

## THE HARDY B LEAGUE 2009

After gaining promotion from Division 2 in 2008, Isle of Purbeck completed a league and cup double in 2009. They won six of their eight matches with particularly strong performances at home where they won all four matches with a points difference of 17.5 to 2.5. They added wins at Knighton Heath and Yeovil to finish three points clear of Wareham who improved one place from third in 2008. The 2008 Champions, Knighton Heath, had to rely on point's difference to retain their place in the top flight after they finished level on points with Meyrick Park. Yeovil, the Division Two champions in the previous year, managed only two wins and dropped straight back into Division Two.

After getting a bye in the first round and beating Knighton Heath 5-0 in Round Two, Isle of Purbeck were made to work hard for their cup win. They eliminated the holders, Weymouth, in the semi final at Bulbury after playing extra holes and in the final won at the second extra hole after both legs had finished 2.5-2.5. It was their first cup final since 1993.

Sherborne made it successive promotions to regain a place in the top flight. They lost only one of their eight matches (at Weymouth) and were held to a draw by Dudsbury. Weymouth were promoted alongside them with twelve points but Dudsbury were still in with a chance of going up until the last match of the season. Dorset G & CC Canford School managed only one win each and went down with four and three points respectively.

There was little to choose between the teams in Division Three with only four points separating top from bottom. Bulbury went up ten points but the next three teams had identical records (four wins and four defeats) and the places were decided by point's difference. MoorsValley went up with 22, Parkstone maintained their place with 20.5 and Canford Magna went down (alongside Rushmore) with 17.

Crane Valley, relegated in 2008, bounced back in 2009 to regain their place in Division Three as Champions of Division Four on points difference from Queens Park after both had amassed ten points. Bridport, Lyme Regis and Ferndown Forest all won three matches each but Bridport retained their place in Division Four as a result of the two draws that they scored against Crane Valley.

The hastily reformed Division Five was competitive with only Sturminster Marshall not having a realistic chance of promotion. Top place went to Folke who scored nine points from the six matches with their only defeat coming against the team that were promoted along with them – Came Down. The runners-up finished on seven points, level with Christchurch, the latter only losing second place in the last match of the season. Highcliffe and Cheddington ended with six points each and Ashley Wood were a further one point back