



CRONDALL V HOOK RAVENS
JAM LEAGUE
6TH NOVEMBER 2025

When is 1/2 an inch worth so much in a game of bowls? When you are delivering the final shot in a match knowing you have less than that as leeway to take victory! I have never seen a match end up with both mats delivering a scoreline that in no way reflected the closeness of the play. However when the scores were combined the scoreline did reflect the closeness. The Crondall Skip on Mat 2 might not have been fully aware of the significance of his final delivery but if he did then he was ice cool! Going into the final end on Mat 2 it was already decided as a win for your Ravens on Mat 1 and a win for Crondall, the hosts, on Mat 2. The combined score was 27-27. Crondall started the end in the tenacious style they had delivered all match but the Ravens' trio of Marilyn Murphy as Lead, Brenda Grout at Second and Albert Johnson as Skip piled on the pressure as well. Crondall saw their hold of the end crumble when Albert sent in a shot to knock their best wood out and leave Hook holding 2. Step up the Crondall skip who delivered a backhand shot with absolute precision to knock Albert's shot and take the point and along with it the victory overall. The first defeat in the league for the Ravens and the after match thoughts turned to the what if moments of the match. If is the middle of life and for every thought of points dropped there was one of snatching points from nowhere to replace it. Captain Chris thought the Ravens would drop down a couple of places in the league but the 4 points won today meant they actually moved from second in the league to TOP! Your Ravens are top of the league on points difference and they will remain there for over a week as next week sees the action return to the JAM League Cup Competition.

The day started well for the Ravens with the Mat 2 personnel taking the odd shot here and there to lead the way for most of the first 8 ends. The team on Mat 1 (Dave Wilson at Lead, Steve Potts at Second and Liz Wilson at Skip) dominated the first 8 ends to lead 8-2. This gave Hook an overall score of 14-7 and then it all changed in the 9th ends. This was the only end that the fortunes of the squad played out the same. You could sense the frustration on both mats as no matter what shot Hook played, it did not hit the spot. Both mats lost the end with Mat 2 taking a hit of 5 shots against. You could see the initial shock of that score but to the credit of the players they dusted themselves off and got back into it.

On Mat 1 the play was excellent and it was nice that most actions of lady luck went Hook's way. The Crondall Lead was playing with very small bowls whilst the Hook team were playing with larger ones that either forced the Crondall bowls out or were immovable when struck by the Crondall ones. The Crondall Lead played well throughout the match but was rarely, if ever left in the shout for points, as is the normal life of a Lead! Hook continued to dominate the play despite Crondall's best efforts to mount a challenge. Captain Chris was keeping an eye on the scores overall and on the final end he told Steve Potts that points were paramount to keep alive the chance of overall victory. Great work from all 3 players meant Hook took 4 shots and the game was on again overall.

On Mat 2 the luck went the other way with two events showing how the hard work of Hook's trio meant several points were lost to poor fortune. Firstly Hook were holding a fair few points when the Crondall Skip delivered his Hail May shot and as soon as he released the bowl he stated that he had delivered it on the wrong line and was disappointed. That is until it hit a bowl on the right of the mat and wicked across at 90 degrees to head straight toward the jack and land in shot position. That shot eventually took the point. The other event saw Albert deliver an absolutely superb shot with the final bowl of an end and land bang on the jack that was already within 1/2 an inch of two Crondall bowls. As the Hook arms rose in celebration they watched in horror as

Albert's bowl slowly fell away from the Jack and leave Crondall holding 2 shots. Although it happened in slow motion there was never any time to measure or claim the shot. Sadly Crondall winning 8 of the final 9 ends meant the win went their way.

Over the season it is always recognised that the luck a team receives is usually balanced out and it is also recognised that in every bit of luck there is actually a bit of skill involved as well. Both mats saw some excellent bowls from all players on both sides and the match was played in a friendly manner and that is what matters in reality. It is very nice to be top of the table after 4 matches but it is even nicer to see people enjoying playing and I hope that the smiles stay on the faces for the rest of the season. On to the cup next week and an away match at Cove from the top division.

Such a proud captain and a big thank you to all the Ravens.

Go Ravens