



HOOK RAVENS V MARNELL (J)
JAM LEAGUE CUP
23RD OCTOBER 2025

Our attention turned to the JAM Cup today and we welcomed Marnell (J) from the top league to Hook in the first game of this competition. The lead up to this match was not perfect as Team Captain Chris was away on holiday and he was extremely grateful that Liz Wilson agreed to step in as captain and even more grateful that she had recovered from a heavy cold to be able to play. An original squad had been selected and then the curse of winter and health struck. 3 players became unavailable due to medical reasons and we wish them all the best with their recoveries, results. Many thanks go to the last minute substitutes that were able to step in and ensure the fixture could go ahead.

I promised Liz that she would not have to do a write up for the match so this is all my work and made up from the scorecards!

Mat 1 consisted of Elaine Bennett at Lead, Brenda Grout at Second and Martyn Kee at Skip. They flew out of the blocks just as Albert's team did last week and they looked strong throughout. Marnell never lost complete touch and at the half way stage Hook lead 10-7. The next 4 ends were nip and tuck and then Marnell took 3 ends on the trot to lead 15-13 after 16 ends. The Hook trio could feel victory slipping through their fingers when a magnificent 5 on the 17th end suddenly put Hook 18-15 up. It is easier to defend a 3 shot lead going into the final end than it is to chase it. Easier but far from easy! Marnell took it but with only 1 shot and the Ravens celebrated a hard fought 18-16 victory.

Mat 3 was Dave Wilson at Lead, Jane Tatnall at Second and Liz Wilson at Skip. They saw Marnell run away with the first 5 ends and stretch into a 10-0 lead. Sounds bad but that is only an average of 2 shots per end so not insurmountable. The Ravens must have sensed this and started picking up shots here and there and after 9 ends were within 4 shots. Great resilience but we all know that takes its toll and Marnell retook control and were soon 10 shots ahead again. An eventual 21-12 loss was a credit to how the Hook 3 continued to try their best, knowing their score still has an impact on the overall result. That result was a 4-6 loss by 30 points to 37.

This was a great effort against a team from a higher tier and I am so very proud of the team that played and I am sure Marnell left knowing they had been in a tough match, I can't ask for more than that. It is back to league action next Thursday when we welcome Odiham to our club. I will be back for that match but am still very much a while away from match fitness with my knee problem but I will be there to support the valiant Ravens.

Go Ravens