



MARNELL V HOOK RAVENS  
JAM LEAGUE CUP  
15TH JANUARY 2026

They say you can learn a great deal about yourself and others when things aren't going quite as planned. That was certainly true about the Ravens today after their 10-0 defeat by Marnell in the JAM League Cup. The overall score of 42-24 to Marnell did not reflect the true play in the match. Mat 2 consisting of Chris Vickers at Lead, Elaine Bennett at Second and Albert Johnson at Skip had a topsy-turvy match with the lead changing hands several times. Although Hook struggled to get the speed of the mat right they did take the first 4 ends, each by a single shot. Such was the closeness of the match it took 8 ends before either side won more than 1 shot on an end. Sadly 4 of the next 5 ends saw the home team take 2 shots and a 10-6 lead. Hook fought back valiantly and took a 2 and then a 4 to suddenly hold a 12-10 lead. Marnell then retook the lead and eventually Hook needed to take 5 off the final end for a draw. At one point we were holding 4, possibly 5 and we were dreaming of a comeback as great as the one Stan pulled off in the league against the other Marnell side. Sadly the Marnell skip did what he had been doing all game and placed a well delivered shot to reduce the Hook shots to 3 and despite Albert's valiant efforts that is what Hook took.

Over on mat 1, Ken Hawkins at Lead, Brenda Grout at Second and Stan Goddard at Skip, were having a very tough time and after 4 ends were 10-0 down. Did they crumble? No they did not! They kept nipping at the heels of the Marnell side but the one thing that ran throughout the match was Lady Luck sitting on the sideline wearing a Marnell shirt! If there was any chance of a bit of luck going one way or the other, it always went the way of Marnell. That is not to say that Marnell were not a good side because they are but the battle seemed ten times harder for the Hook trio. The fact that Hook took ends 12-16 showed how hard they were trying. Games are often broken down into little challenges and Hook found themselves battling to make double figures. Sadly they didn't get there and went down 25-9.

At the start of the report I mentioned finding out about how people react when things don't go your way. The mix of hurt, frustration and a bit of disappointment alongside sporting behaviour and well earned pride made me a very proud team captain but also a very proud member of Hook Bowling Club. We were beaten by a team that played better than us and recognising that is an important lesson to all that play sport. We are not going to win every match, as much as we want to. How we behave when we lose is something we have seen at other clubs is often not enjoyed. Heads were held high and the squad regroup and look forward to the rest of the season.

The loss knocks us off the top of the cup group but only into second place. The new format of the Cup means that the team that finishes top of the group will progress to the Cup Semi Final and now the team that finishes second will progress to the Plate Semi Final so there is still much to play for in the final two cup matches.

Next week sees us return to the league and an away match at Odiham.

Go Ravens