

EAST MIDLANDS 14-point ASSOCIATION LEAGUE 2018

After its absence for some time, I promised to manage this league in 2018 so long as at least three teams entered. Thanks to Pinchbeck, who entered two teams, we knew that it could go ahead and in total four entries were received. The league was played at Nottingham on 23rd August in a format which gave two rounds to each match and still enabled the entrant teams to play all the others within the day.

In the first round of matches, both Pinchbeck teams showed their potential by winning. In the second round, there were some interesting incidents. In a doubles game, Charles Ostler (Pinchbeck A) tried to peel his blue through hoop 4 in the final stroke of his turn but it stuck in the jaws. In the following turn Roger Berkeley (Nottingham), attempting to approach the blue in hoop 4, managed to wire himself from both opponent balls, allowing Charles and his partner to win +1 on time. Arthur Rowe (Ashby) missed a 5yd peg out of Mike Bowser's pink, after which Mike (Pinchbeck B) pegged out brown and won the resulting tussle +3 after chances on both sides.

As I understand it, the Pinchbeck teams were selected without intending one to be stronger. Indeed, there was plenty of experience in both teams. When they met, however, the A team ran out winners by 7-0 to clinch the league title. Comments overheard suggested that the players had enjoyed the day and the format, which demonstrated how pegging out an opponent ball is encouraged by short games. Andrew Beaumont (Nottingham) continued his rapid progress by earning a handicap reduction from 9 to 8.

| | ASHBY | NOTTINGHAM | PINCHBECK A | PINCHBECK B | MATCHES | GAMES |
|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------|--------------|
| ASHBY | X | 2-5 | 3-4 | 3-4 | 0 | 8 |
| NOTTINGHAM | 5-2 | X | 2-5 | 4-3 | 2 | 11 |
| PINCHBECK A | 4-3 | 5-2 | X | 7-0 | 3 | 16 |
| PINCHBECK B | 4-3 | 3-4 | 0-7 | X | 1 | 7 |

FLW