



HUDDERSFIELD & DISTRICT VETERANS BOWLING ASSOCIATION

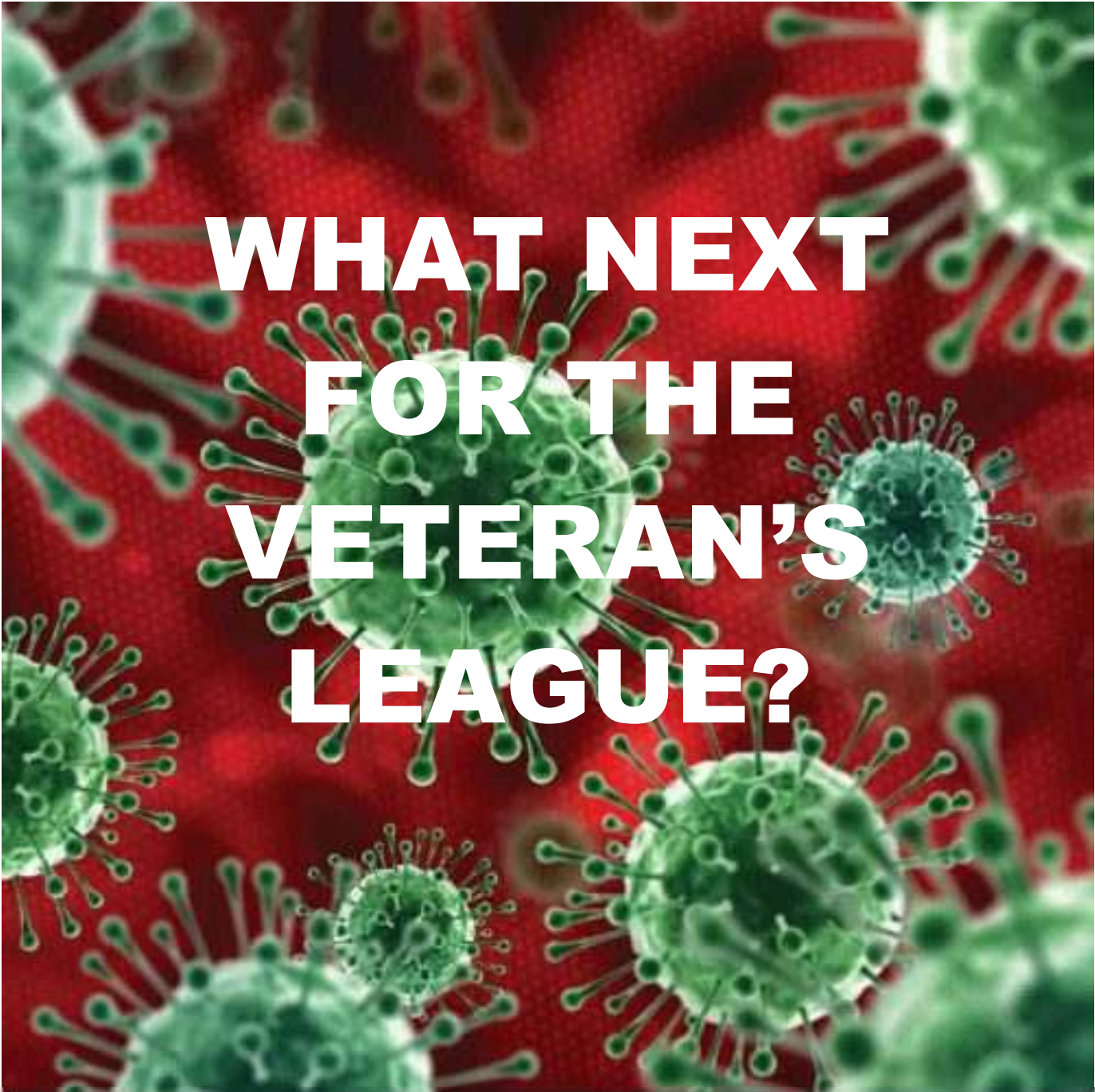
# NEWSLETTER

Number 40

April 2020

[www.hdvba.co.uk](http://www.hdvba.co.uk)

FREE



## WHAT NEXT FOR THE VETERAN'S LEAGUE?

### HAS CORONAVIRUS KILLED OUR SEASON?

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.

Thank you to PHILIP WALKER of LINDLEY B.C. for sponsoring this issue of the Newsletter

# WE'D RATHER BE BOWLING

## NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Jeff Jacklin

in fo@hdvba.co.uk

SUBSCRIBE/UNSUBSCRIBE at  
[www.hdvba.co.uk/Newsletter.htm](http://www.hdvba.co.uk/Newsletter.htm)

Subscription is open to all and free to all for ever

## IN THIS ISSUE ....

- ❖ Coronavirus - will it be the death of crown green bowling?
- ❖ Winter League update
- ❖ Obituaries - too many this month
- ❖ Transfers & New Bowlers - life goes on
- ❖ Annual Club Raffle Draw Result
- ❖ Bowling Laws Quiz
- ❖ Nostalgia - 5 Years ago this month

## APRIL ISSUE SPONSOR



I am very grateful to **PHILIP WALKER** of **Lindley Bowling Club** for his sponsorship of this issue of your newsletter. In fact Philip has also sponsored the next two monthly issues as well so I am increasingly indebted to his generous support. We welcome commercial and individual sponsorships. So if you enjoy the newsletter and would like to mark that in some way then I would be delighted to hear from you. Sponsorship costs just £20 per issue.

Following up on the March issue of the newsletter, which included a full preview of the coming 6-Man League season with a team-by-team assessment of their chances, I was expecting to include the 10-man equivalent this month. For obvious reasons that isn't going to happen now and we have a very different scenario facing us. Hopefully I am just freezing that half-written article for a future issue but maybe the threat to our sport is even greater than any of us have really realised.

It is best not to be too down about the present situation we are all in but in this issue we do take the time to look at the options open to us as a League and what the rest of this season could look like. We do have options and we can do some early naval gazing to help sow the seeds for what may be possible once this ban is behind us.

The issue of what happens about the annual league fees that clubs have already paid for the 2020 season has been raised. Some clubs are starting to feel the pinch of no income, no member fees, no match fees, no bar takings and questioning the lack of action from the bodies that are protected from financial problems having already secured their financial well-being by collecting these fees with little expectation that much, if any, will find its way back to the clubs.

Your Management Committee is holding a Conference Call virtual meeting on Monday 13 April to discuss this, along with other business. If you have a view on whether your club's annual fees should be refunded, donated or suspended until next season then you may care to air those views on the Members' Forum on our website before that date.

The new HDVBA website ([www.hdvba.co.uk](http://www.hdvba.co.uk)) continues to provide daily updates on anything but actual bowling activity - because there isn't any of course. But we do try and post something every day and the new interactive site invites you to comment on any posting or add to, or start, a discussion in the Member's Forum. Join in.

# IS THE SEASON REALLY OVER?

Reading all the things that continue to be written about the COVID-19 pandemic it is clear that we are unlikely to be able to run any kind of normal League programme in 2020. As much as many would like to cling to a shred of hope that the situation is recoverable the evidence points to there being no chance whatsoever of a full, or even part normal season unless we forgo the usual Championship, promotion and relegation issues.

We mustn't write off this season just yet as there are some options open to us but they are all very different to a normal season and anyone who thinks differently needs to have a reality check. Before we take a look at the options for some sort of competitive bowling later in the year let's put down in writing why I am writing this season off as having no chance of any normal League programme.

We are in the middle of a three-week lock-down where us old 'uns cannot leave our homes other than for emergencies or an hour long walk. All bowling clubs have been closed down by the Government directive.

We all know that this initial three-week lock-down is going to be extended for at least another three-weeks and there is even talk of social distancing being in place for six-months. Right from the early days of this pandemic the Government had indicated that they expected to enforce a 10-14 week lock-down for the elderly and vulnerable. They have never retracted that statement.

Taking an optimistic stance let's say that we are allowed to resume bowling from 1 June. Assuming we can be up and running immediately then there are 18 weeks until the end of September. I am assuming that no-one is advocating bowling into October (certainly no greenkeeper will). Will all clubs be aware of how many of their bowlers will make themselves available to allow them to field full teams every week? Will every green be fit enough to support a shortened fixture programme?

Only Section C of the 6-Man League with 10 teams could fit a full home and away fixture programme into that 18-week window. As for the other 7 Sections some would say that teams could play more than one match a week to catch up. Traditionally we have a number of teams that withdraw instantly from any team knock-out competition that isn't played on the usual Monday or Tuesday match-days. Their greens and bowlers are committed to other leagues on those days. Is it right that they are penalised for those reasons?

There is the option to play a full half-season of fixtures starting from 6 July. This would provide 10, 11 or 13 matches depending how many teams are in your Section. Inevitably this means that half of the teams would have played more home games than their opponents. I would suggest that this would mean that no promotion or relegation of prize money could be awarded to any team based on that imbalanced fixture programme. The option is there to still play the set fixtures but have no promotion or relegation this year. This is definitely a viable option.

So what are the other options?

I've considered a reorganisation of the 10-Man League Sections into smaller ones with less teams to allow a full home and away fixture programme to take place. Assuming all 64 current teams want to participate we could have eight Sections with eight teams in each. That provides for a 14-week season with all teams playing every Tuesday. Any left-over Tuesdays could be used for the early rounds of the Bistro, Team KO or Sub-Team KO competitions.

This option would prevent any promotion or relegation as we would revert to the current 14 or 12 team Sections for 2021 - or would we? This smaller Section option for the 6-Man League would result in four eight-team Sections so is a possibility as well covering all 32 current teams.

There is also the option to forgo any fixtures at all and run our team knock-out competitions on the usual Monday or Tuesday match-days. Even a July start 13-week season could accommodate the bulk of the Bistro, Team KO and Sub-Team KO competitions. However teams knocked out at the first hurdle would end up having only two matches all season. There could be a supplementary KO competition for first round casualties but again this is messy and would only result in one extra match for half of the teams.

We could also use any empty Mondays and Tuesdays to run our Individual and Pairs KO competitions. Personally I would very much hope that we could at least run our Rose Bowl this year as it is its 50<sup>th</sup> year of being contested having started life in 1971.

So still many unanswered questions and nothing can be firmed up until we have the all-clear from the Government to resume normal activity. However it is clear that we do have some options to have some form of competitive bowling this year but we have to rule out a normal full League season, that boat has already sailed.



## WINTER LEAGUE UPDATE

I awoke on the morning of Monday 23rd March to a wonderful blue sky with a hint of warmth that was to flourish and peak at 17C later in the day. This was the first day of two that we had organised to test out the playing format for a new Winter League competition. It would have been a wonderful opportunity to ease bowlers into a competition although they are all of an age not to be deceived about the reality of a full season of sunshine days of bowling.

The second Monday of the two-day trial was overcast and cooler but dry and unlikely to deter any avid bowler from testing their long mark capabilities. I am sure that the two-days would have provided a good test of the '5-jacks on the green at once' proposed format to guide us to finalising a proper and realistic format for a full Winter season of bowling at Springwood BC.

However that is not to be and we move on and once we get the go-ahead to resume a normal life we will be looking to rearrange at least one of those test days before finalising the preferred format for a new Winter League to start in October 2020. I am sure by then we will have a lot of deprived bowlers straining at the leash to have some sort of 'bowling fix' to overcome their withdrawal symptoms and satisfy their cravings.

We currently have 10 teams signed up to testing out the proposed format and those 10 teams will get first refusal to form the membership of the first Winter league season. Those teams being Springwood, Milnsbridge, Marsh Utd, Kirkheaton Con, Huddersfield Recreation Club (2 teams), Lowerhouses, Denby Dale, Almondbury Lib and Meltham.

Still to be decided...

- Number of bowlers per team - 3, 4, 6?
- Playing format - number of singles/pairs?
- 5 Jacks on the green at once?
- 8 or 10 teams in one League?
- More than 10 teams in two leagues?
- Match days - Tuesdays or Wednesdays?
- Scoring system - aggregate or games?
- Who will run the League?
- The HDVBA, the host club, the member teams, the sponsor or one individual?
- Sponsorship arrangements/obligations?
- League name?

I would hope that we are able to answer all these questions for the opening season by the beginning of September at the latest and then look forward to a mild Winter which has been the norm for the last few years to enjoy a full uninterrupted Winter League season (we can dream!).

## OBITUARIES



**TOMMY DUNFORD** (photo by Chris Squires)

It is with great sadness that we have to report the passing of Tommy Dunford of Brockholes B.C. Tommy was a great servant to the HDVBA over many years. He held a combination of the positions of General Secretary, League Secretary and Competitions Secretary for a total of ten years between 1996 and 2008. That makes him the longest serving official of the Veteran's League ever. On top of that he had several years as a member of the Management Committee.

We are also aware of four other club members who have passed on in March.

**CLIFFORD WHEELWRIGHT:** A regular member of the Slaithwaite Veteran's League team over recent years and also a long-standing member of Outlane BC. Clifford suffered a stroke a few years ago which left him without the use of his left arm, his bowling arm. Undeterred Clifford taught himself to bowl with his right arm so that he could continue to enjoy his sport.

**PETER PRESTON:** Peter was a Veteran's bowler for Milnsbridge for many years. A left-hander renowned for slow play with his singles matches often extending beyond the time of a football match. Regardless of that he was a real gentleman and character and the club will miss him greatly.

**COLIN PERRY:** Colin has been a popular member of the Marsden Park veterans team for many years and played a full part in their 6-Man League Section C title win of last season. When Marsden Park dropped their 10-man team last year Colin registered with Hemplow and played a full season in their B team's league programme last year.

**DONALD PILLING:** Well known and highly regarded within local bowling circles and particularly at his home club of Outlane BC. Another sad loss to local bowling circles.

# TRANSFERS & NEW BOWLERS

This may seem like a pretty meaningless listing of new bowler registrations and transfers but the fact remains that these changes will all be effective from whenever we resume bowling. Also of course we know how much people like to keep abreast of who has changed clubs and who they may be facing next season whenever that is.

There is no reason why transfers shouldn't continue as they would in a normal close-season with the minimum of administrative effort. Any club asking for a bowler transfer should contact the League Secretary who will liaise between the clubs to ensure the change happens with the minimum of disruption and effort to all parties.

## NEW REGISTRATIONS FOR 2020 SEASON

DATE	NAME	CLUB
14 Oct 2019	Graham Berry	Lowerhouses (10man)
16 Oct 2019	Graham Berry	Honley Con (6man)
16 Oct 2019	Chris Hampshire	Honley Con
16 Oct 2019	Martin Heap	Honley Con
16 Oct 2019	Carl Brierley	Honley Con
10 Dec 2019	Stuart Stanley	Cowcliffe
17 Dec 2019	Bernard Dobson	David Brown Sports
7 Jan 2020	Philip Morgan	Farnley Tyas
7 Jan 2020	Kevin Curran	Farnley Tyas
1 Sep 2020	J D Hoyle	Farnley Tyas
22 Jan 2020	Laurence Riley	Clayton West
28 Jan 2020	Malcolm Dibb	Outlane
29 Jan 2020	Chris Beslin	Honley Con
29 Jan 2020	Steve Hamby	Honley Con
29 Jan 2020	Trevor Caddock	Honley Con
29 Jan 2020	Robert Gatenby	Honley Con
31 Jan 2020	Neil Wilson	Golcar Lib
31 Jan 2020	Antony Cross	Slaithwaite
3 Feb 2020	Ray Whitwam	Golcar Lib
12 Feb 2020	Les Mitchell	Elland C&BC
12 Feb 2020	Trevor Horner	Paddock I&C
16 Feb 2020	David Thorpe	New Mill
18 Feb 2020	Dave Clegg	Milnsbridge
18 Feb 2020	John Hall	Milnsbridge
18 Feb 2020	George Henry	Milnsbridge
18 Feb 2020	Stephen Tidswell	Milnsbridge
18 Feb 2020	Stephen Withington	Milnsbridge
18 Feb 2020	John Thwaite	Milnsbridge
21 Feb 2020	Kenneth Taylor	Clayton West
22 Feb 2020	Shaun Metcalf	Kirkheaton Con
3 Mar 2020	Philip Hoyle	Huddersfield Rec
3 Mar 2020	George Austen	Huddersfield Rec
3 Mar 2020	Peter Taylor	Denby Dale
4 Mar 2020	David Laidlaw	Marsh Lib
6 Mar 2020	Adrian Dyson	Slaithwaite
16 Mar 2020	Derek Hanner	Rastrick
16 Mar 2020	Richard Crossland	Rastrick
16 Mar 2020	Robert Laycock	Rastrick
16 Mar 2020	Roy Chapman	Rastrick
17 Mar 2020	Simon Cave	New Mill

## TRANSFERS FOR 2020 SEASON

DATE	NAME	FROM	TO
16 Oct 2019	Phil Warbrick	Farnley Tyas	Honley Con
16 Oct 2019	Brian Sheard	Farnley Tyas	Honley Con
16 Oct 2019	Graham Berry	Farnley Tyas	Honley Con
16 Oct 2019	Nicholas Hirst	Farnley Tyas	Honley Con
18 Oct 2019	David Quarmby	Broad Oak	Meltham
19 Nov 2019	Nigel Nunn	Broad Oak	Paddock I&C
5 Dec 2019	Dennis Goude	Milnsbridge	Greenhead Park
11 Dec 2019	George Fellows	Meltham	Slaithwaite
13 Jan 2020	Paul Toon	Kirkheaton C&BC	Waterloo
14 Jan 2020	Charlie Landon	Thorpe Green	Broad Oak
21 Jan 2020	Geoff Crowther	Golcar C&BC	Golcar Lib
27 Jan 2020	Michael Lee	Lindley Lib	Almondbury Lib
5 Feb 2020	Brian Hallas	Kirkheaton C&BC	Huddersfield Rec.
19 Feb 2020	Brian Jenkins	Milnsbridge	Lockwood Con
1 Mar 2020	John Clarkson	Waterloo	Almondbury BC
3 Mar 2020	Gilbert Thomas	Lowerhouses	Greenhead Park
6 Mar 2020	Brian Burhouse	Longwood	Slaithwaite
31 Mar 2020	Roy Hallam	Skel Windmill	Denby Dale

## ANNUAL CLUB RAFFLE

Drawn on 31 March 2020

1 <sup>st</sup>	£100	84	FARNLEY TYAS
2 <sup>nd</sup>	£50	54	CROSLAND MOOR
3 <sup>rd</sup>	£25	200	LOWERHOUSES

## ??? BOWLING LAWS ???

## ????? QUIZ TIME ?????

Dave likes a smoke. He recently bought an electric cigarette from Ye Olde Vape Shoppe.

He's trying it out whilst scoring at a Vets match at Brockholes. His team-mate is playing and he asks Dave 'Who's on?'

Dave walks on to the green, still enjoying his new type of cigarette and gives his opinion to his team mate.

**Q1. Is Dave allowed to smoke an electronic cigarette whilst on the green?**

**Q2. Is Dave allowed onto the green?**

**Q3. What guidance do the laws give to scorers?**

If you feel confident enough you can post your guesses on the HDVBA Member's Forum website. Answers will appear on that site in due course.

*Quiz set by Allan Dobson*

# Nostalgia

## 5 YEARS AGO APRIL 2015

The new 2015 season was underway five years ago this week and Lockwood Cons began the successful defence of their Section 1 title with an emphatic 9-0 home win to go straight to the top of the first league table of the year. Clayton West also opened with a 9-0 win and promoted Lindley Lib had an 8-1 victory to open their account.

Canalside and Newsome both still had their own greens and both used that to their advantage to record big opening day Section 2 wins. Cowcliffe began with a first day defeat at Meltham B but they go on to lift the end of season title

In Section 3 Linthwaite Hall were still featuring in our 10-Man league as were Marsden Park and the B teams from Waterloo and Skel Windmill, all now gone.

Lindley Lib B and Brockholes B both had good opening day Section 4 wins to set them on their way to eventual promotion. And we still operated an eight-team Section 5 where teams played each other four times for the last time as an end of season reorganisation put an end to that unpopular set-up.

A 24-team 6-Man League with Longwood and Lockwood continuing to dominate the top Section whilst in Section B Meltham beat Newsome on the opening day by 5-2. Both teams were to gain an end of season promotion with Newsome taking the title.

Clubs were using Bowlsnet to input their match results for the very first time this month in 2015 and a new HDVBA Facebook page saw the light of day for the first time.



The next meeting of the HDVBA Management Committee is a Conference Call Virtual Meeting at 10am on Monday 13th April 2020

10-MAN LEAGUE 2015					
Tue 7th Apr			Section 1		
147	Clayton West	9 v. 0	Marsh United A	64	
123	Crosland Moor	7 v. 2	Golcar Lib. A	114	
139	Lindley Lib. A	8 v. 1	Elland C & BC A	101	
147	Lockwood Con.	9 v. 0	Thongsbridge A	88	
132	Milnsbridge A	7 v. 2	Meltham A	109	
141	Netherton Con. A	7 v. 2	Almondbury Lib.	84	
138	Waterloo A	7 v. 2	Kirkheaton Con.	81	
Tue 7th Apr			Section 2		
127	Almondbury B.C. A	6 v. 3	Brockholes A	119	
147	Canalside A	9 v. 0	Springwood	98	
113	Lindley B.C. A	3 v. 6	Broad Oak A	120	
121	Meltham B	5 v. 4	Cowcliffe	119	
140	Newsome	8 v. 1	Milnsbridge B	108	
131	Rastrick	7 v. 2	Hemphow	104	
143	Shepley	8 v. 1	Skel Windmill A	109	
Tue 7th Apr			Section 3		
120	Kirkheaton C & BC A	6 v. 3	Paddock I & C	105	
117	Linthwaite Hall	5 v. 4	Holmfirth A	114	
100	Marsden Park	2 v. 7	Almondbury B.C. B	141	
132	New Mill A	7 v. 2	Waterloo B	91	
121	Ravensknowle Park A	6 v. 3	Bradley & Colne	112	
107	Skel Windmill B	2 v. 7	Thorpe Green	129	
140	Slaithwaite	7 v. 2	Netherton Con. B	118	
Tue 7th Apr			Section 4		
126	Brockholes B	7 v. 2	David Brown Sports	112	
109	Dalton	3 v. 6	Lowerhouses	128	
135	Denby Dale	7 v. 2	Canalside B	112	
88	Elland C & BC B	2 v. 7	Lindley Lib. B	124	
136	Holmfirth B	6 v. 3	Huddersfield RUFC	107	
83	Primrose Hill Lib.	2 v. 7	Meltham C	134	
128	Thongsbridge B	6 v. 3	Outlane	122	
Tue 7th Apr			Section 5		
114	Greenhead Park	6 v. 3	New Mill B	97	
139	Broad Oak B	7 v. 2	Lindley B.C. B	96	
139	Golcar Lib. B	7 v. 2	Kirkheaton C & BC B	99	
139	Marsh United B	7 v. 2	Ravensknowle Park B	94	
6-MAN LEAGUE 2015					
Mon 13th Apr			Section A		
105	Almondbury Lib.	7 v. 0	Lindley Lib.	38	
101	Brockholes A	6 v. 1	Thongsbridge B	66	
90	Canalside	5 v. 2	Crosland Moor	87	
105	Clayton West	7 v. 0	Golcar Lib.	45	
105	Lockwood Con.	7 v. 0	Paddock I & C	33	
90	Longwood	5 v. 2	Shepley A	78	
Mon 13th Apr			Section B		
91	Greenhead Park	3 v. 4	Farnley Tyas	90	
90	Meltham	5 v. 2	Newsome WM	80	
84	Oakfield T & BC	5 v. 2	Netherton Con.	57	
71	Shepley B	2 v. 5	Holmfirth	100	
82	Skel Windmill	2 v. 5	Hemphow	94	
99	Thongsbridge A	5 v. 2	Brockholes B	88	