



HOOK RAVENS v COVE
JAM LEAGUE CUP
5th February 2026

The Ravens sadly lost back to back games for the first time this season in a very close game at home against Cove from the higher division. Missed chances, great skill, hard to get used to mats and lots of oohing and aahing from the crowd of 3 made this an intriguing game to watch.

Mat 1 saw Carole Newman at Lead, Chris Vickers at Second and Martyn Kee at Skip. They started well but the tide turned from the 5th end onward and Hook were left picking up scraps of points until the final end but by then it was too late. The Cove Skip played some unbelievable shots, none more so than when 4, yes 4, Hook bowls surrounded the jack by no further than 3 inches and he somehow got the right line to knock everything everywhere all at once and come out of it with 2 shots to Cove! Not everything was quite that exciting with Hook still thinking it was Christmas and gifting Cove points from strong positions but on such shots the intent was there but the execution not 100%. The mood was positive throughout but it was hard to watch for the crowd at times. The Hook trio were dejected when they finished but they should look to the positives from the match with many great shots played by all 3.

Mat 3 was definitely being called the mat of unpredictability! Lines that Ken Hawkins at Lead, Elaine Bennett at Second and Albert Johnson at Skip, had previously mastered on this mat, were never to be found. Whereas Mat 1 was very much a close match on every end this Mat kept swinging from side to side. Hook would take 4, 5 or 6 shots on one end only for Cove to do something similar on the next! Hook raced into a great lead, Cove pulled back, Hook extended the lead again and Cove came back again. Great for the neutral but stressful for the Hook players and fans. The final end summed up the overall match with Hook leading 20-18 on the mat but trailing 31-33 overall. Mat 1 had already finished and they watched on with hope that 3 they took off the final end would help their teammates gain an overall victory. Ken and Elaine had placed bowls in handy positions and were holding 1 when it was Albert's turn. One too shallow and one too wide had the crowd watching every roll of the bowls. With the final delivery Albert needed to draw to the jack or even better knock the jack back for a possible 4. Delivered with confidence it looked good but then the Mat 3 curse struck and the bowl headed toward the block and just knocked the end of it! A valiant attempt by the Hook trio but only 1 shot so a 32-33 defeat. Cove had only won 1 other match this season and that was also away in the cup!

The season is now at a crucial stage with 3 league matches and 1 cup group stage match to play. The Ravens are still in with a chance of promotion and also making the knock out stage of the cup or plate competition. Next week sees us return to the league with a visit to Farnborough Gate in a must win match.

Go Ravens