

HARDY LEAGUE “B”

REPORT 2008

Knighton Heath, Division Two Champions in 2007, followed up by becoming Division One champions in 2008. Six wins from their eight matches gave them a four point cushion over their nearest rivals.

Only two points separated runners up Bournemouth from fifth placed Dorset G & CC. Bournemouth, like Knighton Heath, won all four home matches but failed to pick up a point on their travels.

Wareham, Dudsbury and Dorset G & CC also lost half of their eight matches with Wareham and Dudsbury earning three wins and a draw from their remaining matches. Wareham avoided relegation with just half a point more from the individual games. Dorset G & CC scored an impressive 4-1 win at Wareham but were beaten at home by both Knighton Heath, and both Dudsbury and Wareham left with a point.

Replacing Dudsbury and Dorset G & CC in the top division in 2009 will be Yeovil and Isle of Purbeck.

Yeovil topped the Division Two table with eleven points. They were, surprisingly, held to a draw at home by Bulbury, who along with Parkstone were relegated having won two and drawn two of their eight matches, but won the corresponding fixture at Bulbury (4-1) and also took maximum points from their visit to Parkstone. Isle of Purbeck dropped a home point to Weymouth and picked up their only away points with a win at Bulbury. This should have opened the door to Weymouth, who were promoted from Division Three in 2007, but, although they picked up another away point at Parkstone a 4-1 home defeat by Yeovil left them one point adrift of the Isle of Purbeck.

Canford School and Sherborne finished first and second in Division Four in 2007 and finished in the same order in Division Three in 2008.

Canford School dropped their only home point to local rivals, Canford Magna, but won the return 3-2 and also won at Crane Valley.

This gave them a one point advantage over Sherborne, who won at Bridport and Crane Valley but gave Crane Valley one of their when they were beaten 3-2 at home.

Bridport were relegated along with Crane Valley – the latter going down for a second successive season.

It was a close thing at the top of Division Four with the top three separated by just one point. Moors Valley, who missed out on promotion in 2007 by a single point in 2007, made no mistake in 2008 and topped the table with eleven points. Their success was based on a 100% home record.

Rushmore also won all four home matches and added a win at Came Down. Queens Park were also unbeaten at home but wins at Ashley Wood and Came Down were cancelled out by draws on their own course against Ashley Wood Moors Valley and they were denied promotion on points difference.

Sturminster Marshall withdrew from Division Five before the season began, reducing the Division to four teams. Ferndown Forest and Lyme Regis took the top two places and Christchurch, who scored their only win against Lyme Regis went down.

Folke were worthy champions of Division Six, their only defeat in six matches coming by the odd game in five at Cheddington and they will take the place of Christchurch in Division Five 2009