat.

Clayton West were 'relegated' last season due to the reorganisation of the Sections and seemed to have some sort of hangover from that as they lost their first four matches of the new season. Subsequently they logged three consecutive 5-2 wins to move away from the drop zone and will expect to continue that improvement and rise up the table that goes with it. **Primrose Hill Lib** seem to have a penchant for the 6-1 scoreline as it has been the outcome in six of their first nine fixtures - unfortunately four of those six going against them. A five-match losing run started the season but three consecutive wins steadied the ship and they now sit six points away from a relegation place so no slacking as they enter the second half of the season.

One point behind Pip Hill sits **Golcar Lib** who have had a worrying introduction to Section B bowling after being relegated last year after finishing at the bottom of the Section A table. Three wins in their first four matches promised a lot but that

has not been sustained with a five-match losing run closing the first half of the season.

Worrying times for the bottom two with two relegation places still to be assigned for the first time this year. **Almondbury Lib's** solitary success this season was a surprise 6-1 win over promotion contenders Longwood which came right in the middle of their nine-match first half of the season. More will definitely be required if they are to avoid a second consecutive relegation. In danger of going down with them is **Holmfirth** who have lost all four home fixtures whilst having the best away points total of the five teams in the bottom half. It is obvious where the improvement is required to ease their way out of relegation trouble.

SECTION C

	Pl	W	L	Pts
Marsden Park	9	9	0	52
Marsh United	9	8	1	46
Greenhead Park	9	6	3	37
Hemplow	9	5	4	35
Meltham	9	5	4	33
Thongsbridge A	9	4	5	30
Lindley Lib. B	9	3	6	26
Marsh Lib	9	4	5	25
Brockholes B	9	1	8	18
Shepley B	9	0	9	13

Five of the ten teams in Section C are first time entries to our League and two of those sides currently occupy the two promotion places. The **Marsden Park** side are comprised of bowlers from the defunct 10-man side from the same club and used to playing at a higher level than this and that is showing as they clocked up nine straight wins. One of those being against their nearest challengers for the title, **Marsh Utd**, which proved to be the solitary reversal for the Marsh side. Both teams look set for promotion already and the second half of the season could become a bit of a procession unless something dramatic happens and fairly soon at that.

Third and fourth places are also held by new teams with **Greenhead Park** sat behind the leaders and **Hemplow** a further place back in fourth slot. Both teams should be encouraged by their promising starts especially the Park who got better as the season progressed winning five of their last six matches. Hemplow can be pleased with their early form as well winning more games than they lost is always a fairly good indicator.

Meltham are becoming a good barometer at this level as they lose to the teams above them and beat teams below them in the table. Just being four points off third place should act as a second-

half incentive and it wouldn't require too much improvement to see them climb a place or two before the season ends.

Thongsbridge A started the season brightly and three opening wins raised hopes of a stronger campaign but then only one win from their next six put such thoughts behind them. Fifteen points from their four home and the same total from their five away games shows that they are comfortable on the road but it appears that a mid-table placing is likely to be the peak of their ambitions this year.

Six straight defeats was not the welcome that **Lindley Lib B** expected from their first start in the 6-Man League but that was followed by three wins to complete their first half-season and looking towards a brighter future. It does appear that this team's fixture programme is geared up to two different levels which will be repeated in the second half of the season. It will be interesting to see if progress has been made against the teams to be faced in the opening section of the second half and confidence should be higher after that better closing sequence of results.

Marsh Lib continue to improve as can be seen by holding the best 'Aggregate For' total of the five teams in the bottom half of the Section even if it isn't matched by their points total which I believe will continue to grow.

Brockholes B have finished bottom of the bottom Section for the past two years so anything other than that will be regarded as a success and that is where they are now. One place and five points off bottom spot with one win to date even if it was a monumental 7-0 victory. Bottom team **Shepley B** have had a torrid introduction to the 6-Man League with nine straight defeats but almost a stupendous win over promotion challengers Marsh Utd with a 3-2 game win but a 73-76 aggregate reverse saw them go down 3-4 to their opponents. Reproduction of that kind of performance would without doubt signal happier times ahead.

FORECAST: If you are looking for any kind of forecast as to the end of season Section Champions then it is easy to suggest that the three current leaders will continue to flourish and claim the silverware this year. My one doubt is in Section A where I expect a stronger second half from Netherton Con as they surge through to successfully defend their title success of 2018.

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FREE ADVERTISING IN THE NEWSLETTER

We are now offering all members **FREE** Classified Advertisements in the monthly newsletter. This service is for members of our League only and applies to individuals and clubs.

A free Classified Ad can be no more than 20 words excluding contact details. Just go to the 'Contact Us' page on the HDVBA website to forward your advertisement. It can be used to promote a social function, sell your woods or your house or home-made jam. Or maybe you just want to say thank you to somebody or everybody about anything.

If you need more than 16 words then consider the options for a bigger advertisement as below with rates starting from around £3.85 per month for a quarter-page advertisement.

Having been approached about providing some advertising space in the monthly newsletter we are now making available quarter-page adverts for just £5 per issue. It gets even cheaper for longer term commitments (6 months £25, 12 months £45). Whether you want to advertise your business, bowls or house for sale, birthday celebrations or just to say thank you for anything then get in touch we will be delighted to hear from you.

ADVERTISING RATES

SIZE	MONTHS	COST
Quarter-Page	1	£5
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	6	£45
	12	£75
Full-Page	1	£20
	6	£90
	12	£150

Closing date to get your free or paid for advertisement in the next issue of the newsletter is **Friday 23 August**.

AUGUST CALENDAR

Thurs 1	Bistro Round 4
Fri 2	Over-70's Pairs KO FINALS DAY
Tues 6	Lower Division Trophy (down to 8)
Thurs 8	Over-70's KO (down to 8)
Fri 9	Inter-District v West Riding
Thurs 15	Team KO Semi-Finals
Fri 16	Julie Fuller Trophy FINAL
Fri 16	Over-80's FINALS DAY
Thurs 22	Bistro Semi-Finals
Fri 23	Lower Division Trophy FINALS DAY
Thurs 29	Pairs FINALS DAY
Fri 30	Sub-Team KO FINAL