



HOOK RAVENS V ALENCON 25
JAM LEAGUE
29th JANUARY 2026

Sometimes things simply don't go your way or you play against a team that is simply better. Today, both of those things combined and it was a tough day at the office as Alencon 25 walked away with all 10 points. Both mats were under relentless pressure from the visitors and on so many occasions were in great positions to take a handful of shots only for the opposition skip to get the rub of luck or simply play such a skilful shot.

Mat 1 saw Ken Hawkins at Lead, Martyn Kee at Second and Liz Wilson at Skip. The team battled valiantly until the end even though defeat perhaps could have been accepted after 7 ends when Alencon lead 15-3. After that the points started to dry up a little for the visitors as the Hook players started several potential comebacks but alas their fighting spirit was in vain. Alencon took the mat 8-28.

Mat 3 saw Carole Newman at Lead, Brenda Grout at second and Paul Crook at Skip. As with Mat 1 defeat could have been seen after 7 ends as the visitors lead 13-4, a take of 6 shots on the 3rd end did not help. The match took a strange turn after the 7th end when there wasn't a single end again where more than 1 shot was claimed by either side. Hook won 8 of the final 11 ends but the damage had already been done. Frustration set in a couple of times, threats made to burn bowls after the match but a general acceptance that Mat 3 is not fun and things simply were not going our way today. This mat final score was close with the visitors taking it 12-16.

Both mats did well to enforce measures when Alencon tried to clean up the head in a hurry but that pressure lead to shots counting for Hook.

There was a couple of lighter moments during the match with Tommy Cooper impressions on Mat 3 and a bizarre shot from Brenda on the 6th end. Her delivery was very close to another bowl and Paul was heard to say that it hugged it, kissed it and a lot more. Captain Chris commented that it obviously wasn't a first date! That end was so close that the final delivery was so close to making two shots for Hook but the jack was moved a centimetre too far and the visitors took 1 instead.

That summed up the day!

My thanks go to 6 who played today for never giving up and despite the scoreline they did give Alencon a game and made them work hard for the victory. The crowd of 3 were entertained and did stay until the end.

We pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off and look ahead to the cup match next week when Cove will visit Hook. If results go our way we could be guaranteed a place in the knockout phase of either the cup or the plate competition. Finally it was nice to see the team play with smiles and recognise the play of our opponents but this was by far the toughest match to do that in.

Go Ravens