

NEWSLETTER

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

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Record Double Winners!

Lockwood Cons are celebrating a double League win with both their 10-man team and their 6-man team winning their respective top Section titles. This is the first time in the 47-year history of the Veteran's League that both Sections have been won by teams from the same club so congratulations to them for that significant and record-breaking achievement.

On top of that over the past month the 10-man team also won the Bistro KO for the first time ever and if that wasn't enough, bowlers from their club also lifted the Over-70's title and the Pairs KO title to make it a year to commemorate.

Both their teams clinched their respective titles with a week to spare but in very different fashions. The 10-Man team had not been in the top spot until the penultimate week of the season after a slow start which saw them in sixth position at the end of April and looking far from Championship material. However they kept chipping away at the lead that Milnsbridge A had built up and paced it bang-on to hit the front with two weeks to go. Whereas the 6-man team had led the way for much of the season without ever putting enough daylight between themselves and 2016 Champions, Longwood, to be truly comfortable but eventually the pace became too hot for the chasers and Cons ran out winners by eight points.

Congratulations also to the other Section winners, Brockholes A, New Mill A, Golcar Lib B and Denby Dale. We have a big review of the season inside this issue identifying the good, bad and indifferent in all our Sections with mention of all 89 teams, final league tables and lists of the top Singles and Pairs bowlers in each Section. A truly comprehensive record of what has been a really good season with all Sections hotly contested and no titles claimed until two weeks before the season-end.

One club to mention is New Mill for no other reason than to compare their fortunes 12 months ago when their A team was relegated from Section 2 for the second time in 3 years and their B team had finished at the bottom of Section 5 some 20 points behind the next team. They had struggled to field full teams all season and had failed to do so on six occasions. With great and quiet resolve they set about improving the situation and have been rewarded by their A team winning Section 3 and the B side collecting almost double the number of points gained in 2016 and finishing in fourth position. In addition their green was selected for an Inter-District match during the season to emphasize that New Mill is open for business and very much a club on the upward trend. Well done to them. We like good news stories.

Fantasy League Winner

After 26 weeks of intense competition we finally have our Fantasy League Winner for 2017. David Singleton has won the 2nd Fantasy League season-long competition sponsored by Well Bowled from Luddendenfoot. So congratulations to David who beats long time leader David Morrison into second place by seven points with Vincent Cartwright a further 11 points back in third place. With £60 for the winner, £25 for second and £15 for third place all the prize placings have now been decided.

Our Champion also lifted the second of our head-to-head Knock-Out competitions when beating League runner-up, David Morrison, in the semi-final and then saw off Desmond Emsall in the final to collect another £10 Well Bowled Sales Voucher.

Last trophy of 2017



The final KO trophy of the season is the Special Invitation Trophy open to members of the Inter-District team and Management Committee. Eddie Haigh (right) beat Dave Pollard (left) in this year's final held at Paddock.

Roll of Honour 2017

COMPETITION	WINNER	RUNNER-UP
10-Man Section 1	LOCKWOOD CON	MILNSBRIDGE A
10-Man Section 2	BROCKHOLES A	THONGSBRIDGE A
10-Man Section 3	NEW MILL A	ALMONDBURY LIB
10-Man Section 4	GOLCAR LIB B	ALMONDBURY BC B
10-Man Section 5	DENBY DALE	OUTLANE
6-Man Section A	LOCKWOOD CON	LONGWOOD
6-Man Section B	NETHERTON CON	CROSLAND MOOR
Team KO	LINDLEY LIB A	NETHERTON CON A
Sub-Team KO	GOLCAR LIB B	WATERLOO B
Bistro	LOCKWOOD CON	BROCKHOLES A
Julie Fuller Trophy	LONGWOOD	CLAYTON WEST
Rose Bowl	TONY CLEGG (Crosland Moor)	MICK COX (Lockwood Con)
Over-70's KO	EDDIE HAIGH (Lockwood Con)	FRANK GREENWOOD (Golcar Lib)
Over-80's KO	EDDIE HINE (Kirkheaton C&BC)	GEOFF ROLLINSON (Holmfirth)
Lower Divisions	DEREK SYKES (Marsden Park)	PHIL HUNTER (Lowerhouses)
Pairs KO	DOUGIE DUCK & DAVE COOLING (Lockwood Con)	EDDIE HAIGH & MICK COX (Lockwood Con)
Special Invitation Trophy	EDDIE HAIGH (Lockwood Con)	DAVE POLLARD (Cowcliffe)

Club Reps Corner

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The season may be drawing to a close but for you Club Representatives it is the start of a busy period. The Club's Half-Year Meeting will be held at 2.00pm on Monday 16 October at Paddock I&C when all the rule changes for the 2018 season will be discussed, debated and decided. It is important that you represent the views of your club members at this meeting and cast your vote carefully. The Management Committee will be proposing a number of changes for next season to address issues that have arisen over this season and others to clarify existing rules and hopefully make them easier to understand and simpler to follow.

You will already have received written copy of all the proposals and they are also on the [HDVBA website](#). Please take the time to consider the impact on you and your club of each of these changes. Preferably take time to discuss them with your club members so that you have a clear mandate on how they want your club to vote on each proposal. If you want clarification on any of the proposals before the meeting then John Hoyle our General Secretary is the man to approach.

At the Half-Year Meeting we present all the trophies to team and individual winners of all our competitions. Clubs are reminded that if you have any of the League's trophies or they were won by any of your club members last year then they should be returned to the Competition Secretary as soon as possible so that they can be suitably engraved with the new winners' names prior to the presentation.

Looking ahead to next season and the first deadline to be aware of is the second Monday in January when any new teams applying for membership should put that application in writing (email is fine) to the League Secretary. That application should include a list of team members so that the Management Committee can place your team in the most appropriate Section for the 2018 season. Similarly any team withdrawals for 2018 should be notified to the League Secretary by the same deadline so that the composition of all the Sections can be finalised and the 2018 Fixture List be compiled. If you are continuing with the same number of teams for next season then you needn't do anything at all as your membership will just roll-forward.

Any club wishing to add a new bowler to their ranks for the 2018 season should put that request in writing to the League Secretary at anytime. Similarly transfers in or out need to be registered with the League Secretary. We don't have transfer forms but details of the bowler's BCGBA number and date of birth should be sent to the League Secretary along with the club they are being transferred from. The League Secretary will then contact the previous club to make sure that there is no reason that the transfer can't go ahead (normally only delayed by any money still outstanding to the club) and to ensure that the former club are aware of the bowler's transfer.

Any of your club members interested in becoming a bowls referee can join the three-week course this month with full details on the HDVBA website [here](#).

FULL REVIEW OF THE 2017 LEAGUE SEASON

Section by Section Review with all 89 teams' season covered
Top Averages for Singles & Pairs bowlers for each Section
All the Final League Tables for the 10-Man and 6-Man seasons

What a great season it has been for Veterans bowling in Huddersfield with good competition right through our six-month League season with none of the Section titles or relegation issues fully sorted until the final two weeks.

When the mist did clear we are left with a record breaking season for Lockwood Cons as they became the first club in League history to win both the 6-man and 10-man top Section titles in the same season. Congratulations and very well done to them.

SECTION 1

	Pl	W	L	For	Agst	Pts
Lockwood Con. (C)	26	19	7	3386	2939	149
Milnsbridge A	26	18	8	3250	2965	139
Clayton West	26	15	11	3195	3041	135
Meltham A	26	16	10	3286	3060	133
Marsh United A	26	14	12	3197	3036	127
Elland C&BC A	26	15	11	3120	3168	127
Netherton Con. A	26	13	13	3203	3104	119
Golcar Lib. A	26	13	13	3058	3179	115
Lindley Lib. A	26	14	12	3133	3065	112
Cowcliffe	26	11	15	3049	3195	107
Waterloo A	26	12	14	3000	3179	103
Almondbury B.C. A	26	10	16	3071	3268	102
Rastrick (R)	26	9	17	2994	3249	97
Shepley (R)	26	3	23	2828	3322	73

Starting in the 10-man League where 2016 Champions Lockwood Cons were side-lined for most of the year with a really slow start which saw them lose three of their first five fixtures and languish in sixth position. Recovering to have a strong mid-season and then finish with six wins from their last seven matches only losing their final game when the title was already won. They won with the lowest points total for a Champion side for many years and 17 less points than the previous year.

For much of the season it looked like Milnsbridge A had rekindled the form that had won them six consecutive titles from 2009-2014 but the Cons were not to be denied their third consecutive title eventually winning by 10 points. Some would say that Milnsbridge lost the title rather than that Lockwood Cons won it and by losing their last three games when in the lead certainly contributed to that theory.

The enigma that is Clayton West rolled on as they continue to be invincible at home with the longest unbeaten home record in the 10-man League, since

Golcar Lib beat them in July 2016, but struggle on their travels in collecting just two wins this season. Clayton West were one of only four teams to go the 2017 season without losing at home – the other three won their respective Sections, the West finished third.

Meltham once again took fourth place which means the top four are in exactly the same order as they were the previous season with 16 points between them this year as opposed to 36 points in 2016. That could be a pointer to the pack closing in on the leader and may give all teams hopes of resting the title from the Champions next year.

Marsh Utd A, Elland C&BC A, Netherton Con A, Golcar Lib A and Lindley Lib A filled the mid-table positions as they had done the previous year although Golcar Lib and, especially, Netherton Con flirted for some while with the relegation places. Netherton lost six on the bounce in mid-season and only a really strong finish in winning five of their final six fixtures did they finally allay those fears. Similarly Golcar needed five wins from their last six fixtures to improve on last season's final position.

Cowcliffe looked dead and buried at the end of June sitting in a relegation spot having lost 9 of their opening 10 matches. Shepley had an identical record at that stage but sat at the foot of the table having accumulated less points and they were to remain there all season winning just 3 of their 26 matches. Whereas Cowcliffe found good form in the final months to win 7 of their last 10 fixtures and eventually sit 10 points ahead of the relegation places.

Joining Shepley in being relegated are Rastrick, the 2016 Section 2 Champions. It may be small comfort but the 97 points they collected means that they were relegated having collected more points than any team in a 14-team Section since our records started. A total of 94 points being the previous highest relegation points total. A final day match between the two 2016 promoted teams resulted in a 7-2 win for Almondbury BC A over Rastrick and sealed their fate.

The season end couldn't quick enough for Waterloo A who were in free-fall in losing 8 of their last 10 games with the two wins coming crucially against the two relegated teams. Team raising problems afflicted both their teams in the latter half of the season and that kind of form cannot expect to see them through another full season without the ultimate outcome.

SECTION 2

	Pl	W	L	For	Agst	Pts
Brockholes A (C)	26	19	7	3376	2858	151
Thongsbridge A (P)	26	18	8	3330	2950	150
Crosland Moor	26	18	8	3292	2892	148
Lindley B.C. A	26	13	13	3150	3066	120
Hemplow	26	16	10	3122	3137	120
Skel Windmill A	26	14	12	3004	3124	117
Kirkheaton C&BC A	26	13	13	3106	3189	114
Meltham B	26	12	14	3070	3101	114
Broad Oak A	26	12	14	3111	3148	112
Primrose Hill Lib A	26	11	15	3184	3132	111
Kirkheaton Con.	26	13	13	3121	3141	105
Thorpe Green	26	8	18	2893	3272	97
Linthwaite Hall (R)	26	8	18	2895	3245	93
Canalside A (R)	26	7	19	2918	3317	86

In Section 2 we had the closest promotion battle of any of our Sections where all of the three prime contenders went in to the final week with a chance of winning the title but knowing that one of them would miss out on promotion altogether and all playing away fixtures. The odd one out loser being Crosland Moor after a 2-7 final day reversal at Thorpe Green who themselves averted relegation with that win. It was Brockholes A, who lost 3-6 on the final day at Hemplow, that hung on to claim the title one point ahead of strong finishing Thongsbridge A who won 9 of their last 10 games to take the second promotion spot.

All three featured near the top for most of the season and they were joined up until the half-way stage by Broad Oak but a run of six defeats in their last nine matches finally put to bed any thoughts of mixing it with the big boys next season and they eventually finished in the bottom half of the table. Lindley BC A, Skel Windmill and Hemplow also had spells near the top but all flattered to deceive and all finished clustered together some 30 points off the promotion pace.

Kirkheaton C&BC A and Meltham B filled the mid-table slots and the Kirkheaton team did well following their promotion last season to consolidate their Section 2 status. They had followed Linthwaite Hall up from Section 3 last year and the Hall are to return there next season after a disappointing campaign during which they were hardly ever out of the bottom two. They are joined by Canalside A who sat at the foot of the table for most of the season, a club which has had more worrying off-the-field distractions for them with the closure of their second green and doubts about the future of bowling at all for some teams.

The remaining three teams took it in turns to have bad spells which threw them into the relegation mix at times including Primrose Hill Lib who lost 7 of their final 9 fixtures only beating Linthwaite Hall and fellow strugglers Kirkheaton Cons. Me and my boys at the Cons got off to a slow start losing 4 of our first five matches before winning five on the bounce but we never looked like repeating our third place finish of 12 months earlier. We did have one important part to play

in the final day great escape of Thorpe Green from relegation by beating Linthwaite Hall whilst the Green dented Crosland Moor's promotion. Team raising difficulties in the first half of the season hit Thorpe Green hard and they are a better team than the table shows when at full strength.

SECTION 3

	Pl	W	L	For	Agst	Pts
New Mill A (C)	22	15	7	2780	2359	125
Almondbury Lib. (P)	22	14	8	2717	2551	112
Lindley Lib. B	22	12	10	2617	2554	107
Holmfirth A	22	13	9	2749	2531	106
Paddock I&C	22	12	10	2625	2679	102
Springwood	22	11	11	2695	2522	100
Ravensknowle Pk A	22	11	11	2458	2646	94
Brockholes B	22	11	11	2600	2656	92
Milnsbridge B	22	9	13	2520	2698	89
Slaithwaite	22	7	15	2572	2722	88
Waterloo B (R)	22	8	14	2511	2649	87
Bradley & Colne (R)	22	9	13	2451	2728	86

We have a really interesting couple of teams gaining promotion from Section 3 this year. Champions New Mill A along with Almondbury Lib maintained their amazing record of both being promoted or relegated in each season for the last four years. New Mill A have either been promoted or relegated between Sections 2 and 3 for the last four years. Whilst Almondbury Lib were promoted up to Section 2 at the end of 2014 and then went on to gain promotion to Section 1 the following year. Two successive relegations followed and now the two are promoted together again out of Section 3 just as they were three years ago. You wouldn't bet against either of them being promoted or relegated again next season as they really are the two yo-yo teams of the Veterans League.

Perpetual Section 3 also-rans Holmfirth A raised their game to be in contention into the final month but their last four games were against the other top four teams including games against the promoted pair as their last two games. That is where their challenge ended finishing one lower than the previous year in fourth position.

A run of five wins in their last six games enabled Lindley Lib B to reach a season-high position of third and they continue to improve year on year. Paddock I&C also progressed this year to gain 15 points more than they did last year and finish four positions higher. However Springwood are going the other way dropping to a lower final position for the fourth consecutive season when finishing sixth and rarely threatening to go higher.

There was some congestion at the wrong end of the table with just eight points between the bottom six teams and it was even tighter than that going into the final day of the season. Bradley & Colne shot themselves in the foot by only being able to field six bowlers for their key game at fellow strugglers Brockholes B, losing the game 2-7 and their Section 3 status at the same time. The season had started so

positively for them with three straight wins against teams who were to finish the season in top four positions and only Bradley & Colne will know what went so wrong for them this season. Going down with them are Waterloo B after losing eight of their final nine fixtures with repeated team raising difficulties accounting for many of those lost points.

Salithwaite escaped on the final day of the season despite losing 2-7 at home to Champions New Mill and that was true to trend as they only won four home games all season, the lowest total in the Section. Poor away form and a solitary away win all season for Milnsbridge B was mainly responsible for their involvement in the relegation dog-fight but a final day 6-3 home win over fellow strugglers Ravensknowle Park A saved their season. No Section 3 team won more home matches than the Park but just two away wins all season kept them well away from getting involved at the other end of the table. With four games to go Brockholes B were in bottom place but by winning their last three games they were elevated to the lofty final position of fifth from bottom.

SECTION 4

	Pl	W	L	For	Agst	Pts
Golcar Lib B (C)	22	17	5	2882	2225	136
Almondbury B.C. B (P)	22	16	6	2757	2350	126
Marsden Park	22	15	7	2606	2641	114
Meltham C	22	14	8	2697	2572	110
Netherton Con. B	22	11	11	2685	2532	103
Skel Windmill B	22	11	11	2626	2644	97
Marsh United B	22	10	12	2554	2650	94
Lindley B.C. B	22	11	11	2557	2632	92
Broad Oak B	22	7	15	2559	2704	88
Thongsbridge B	22	7	15	2526	2734	81
Huddersfield RUFC (R)	22	7	15	2398	2729	80
David Brown Sports (R)	22	6	16	2437	2871	67

Golcar Lib B were the first team to gain promotion this season and they continued their form to go on and lift the Section 4 title by 10 clear points from Almondbury BC B. A commanding 11-0 home record, including four 9-0 scorelines, being a major contributor to that total. Almondbury BC B lost their first two and last two games but in-between did very little wrong in making an immediate return to Section 3 next season. It helps if you have the top 3 singles bowlers in the Section as Almondbury did this year.

In contrast Marsden Park had a great first half of the season winning 9 of their first 10 games and heading the table more weeks than any other team. Going on to win only five of their next 12 matches which is hardly promotion form and so it proved as they slipped to third position in the final table, 12 points off a promotion place. Meltham C were a constant in the top four for the first half of the season but then had an indifferent mid-season spell to drop out of contention but then finished strongly with six wins in their final seven games to end the campaign in fourth position.

The Rugby Club had a 5-5 record after ten matches and were sat comfortably in fifth position but then only won twice more all season to claim one of the relegation places. They were beaten to bottom place by David Brown Sports who were never out of the relegation spots all season finishing 14 points from safety. DBS are a resilient nomadic bunch having fielded a full team in every game all season but were always someway off the form of 2016 when they finished third in the same Section. Thongsbridge B won their final four home games including a 6-3 victory over Champions Golcar Lib B and that was just sufficient for them to avoid relegation by one point.

The B teams of Marsh Utd and Lindley BC were separated by one point when they came up together from Section 5 last year. Two points separated them at the end of this campaign as they consolidated in the same order in 7th and 8th positions which is a notable achievement. Netherton Con B steadied the ship after last season's relegation from Section 3 and will be happy enough with a season-high fifth place finish which included two 9-0 home wins. Skel Windmill B had an 11-11 season record and predictably finished bang in the middle order in 6th position, 7 points and one position less than in 2016. Broad Oak B flirted with the relegation places all season without ever actually sitting in one and a place higher finish than the previous year can be counted as progress albeit of a small nature.

SECTION 5

	Pl	W	L	For	Agst	Pts
Denby Dale (C)	22	18	4	2818	2221	135
Outlane (P)	22	15	7	2818	2303	130
Dalton	22	13	9	2686	2513	109
New Mill B	22	10	12	2629	2507	104
Lowerhouses	22	12	10	2613	2562	103
Primrose Hill Lib. B	22	11	11	2532	2569	100
Greenhead Park	22	12	10	2549	2633	99
Kirkheaton C&BC B	22	11	11	2620	2564	97
Canalside B	22	8	14	2354	2736	81
Elland C&BC B	22	9	13	2414	2716	80
Holmfirth B	22	8	14	2421	2718	75
Ravensknowle Park B	22	5	17	2367	2779	75

The season long top-two battle in Section 5 resulted in Denby Dale edging out Outlane in the final weeks of the season. Only five points separated them at the end and looking for small differences to analyse why the Dale lifted the trophy is not decided by the head to head encounters with the home side winning 6-3 each time. With exactly the same 2818-2818 'Aggregate For' totals that didn't point the way either and looking at the 9-0 win count being 4-2 in favour of Outlane that doesn't explain it either. The matches-won count does lead us to the answer with Denby Dale winning three more of their 22 matches than Outlane. The pair dominated the Section 5 promotion places all season except for a brief interruption by Primrose Hill Lib B. That challenge soon fizzled out and the Pip Hill team had to disappointedly settle for a final position of sixth.

If Dalton had started the season as they finished then they would have walked it. Bottom of the table after six matches after relegation the previous year and just a single win they went on a run that took them up in to third place and included home and away 9-0 wins over Canalside B. A continuation of that form will set them up for the 2018 season.

New Mill B were a revelation this year with a fourth place finish after ending the previous season 20 points adrift at the foot of the table. A remarkable turnaround which included a 9-0 away win at Primrose Hill Lib B. Lowerhouses appeared to have a hangover from their relegation the previous season and lost 3 of their first 4 Section 5 fixtures (2 of them at home) before picking up the pace to win all their remaining home fixtures including seeing off the promoted pair. Greenhead Park and Kirkheaton C&BC B both had mid-table finishes and that was no change for the Park but a step up for Kirkheaton C&BC on their 2016 outcome.

The bottom three all finished in the bottom half the previous season and it took 'Aggregate For' differences to separate Ravensknowle Park B from Holmfirth B with both compiling the same 75 point total. The Park really suffered with team raising problems failing to field a full ten in 12 of their 22 league fixtures and with that kind of handicap they did well to complete their season. Holmfirth B managed to win only one of their last nine fixtures to plummet down the table and set a worrying trend they will be keen to eradicate for next season. Elland C&BC B continue to splash around in the deep end although they collected four more points than the previous year and moved up one place whilst Canalside suffered the demands of having an A team with no less than 11 of their bowlers getting A team calls at some stage during the season.

SECTION A

	Pl	W	L	For	Agst	Pts
Lockwood Con. (C)	22	20	2	2173	1479	124
Longwood	22	20	2	2095	1550	116
Shepley A	22	15	7	1941	1750	99
Brockholes A	22	14	8	1916	1842	90
Farnley Tyas	22	9	13	1798	1876	74
Paddock I&C	22	11	11	1857	1929	71
Thongsbridge B	22	10	12	1810	1936	71
Milnsbridge BC	22	8	14	1766	1924	65
Clayton West	22	9	13	1834	1935	63
Almondbury Lib.	22	8	14	1735	1965	62
Oakfield T&BC (R)	22	5	17	1703	1966	46
Primrose Hill (R)	22	3	19	1605	2081	43

The 25-team strong 6-Man League has seen a swing in power with Longwood, Section A winners for the last three years, losing out to a resurgent Lockwood Cons outfit this year. The Cons were top all season but never by more than 7 points which always meant that one bad week would let the 2016 Champions back in and the Cons have spent too many seasons viewing their backs to allow that to happen this time around.

With both the leaders entering the final fortnight with 19-1 win records and the only blemishes being defeats

on their prime opponent's lawn, suddenly Longwood hit a barrier that was Shepley A who overcame them 6-1 to really knock the final nail in their Championship coffin. Longwood were always struggling to catch the leaders up and the count of 7-0 wins involving the two teams explains how that came about. Longwood had just three 7-0 wins all season whereas Lockwood Cons achieved the ultimate scoreline 8 times in total.

That win over Longwood showed what Shepley are capable of but they didn't show it enough last season with seven defeats in total and finishing in third position. Very similar for Brockholes A who were the only other team besides Longwood to beat the new Champions and that was by 6-1 on the last day of the season. When you drop 6 points to the team that is to finish at the foot of the table then you cannot harbour real hopes of upsetting the order at the top of the table and that final fourth placed finish, one lower than the previous year, is as good as it is likely to get for Brockholes A.

The two promoted teams can feel very pleased with their seasons with both finishing comfortably in mid-table. Farnley Tyas finished with nine points more than Milnsbridge after a really bad start to their Section A campaign losing their first three matches, two of them to 0-7 against Shepley A and Oakfield T&BC, and they were their only two 0-7 defeats of the season. They did have the top individual bowler in the Section with Pete Rollins having a 13-1 record and he just carried on from where he left off in Section B last year. Milnsbridge in contrast started well enough and only had one 0-7 all season and that was to Longwood which is never a disgrace for any team new to this level.

In between the two newcomers were the perpetual mid-tablers from Paddock I&C and Thongsbridge B locked together on 71 points. Strong as ever on their own unique green, Paddock struggled away from that good home green with their only two away wins coming against the teams to finish in the bottom two places. Interestingly Thongsbridge B lost 5 of their 11 home games which meant that only the bottom two had worse home records.

Clayton West had their worst final position for some years which was somewhat compensated for by an appearance in the Julie Fuller Trophy Final. Things could have been worse as the second half of the season was disappointing as they lost 7 of the last 11 games. Almondbury Lib flirted with relegation by losing 4 of their final 6 fixtures to tease the bottom two who failed to take advantage.

So Oakfield T&BC and Primrose Hill Lib can have few complaints about the outcome which sees them both stepping down a level next year. They each managed a single win in the second half of the season and there was not even a sniff of great escape for either. Pip Hill lost their first nine games and never got off the foot of the table all season whilst Oakfield were in the bottom three throughout. Time to drop a level, regroup and look forward to a better season next year.

SECTION B

	Pl	W	L	For	Agst	Pts
Netherton Con (C)	24	18	6	2207	1735	117
Crosland Moor (P)	24	17	7	2203	1732	113
Skel Windmill	24	18	6	2229	1820	110
Golcar Lib.	24	17	7	2087	1949	102
Meltham	24	14	10	2039	1959	92
Holmfirth	24	11	13	2050	1962	86
Shepley B	24	12	12	1971	2030	84
Hemplow	24	12	12	2064	2047	82
Lindley BC	24	11	13	2010	2061	81
Thongsbridge A	24	8	16	1910	2100	67
Lindley Lib.	24	8	16	1854	2112	64
Greenhead Park	24	8	16	1740	2197	56
Brockholes B	24	2	22	1623	2283	38

Another Section battle that went down to the last day of the season as Crosland Moor without a final day fixture could only look on as Netherton Con took the four points and more that they needed to go above them and take the title. The top four all finished with 11-1 home records and there was only one win between them in their away records but there was 15 points total between first and fourth. The team with most 7-0 scorelines was Netherton Con with four and those extra points went a long way to claiming their first ever Section 2 title. However that is some way from their best ever season in 2003 when they took the Section A Championship for the only time. This was a huge leap from their 2016 finishing position of fourth from bottom so great progress for them.

Crosland Moor were relegated last season so a quick return is especially welcome and can look to their strong pairs combinations which saw them having the top two pairs bowlers in the Section.

Skel Windmill were well positioned to take one of the promotion places with four games to go. Three of those games were against the three other top teams in the Section but it was the fourth fixture, but first in this final sequence, which proved to be their undoing. A home fixture against lowly Hemplow should have been the winning platform from which they would launch their promotion push but inexplicably they lost 1-6 at home. That really knocked the stuffing out of them and they lost more points than they gained in the other three matches to miss out by three points.

Golcar Lib will rue their only two 0-7 away defeats against Hemplow and Holmfirth which they would consider avoidable and critical in the final count-up. Meltham were not involved in a 7-0 scoreline either way all season and the absence of winning-to-nil contributed to a disappointing campaign to return to the top flight at the first attempt. Holmfirth were capable of mixing with the best of teams as wins over both the promoted pair shows but they were inconsistent especially against lower placed teams they would expect to beat.

Shepley B and Hemplow both had 12-12 win records and predictably they finished up in mid-table. But whilst Hemplow were always capable of producing a surprise

result Shepley were the opposite, seemingly content to know their place and determined to stay there. Both teams will look back at home points dropped as being key to further advancement which is unusual as both their away records were most commendable.

Lindley BC had a really good first season in the 6-man league and started at a great pace in winning four of their first five fixtures to raise expectations and that run included a win away at Champions-to-be Netherton Con. Reality moved in and they lost 5 of their final 6 matches but finished in a most satisfying ninth position.

A disaster of a season for Brockholes B with just two wins all year, the last of those being on 8 May followed by 18 straight league defeats. Unsurprisingly with that kind of record they finished at the bottom of the table which was a surprise after an 8th place final finish the previous year. The three teams immediately above them occupied the last three spots last year so will not regard the season as a significant improvement.

Looking on the positive side all three, Greenhead Park, Lindley Lib and Thongsbridge A, had greater points totals than last year and all had identical 8-16 win-lose records although there was a gap of 11 points between them. In addition each of them beat a top three team so demonstrating the potential. The second half of the season progress of Thongsbridge A is notable after losing their first 8 matches and still finishing ninth.

A full list of top bowlers in each Section follows but worthy of note is the fact that New Mill had the top singles bowlers in Sections 3 and 5; Milnsbridge A had the top singles and top pairs bowler in section 1; New Mill A also had the top four pairs bowlers in Section 3 and Almondbury BC B had the top three singles bowlers in Section 4. One 20-game unbeaten season-long individual record to report on as well from M. Chapman for New Mill B. Well done to all names mentioned and all those who feature in these lists.

That hopefully sums up 2017, apologies for any notable achievements or acts of negligence that I missed. Look out for the 2018 preview next March when I set myself up for season-long harassment and ridicule by going public with my selections of those teams that, in my opinion, are bang on for the 2018 titles, promotion and relegation. Will I ever learn?

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

If you have registered to receive the monthly HDVBA Newsletter then the November 2017 issue will be arriving in your email inbox by

SUNDAY 29 OCTOBER

Register at www.hdvba.co.uk

10-MAN SECTION-BY-SECTION TOP BOWLER RECORDS

Bowlers must have played in 60% of their team's league matches to qualify. Full records of the Top 10 Singles & Pairs Bowlers for each section along with individual club records are on the Bowlsnet website.

SINGLES							PAIRS						
SECTION 1							SECTION 1						
	Player	Club	Pl	W	L	Avg		Player	Club	Pl	W	L	Avg
1	Kevin Brown	Milnsbridge A	22	19	3	6.50	1	Brian Jenkins	Milnsbridge A	19	17	2	8.74
2	J Lindley	Clayton West	24	19	5	4.54	2	D Blackburn	Milnsbridge A	26	23	3	8.00
3	M Cox	Lockwood Con.	25	18	7	4.32	3	D Cooling	Lockwood Con.	23	19	4	5.39
4	G Brook	Neth'ton Con. A	26	17	9	4.08	4	D Taylor	Marsh United A	18	12	6	5.33
5	David Wood	Rastrick	24	17	7	4.00	5	D Duck	Lockwood Con.	26	21	5	5.23
6	P Kain	Lockwood Con.	25	16	9	3.80	6	T Machen	Almondbury B.C. A	24	17	7	5.17
7	E Haigh	Lockwood Con.	23	16	7	3.57	7	N Varley	Lindley Lib. A	26	17	8	4.96
8	F Greenwood	Golcar Lib. A	23	14	9	3.43	8	M Hopley	Almondbury B.C. A	24	17	7	4.71
9	J G Davies	Marsh United A	26	19	7	3.31	9	Russell Clarkson	Clayton West	16	12	4	4.50
10	John Hodgson	Shepley	24	14	10	2.96	10	J Ollernshaw	Lindley Lib. A	22	14	7	4.33
SECTION 2							SECTION 2						
	Player	Club	Pl	W	L	Avg		Player	Club	Pl	W	L	Avg
1	A Singleton	Linthwaite Hall	21	15	6	6.14	1	D Sykes	Brockholes A	24	18	6	6.21
2	P Toon	Kirkh'ton C&BC A	16	12	4	5.81	2	G Coates	Brockholes A	24	18	6	6.08
3	R Swallow	Crosland Moor	23	19	4	5.57	3	T Swift	Thongsbridge A	24	20	4	5.83
4	K Damms	Thongsbridge A	25	19	6	5.40	4	R Smith	Thongsbridge A	24	20	4	5.42
5	J Romano	Skel Windmill A	24	18	6	4.83	5	T Clegg	Crosland Moor	22	17	5	4.82
6	J Hoyle	Brockholes A	22	14	8	4.50	6	D Bradford	Crosland Moor	19	14	5	4.42
7	K Ellis	Lindley B.C. A	21	15	6	4.14	7	C Beaumont	Brockholes A	19	14	5	4.26
8	G Morris	Thorpe Green	24	21	3	4.13	8	R Dearlove	Crosland Moor	21	16	5	4.19
9	C Taylor	Broad Oak A	26	18	8	4.00	9	K Hopper	Hemplow	21	14	6	4.10
10	A Bamforth	Linthwaite Hall	26	19	7	3.58	10	A Robinson	Crosland Moor	25	18	7	4.08
SECTION 3							SECTION 3						
	Player	Club	Pl	W	L	Avg		Player	Club	Pl	W	L	Avg
1	G Rollinson	Holmfirth A	19	14	5	6.16	1	B Jakeman	New Mill A	19	16	3	8.68
2	J Kaye	Lindley Lib. B	22	19	3	5.95	2	R Whiteley	New Mill A	14	12	2	8.21
3	R Hulley	Milnsbridge B	14	12	2	5.57	3	P Burgess	New Mill A	21	16	4	5.80
4	P Sykes	Holmfirth A	20	15	5	5.15	4	C Washington	New Mill A	22	16	5	5.38
5	A Broughton	Almondbury Lib.	22	17	5	4.86	5	J Sykes	Lindley Lib. B	16	13	3	5.25
6	P Booth	New Mill A	18	12	5	4.53	6	D Hardy	Paddock I&C	17	14	3	5.18
7	J Waters	Bradley & Colne	19	15	4	3.84	7	E Visona	Holmfirth A	20	14	6	4.70
8	J Townend	Paddock I&C	18	14	4	3.72	8	William Jackson	Ravensknowle Park A	16	11	5	4.25
9	A Tracey	Lindley Lib. B	17	11	6	3.65	9	Ian Boothroyd	Ravensknowle Park A	21	14	7	4.19
10	K Morris	Springwood	22	16	6	3.59	10	J Gatenby	Springwood	21	12	8	4.00
SECTION 4							SECTION 4						
	Player	Club	Pl	W	L	Avg		Player	Club	Pl	W	L	Avg
1	D Price	Alm'dbury BC B	21	19	2	8.00	1	E Thompson	Golcar Lib B	15	14	1	8.07
2	G Fisher	Alm'dbury BC B	22	18	4	7.91	2	R Beardsell	Netherton Con. B	15	12	3	7.67
3	B Milnes	Alm'dbury BC B	17	13	4	6.82	3	P Antich	Golcar Lib B	17	14	3	6.12
4	A Sykes	Golcar Lib B	22	16	6	5.09	4	J Halliwell	Almondbury B.C. B	19	15	4	6.00
5	R Clayton	Neth'ton Con. B	18	11	7	4.78	5	M Waddington	Meltham C	14	11	3	6.00
6	D McClean	Golcar Lib B	20	14	6	4.50	6	M Haynes	Almondbury B.C. B	18	14	4	5.94
7	V Bridgeman	Hudds RUFC	15	11	4	4.47	7	A Hardcastle	Marsh United B	17	14	3	5.71
8	M Redfern	Lindley B.C. B	17	10	7	3.82	8	D Matthews	Marsden Park	16	11	5	5.50
9	J Thornton	Golcar Lib B	18	12	6	3.06	9	E Wimpenny	Meltham C	18	13	5	5.28
10	J Sykes	Thongsbridge B	22	16	6	3.05	10	D Howroyd	Golcar Lib B	17	12	5	5.18
SECTION 5							SECTION 5						
	Player	Club	Pl	W	L	Avg		Player	Club	Pl	W	L	Avg
1	M J Chapman	New Mill B	20	20	0	10.65	1	David Ray	Dalton	20	16	4	8.60
2	P Hayth'thwaite	Outlane	18	15	3	8.72	2	Len Holt	Denby Dale	18	16	2	8.56
3	M Temple	Elland C&BC B	18	16	2	6.83	3	B Wright	Outlane	16	15	1	8.50
4	P Hunter	Lowerhouses	19	15	4	6.58	4	M Wragg	Outlane	17	16	1	8.35
5	R Allcock	Outlane	14	10	4	5.64	5	Percy Harrison	Dalton	21	16	5	7.76
6	Rob Millington	Denby Dale	21	16	4	5.40	6	Ed Lee	Denby Dale	18	14	3	6.29
7	John Inman	Dalton	20	16	4	5.15	7	Selwyn Dyson	Denby Dale	21	17	4	6.14
8	J Delmonte	Outlane	14	8	5	3.62	8=	Peter Brogan	Denby Dale	16	13	3	5.88
9	P Hirst	Lowerhouses	14	9	5	3.43	8=	W Shaw	Primrose Hill Lib. B	16	13	3	5.88
10	J Jessop	Outlane	19	12	7	3.32	10	S Robinson	Primrose Hill Lib. B	18	12	6	4.33

6-MAN SECTION-BY-SECTION TOP BOWLER RECORDS

Bowlers must have played in 60% of their team's league matches to qualify. This has led to only 9 bowlers qualifying in the Pairs Averages for Section A.

Full records of the all the top Singles & Pairs Bowlers for each section along with individual club records are all on the Bowlsnet website.

SINGLES						
Section A						
	Player	Team	PI	W	L	Avg
1	P Rollins	Farnley Tyas	14	13	1	8.64
2	A Crowther	Longwood	19	17	2	8.42
3	T Mosley	Lockwood Con.	18	14	4	7.78
4	T Howden	Lockwood Con.	16	13	3	7.63
5	C Ball	Lockwood Con.	20	16	4	5.65
6	I Crawford	Longwood	16	12	4	5.19
7	M Hirst	Shepley A	18	13	5	5.06
8	K Firth	Clayton West	15	10	5	2.73
9	R Armitage	Thongsbridge B	20	11	9	2.30
10	J Yalden	Thongsbridge B	18	11	7	2.22
Section B						
	Player	Team	PI	W	L	Avg
1	L Hayden	Netherton Con.	21	17	4	7.62
2	David Sullivan	Crosland Moor	21	15	6	6.71
3	R Clayton	Netherton Con.	20	15	5	6.65
4	S Auty	Skel Windmill	21	15	6	6.62
5	A Starkey	Meltham	23	17	6	6.04
6	Malcolm Kewley	Crosland Moor	22	17	5	5.91
7	F Richardson	Greenhead Park	18	15	3	5.00
8	R Auty	Skel Windmill	17	13	4	4.65
9	J Beaumont	Skel Windmill	18	12	6	3.11
10	MJ Smith	Meltham	22	15	7	2.82
PAIRS						
Section A						
	Player	Team	PI	W	L	Avg
1	G Ryder	Shepley A	17	13	4	2.82
2	W M Hambleton	Shepley A	20	15	5	2.80
3	D Holmes	Paddock I&C	18	11	7	2.11
4	Martin Dove	Brockholes A	17	7	10	-0.88
5	W Wittrick	Clayton West	18	6	12	-1.28
6	D Eastwood	Thongsbridge B	20	10	10	-2.60
7	M Jennings	Almondbury Lib.	18	6	12	-3.39
8	P McNulty	Primrose Hill Lib	17	5	12	-4.88
9	B Leadley	Almondbury Lib.	16	4	12	-5.38
Section B						
	Player	Team	PI	W	L	Avg
1	G Schofield	Crosland Moor	21	20	1	11.19
2	D Frost	Crosland Moor	21	20	1	10.95
3	T Crawford	Holmfirth	23	20	3	8.78
4	S Swift	Holmfirth	22	19	3	8.05
5	D Morrison	Hemplow	18	10	8	1.06
6	Dennis Wood	Shepley B	21	12	9	0.95
7	D Waterhouse	Hemplow	17	8	9	-0.24
8	J Cowan	Shepley B	21	11	10	-0.90
9	J Holden	Meltham	17	6	11	-3.76
10	S Goodwin	Meltham	23	8	15	-3.78

HDVBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday 19 February 2018

Had enough?

Although the season has ended there is still lots to happen off the greens of Kirklees and everything that does happen will get reported on our HDVBA website. Starting with a report later this month on the Club's Half-Year Meeting along with the results of the proposed rule changes including the drop in the qualifying age to 60.

So keep stopping by the website to keep abreast of all developments and we will still be producing the monthly newsletter right through the off-season so that will enable you to keep up to date with events as well. The Management Committee will continue to meet monthly so those reports will also be appearing on the website including decisions on the format of the leagues for next season once we know how many teams will be in our competition for the 2018 season.

Bowler Shortfalls

It is interesting to compare the number of matches played this year where teams failed to field a full complement of bowlers. The table below compares these shortages against last season and Section by Section. It is important to keep all this in perspective with just 48 games out of 1,196 league games affected.

SECTION	2016	2017
1	2	3
2	4	8
3	5	11
4	16	3
5	31	19
A	1	0
B	0	4
TOTAL	59	48

That represents an 18% reduction in games affected so does that mean the measures put in place with last year's rule changes about Starred Bowlers and how many players can drop down from senior teams in to B or C teams or to teams in the 6-man league are working?

The Management Committee still think there is more work to be done in helping teams with this problem and that is why they are proposing reducing the qualifying age for bowlers to 60 as another attempt to improve bowler availability.