

Oxford & District Bowls League. Week 1 – 13/05/2010

As this year's Oxford & District Bowls League sponsored by Yarnton Nurseries got off to a start the question on everyone's lips is whether anyone will be able to prevent reigning champions Banbury Central A taking their seventh successive title. New players at Headington A help make them many people's favourites but with Central's whitewash of newly promoted South Oxford A the standard is again set. Headington beat Bicester and in the other top flight game, City & County A took the points at home to Banbury Chestnuts.

Division 2 saw the battle of Witney as promoted Mills secured the bragging rights over their relegated green mates West. Cotswold got off to a great start beating City & County B with 17 year old skip Shane Cooper enjoying a fifteen shot win. In the south of the county clash Shiplake beat Thame.

Birthday boy George Brown had the edge taken off his day as he was the only losing skip for Blackbird Leys, but his team mates did their bit when securing a comprehensive victory at home to Charlbury in Division 3. Bloxham beat neighbours Banbury Central and in a very tight game at Osler Road, promoted Headington B won by the odd shot against visitors Woodstock. Other promoted team Witney Town also started their campaign with a win at home to Rover.

In Division 4 veteran campaigner Henry Franklin's fourteen shot win made the difference for Watlington in their victory over Chipping Norton. Both clubs will be looking to bounce back up after relegation last year. Newly formed South Oxford B are finding early days tough with opening defeats against West Oxford and OUP. West suffered mixed fortunes as, following their whitewash of South B, they lost at home to Chadlington. Hanborough entertained Florence Park in the last game of the day and lost by one shot although shared the points.

Results:

Division 1

Banbury Central A 90(6pts) South Oxford A 52(0) L Champion 24, J Hall 12; M Sykes 23, K Clarke 11; J Tee 21, M Keen 17; P Norton 22, R Claridge 12

Bicester 66(1.5) Headington A 78(4.5) K Taylor 21, P Mabbutt 17; A Hall 12, H Watts 25; J King 16, M Charlett 16; P Hooley 17, C Nicoll 20

City & County A 75(4.5) Banbury Chestnuts 66(1.5) M Petersen 14, B Neal 24; C Earl 18, D Bryant 14; R Gaskins 16, D Munslow 16; A Ley 27, A Northcote 12

Division 2

Cotswold 88(5) City & County B 64(1) T Cox 21, N Satchell 12; D Cooper 19, O Sharif 21; S Cooper 30, M Charlett 15; M Brain 18, G Swann 16

Shiplake 69(4) Thame 57(2) B Lambourne 23, R Slater 10; B Evans 18, R Duncan 14; J Bland 16, J Lester 17; T Beaumont 12, J Timms 16

West Witney 75(1) Witney Mills 81(5) T Prew 18, R Barnett 21; M Hitchcox 25, J Mott 23; H Williams 18, L Days 22; K Alder 14, A Auger 15

Division 3

Blackbird Leys 97(5) Charlbury 68(1) G Brown 19, J Stevens 23; R Brain 26, D Dix 18; G Roper 26, C R Skidmore 12; S O'Keefe 26, M Smith 15

Bloxham 83(5) Banbury Central B 69(1) J Crawley 20, T Mold 17; J Hay 21, R Havard 9; J Lucas 17, B Collins 24; J Stephens 25, R Cox 19

Headington B 75(3.5) Woodstock 74(2.5) T Murphy 15, R Collett 16; R Edwards 18, K Comley 25; C Jones 24, W Major 15; M Kershaw 18, B Clarke 18

Witney Town 84(5) Rover 71(1) B Buckingham 25, A Peters 16; B Bloomfield 11, M Bracewell 22; F Dawson 24, K Hall 14; V Comley 24, J Warland 19

Division 4

Played 6th May: West Oxford 88(6) South Oxford B 42(0) M Alderson 28, D Portman 11; F Buck 21, M Freeman 9; P Moffat 15, D Walker 11; M Bostock 24, V DePaaw 11

13th May: Hanborough 68(3) Florence Park 69(3) G Thompson 17, P Booth 16; G Haynes 11, J Simmons 25; J Edwards 22, S Green 16; M Oliver 18, I Gray 12

South Oxford B 67(2) OUP 83(4) M Lyne 23, P Cornish 21; D Walker 17, R Vaulter 12; D Portman 15, P Tweddle 27; M Freeman 12, J Taylor 23

Watlington 77(5) Chipping Norton 69(1) R Gilkes 17, P Rathbone 15; H Franklin 29, D Barnes 15; G Hooker 10, J Benfield 25; S Gilkes 21, J Quinn 14

West Oxford 73(2.5) Chadlington 75(3.5) B Stone 21, P Radbone 19; P Moffat 18, R Arthur 14; B Murphy 15, P Madeley 23; M Bostock 19, P Heath 19