



ODIHAM X V HOOK RAVENS
JAM LEAGUE CUP
26th FEBRUARY 2026

For the sake of your own eardrums please imagine the next line being sung by Doris Day and not by me! Que Sera, Sera - Whatever will be, will be, we're going to Wemberley! Well Fleet actually and hopefully Farnborough Gate!

The dream of promotion for the Ravens may well have been over but the hope of an extended season made today's match away at Odiham X a must win game. A win would put the Ravens into the plate competition knockout phase, a 10-0 defeat would mean elimination but a 6-4 defeat left a little wiggle room as the Ravens could afford to lose by a maximum of 14 points. This was the 4th time we played Odiham X this season and having previously beaten them in the other 3 matches the hope of victory was high. However, experience has led us to not count our chickens!

Our heavy defeat at Odiham last week against their 'D' team meant there was some level of trepidation amongst the squad and with good reason as it turned out! The Blue mat saw Ken Hawkins at Lead, Brenda Grout at second and Albert Johnson at Skip. Albert Played on the blue mat last week and went straight in to a 13-0 lead before eventually losing the match right at the end! This week the Hook trio took a 15-0 lead after 7 ends and looked good. Then Odiham decided to revisit their other team's version of bowls and started to claw points back 2 or 3 points at a time. You could sense the nerves start to set in and the relief of Hook taking a shot on the 12th end for a 16-8 lead seemed to give them the confidence they needed. Try as they might, Odiham kept the pressure on and after 17 ends the score was 18-15 to Hook. Hook battled and battled but things did not go their way as Odiham landed shot after shot right on the jack. The luck for Hook finally completely dried up and Odiham took a mat winning 6 for a 21-18 win! Albert was stunned, as were his two partners. Captain Chris told him that next time he needs to let the opposition win the first end and break the hoodoo!

If the trio on the Blue mat had that dejavu feeling, the triple on the green mat were fearing the same! Last week saw the green mat team 22-0 down after 9 ends so you can imagine the feeling when this week we were 5-0 down after the first 3 ends! Thankfully Hook took a single off the 4th end to end the fears. Hook then took 2 off the 5th end before Odiham took a single off the 6th for a 6-3 lead. That happened then was as bizarre as the previous week and indeed the other mat but this time fortune favoured the visitors. The Ravens went on to win 11 ends on the trot and by the time Odiham took 2 off the final end the match was already done and dusted. A fantastic 20-8 win meant a 6 points to 4 victory with the combined score of 38-29 to Hook Ravens.

This result meant the Ravens had qualified for the Semi Final of the Plate Competition where they will face Howard Park Greens at Fleet United on Thursday March 12th. The winners of that match will face the winner of the Alencon 25 v Odiham 'D' match and the final will be at Farnborough Gate. For those who might be interested in the main competition, the final of the cup will be played at Hook on March 19th.

One more league match to play and we finally return to home after 3 away matches on the trot. Next week we welcome Crondall to Hook as they have hopes of promotion. That hangs in the balance as Odiham D have a game in hand to play that might make the match a dead rubber as they say in tennis. Great to have 2 supporters for the away match today and we have all been grateful for the support from all that have watched this season.

Go Ravens