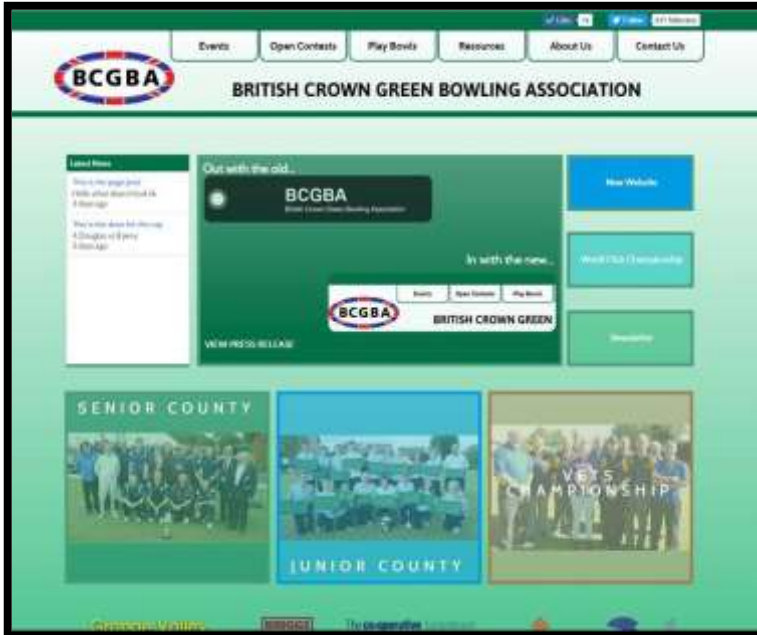




NEW WEBSITE NOW LIVE

The British Crown Green Bowling Association’s new website went live last month and can be viewed at bcgba.org.uk.



Whilst it is still work in progress, the new website is much easier to navigate and will include a lot more information for the benefit of clubs and bowlers alike.

There are now just 6 main navigation links which will direct you to the information you require.

EVENTS has a list of all BCGBA competitions and it is hoped to be able to bring live scores from each event starting with the Pitchcare World Club Championship. In the Flowfit Champion of Champions it is hoped to show the results from all final days of the competitions on the main and reserve list. There is also a Ranking Table for which the overall winner will receive an award.

OPEN CONTESTS show a list of all final day and one-day competitions in the Arthur Land Diary. This page will be updated with the result of the final once known.

PLAY BOWLS will have access to Referees, Membership, Find a Club, Background and TV which will show recordings of our competitions.

RESOURCES includes Coaching, Safeguarding, Grants, Greens and Clubs.

ABOUT US gives a list of the BCGBA Officials and County Secretaries. The Newsletter will also be available to be viewed or downloaded from this page.

CONTACT US will send your email to a central address which will then be forwarded to the relevant Officer or County Secretary.

The website is by no means the finished article and it will be updated as the season progresses. We hope you enjoy visiting our new website and include it among your 'favourites'.

Media Sub-Committee

Pat Crowther, Mel Evans MBE, Jodie Faulkner, Brian Hampson, Adam Douglas.



bcgba.org.uk



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2016 PITCHCARE WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The **WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP**, sponsored by **PITCHCARE**, got the 2016 season underway at the new venue of Leyland Fox Lane Sports & Social Club (PR25 1HB). Out of 32 club champions we are now down to the final eight who will play down to a winner on Sunday 17 April with play getting underway at 11am.

Unusually, there are no previous winners in this season's final day line-up with former winners, Lloyd Hotel (Cheshire) and St Josephs (North Lancs & Fylde) bowing out at the penultimate round.

The opening week saw Florence Tennis & Bowling Club (Potteries & District) and Lower Hopton (Yorkshire) make finals day. Florence beat Castlefields (Shropshire) by 22 in their opening match and qualified at the expense of Llanrwst (Wales) by 8. Lower Hopton got past Eccleston (Merseyside) by 23 and then ended Lloyd Hotel's (Cheshire) hopes of a second title with a thumping 57 chalk victory. Lloyd Hotel, last season's runners-up, only got into the competition as an eleventh hour wildcard following the withdrawal of Holme (Cumbria).

Week two saw Old Whittington (Derbyshire) and Kings Heath Park (Warwick & Worcester) the successful qualifiers. Old Whittington had a 13 chalk victory over Lancashire outfit, King & Queen, then accounted for Newdigate (North Midlands) by 10 to reach the quarter-finals. A strong Kings Heath Park side just got past Meersbrook (British Parks) by 2 chalks in their opener but were rarely troubled by Onchan, who had made the trip from the Isle of Man, finishing with 18 chalks to spare in their qualifying match.

Parkfield Labour (North Lancs & Fylde) and Birches Head Hotel (Potteries & District) made it through in week three. Parkfield Labour, playing on 'home' soil, only lost three games all day. Wharton Cons (Cheshire) suffered a whitewash against the competition favourites while Tonge (Greater Manchester) ended up on the wrong side of an 18 chalk defeat. Meanwhile, Birches Head Hotel eventually got the better of Esclusham (Wales) by 17 then ended former winners, St Josephs (North Lancs & Fylde), hopes of adding to their 2011 and 2013 success with a resounding 44 chalk victory.

In the final qualifying week, Tixall (Cheshire) and Meole Brace (Shropshire) completed the final day draw. Tixall qualified by virtue of victories over Wigan Subscription (Lancashire) by 45 and a strong King George V side from Warwick & Worcester by 22. Meole Brace were 39 chalk winners over New Brighton Quarry Vikings (Merseyside) and last season's quarter-finalists, Dudley Dell (Staffordshire), by 26.

Final Day - Sunday 17 April

Green No.1

Meole Brace (Shropshire) v Kings Heath Park (Warwick & Worcester)

Florence Tennis & Bowling Club (Potteries & District) v Birches Head Hotel (Potteries & District)

Green No.2

Old Whittington (Derbyshire) v Tixall (Cheshire)

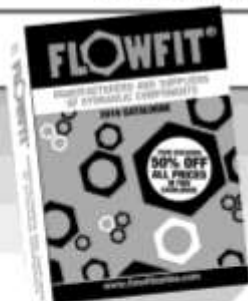
Lower Hopton (Yorkshire) v Parkfield Labour (North Lancs & Fylde)

LIVE SCORES from the final can be viewed via the new BCGBA website – bcgba.org.uk

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#DevelopmentMatters

<p>'How much exercise do we get during a game of bowls?'</p> <p>We are looking for players to take part in a small study this year where we aim to produce a factual answer to that question.</p> <p>These stats will then support future initiatives where we look to link with schools, healthcare providers and GPs/Doctors Surgeries to showcase bowls as a game for all ages and suitable for those looking to become more active.</p> <p>If you would like to be a part of this – it's very simple - Please let me know. If you can provide your own pedometer, fit bit, apple watch or similar to record data on it would be very helpful, otherwise we will provide pedometers.</p> <p>Thanks Jodie</p>	<p>The season is in sight!</p> <p>We held a National Development Meeting recently and it was great for all of the Counties to get together and share knowledge.</p> <p>There are many initiatives happening through 2016 Development wise, please do contact your local Development Officer for more information (details in the handbook and soon to be available on the website) in regards to what is happening in your area.</p> <p>Happy Bowling...</p>	
<p>We are currently building on an agreement with Pitchcare in order to offer courses this season at reduced prices.</p> <p>This will include one day greenkeeping courses and two day pesticides licencing training.</p> <p>Keep your eye on the website for more information BCGBA.org.uk</p>	<p>We are now active on Social Media!</p> <p>Search for BCGBA on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and follow us.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">    </div>	<p>Have you visited the new website yet?</p> <p>We are now at BCGBA.org.uk</p> <p>You can find the updated links to the new Safeguarding information on the Resource pages.</p> <p>Over the next few weeks will see more content being uploaded in the Resources section for Club and Associations to use.</p> <p>Please keep checking back as content will update weekly.</p>
<p>If your club is in the unfortunate position in that you are faced with the possibility of losing your green then contact your County Development Officer who can advise you of actions you may be able to take to fight closure.</p>		
<p>Contact your local Development Officer through your County Management Committee or email me direct at Jodie.faulkner@googlemail.com Twitter @OfficialBCGBA</p>		

2016 FLOWFIT CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS



MATT GILLIES (left) is the first player to get his name in the draw for the 2016 **FLOWFIT** Champion of Champions, to be played at the Waterloo Hotel, Blackpool, on Saturday 24 September.

Whilst his Tonge teammates were playing in the World Club Championship, Gillies was quietly making his way through the 32-strong field in the Coors Meole Brace Open to beat Michael McDonnell (Lloyd Hotel) 21-16 in the final.

The following week Kez Smith, from Crossgates in Yorkshire, booked his place in Blackpool after his success in the CCF Open at West Bromwich Supporters Club. He defeated Andy Moss (Chester Road) 21-19 pulling back from a 17-8 deficit. Among his scalps were last year's winner, Russell Pegram, and former winner, Gary Ellis.

CHRIS BROWN has earned himself a place on the Reserve List following his victory in the Triple M L B Hill Trophy at Barnsley Bowling Club. Chris took to the green at 9.30am and played his last bowl of the day some eleven hours later as he made his way through this one-day competition field of 128 entries. His seventh and final game of the day ended in a 21-11 victory over Richard Jackson.

The full list of qualifying and reserve competitions can be viewed on the new BCGBA website – bcgba.org.uk.

On the new BCGBA website, it is intended to cover all of the 2016 Champion of Champions qualifying and reserve competitions with results from each event. As each competition progresses, where possible, the draws will be updated regularly with all the final day scores entered once they are known. Some of the competitions will be updated Live and a notice will be posted on the website and our facebook/twitter pages when this will happen.

A Ranking Table has also been introduced which covers all qualifying and reserve competitions from the 2016 list with points awarded to the last eight competitors in competitions with entries of 128 or less, BCGBA competitions and county merits. Points will be awarded to the last sixteen competitors with competitions in excess of 128 entries.

Go to bcgba.org.uk (Events – Champion of Champions) to view the competition results and full Ranking Table.

1	Scott Simpson	Staffordshire	50	Michael McDonnell	Cheshire	18	
2	Michael Beer	Shropshire	30	Andy Moss	Shropshire	18	
3	Anthony Bracken	Warwick & Worcester	25	11	Craig Barker	Staffordshire	14
	Chris Brown	South Yorkshire	25		Callum Wraight	Shropshire	14
	Simon Coupe	North Lancs & Fylde	25	12	Andy Duckett	Shropshire	12
	Matt Gillies	Greater Manchester	25		Matt Fellows	Potteries & District	12
	Kez Smith	Yorkshire	25		Grant Herrington	South Yorkshire	12
7	Carl Fielding	Warwick & Worcester	19		Steve Marshall	South Yorkshire	12
8	Anthony Aldridge	Staffordshire	18		Stuart Mort	North Lancs & Fylde	12
	Richard Jackson	South Yorkshire	18		Jon Palmer	Warwick & Worcester	12

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LADIES CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP DRAW

The BCG Ladies season gets underway on Sunday 17 April with the Club Championship taking place on the greens at Centre Vale Park, Todmorden (OL14 7DD).

All groups are played on a round-robin basis with the four group winners progressing to the semi-finals with the successful teams contesting the final.

Defending champions, New Mill (Yorkshire), will be aiming to make it a hat-trick of wins following their success in 2014. They face stiff opposition from four other former winners – Wrockwardine Wood (Shropshire), Haunchwood (North Warwickshire), St Oswalds (Cheshire) and Wharton Cons (Mid Cheshire).

GROUP 1

Sir John Bayley (Shropshire 1)
Haunchwood (North Warwickshire)
Wharton Cons (Mid Cheshire)
Stretton (Burton & District)

GROUP 2

Clough Hall (Staffordshire)
Norden (Lancashire 2)
Pensby (Merseyside 2)
New Mill (Yorkshire)

GROUP 3

St Oswalds (Cheshire)
Wrockwardine Wood (Shropshire 2)
Penkridge (South Staffordshire)
Port St Mary (Isle of Man)

GROUP 4

Baldwin (Warwick & Worcester)
Melrose (Merseyside 1)
Ainsdale (Lancashire 1)
High Lane (North Derbyshire)

2016 COUNTRY GARDEN ROSES CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

Debbie Farmer has already booked her place at the Waterloo Hotel for this seasons competition which takes place on Sunday 25 September at the famous Blackpool green.

Debbie beat Katrina Earl 21-20 in the final of the Cynthia Tonge Memorial on Easter Saturday at a damp and blustery Armthorpe Welfare green.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP FINAL REPEAT IN OPENING MATCHES

The opening matches in the 2016 County Championship season follow the Club Championship on Sunday 24 April (2pm).

County Champions, Lancashire, start their campaign against Yorkshire, the team they defeated by just 5 chalks in last year's final.

Waterloo Cup winners, Warwick & Worcester, open their season against North Shropshire.

All match cards for the opening fixtures can now be viewed [here](#).



OPENING FIXTURES

- SECTION 1** Cumbria v Staffordshire; North Shropshire v Warwick & Worcester
- SECTION 2** North Warwickshire v North Derbyshire; Wales v Cheshire
- SECTION 3** Mid Cheshire v South Staffordshire; Yorkshire v Lancashire
- SECTION 4** Greater Manchester v Shropshire; Merseyside v North Lincs & Fylde

STEVENS NOW OFFICIAL JACK TESTERS



Stevens Bowls, in conjunction with the Crown Green Bowler Discount Centre in Staffordshire, are now official BCGBA Standard Jack Testers. They will use the letter S on all standard jacks tested at their facility.

Unfortunately, Exhall Bowling Services, Coventry, are no longer official testers for the BCGBA.

Clubs, leagues and associations are reminded that standard jacks must be re-tested at not more than seven yearly intervals and the date of the jack indicates when the jack is no longer legal. Any jacks in your possession with a date mark of 2015, or earlier, must be re-tested without delay as they are no longer legal and cannot be used during the 2016 season until the new stamp has been embossed.

Standard Jacks are not to be stamped on more than four occasions.



ORDER YOUR 2016 HANDBOOK

The 2016 BCGBA Handbook is now available. If you would like to have your own personal copy, please contact the CEO - John Crowther, 94 Fishers Lane, Pensby, Wirral CH61 8SB. You will need to send a cheque for **£3.50** (cheques payable to BCGBA) which will cover the ever increasing postage & packing.

The 256-page almanac is packed with information which includes the Association Rules, competition results and all the individual scores from last season's senior and junior County Championships amongst others.

The British Crown Green Ladies also have a section containing all their information and details for the coming season.

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BCGBA MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT - Public Liability & Personal Accident Insurance

All British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA) members will be aware that Endsleigh have worked in partnership with the BCGBA for many years, with the objective of providing a competitive insurance solution for members, whether that is Counties, Leagues, Associations or Clubs.

The Insurance Industry is regulated. It is governed by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA). The FCA aim to protect consumers and maintain integrity within the industry and therefore place certain requirements on regulated firms. Regulated activity includes Administering, Selling or Advising on Insurance.

The previous method used by BCGBA to provide insurance to its membership consisted of regulated activity. In order to remove BCGBA from the process and ensure compliance with FCA Regulations, Endsleigh in partnership with BCGBA are introducing an online system. It is important to both parties that the process is simple, cost effective and compliant. The online system will be available via a link on the BCGBA website (www.bcgba.org.uk) and has been designed to be straight forward and user friendly. Upon payment, an electronic copy of documentation and a receipt will be available instantly.

In order to use the online system, your County, League, Association or Club will require its BCGBA Membership number. The County Associations have provided BCGBA with lists of all primary affiliated Clubs, Leagues and Associations within their County. BCGBA have issued membership numbers to County Associations for all the Clubs, Leagues and Associations that have been notified to them. If you have not yet received your membership number you should contact your County Secretary in the first instance or the BCGBA National Registrar at pac21up@aol.com or on 07753 959370.

Unfortunately, there has been a delay in the launch of the new web portal as some of the County Associations had not let BCGBA have all the relevant details until recently. It is now hoped that the portal will go live during the second week of April 2016. The period of insurance for both public liability and personal accident will run from 1 May 2016 to 30 April 2017.

An alternative method is also being provided where there is no ability to pay by debit or credit card. In this instance, or where there is no desire to use the online system, there will be an option of completing a form and attaching a cheque. Sadly, however, this will incur an additional administration charge of £10. It is regrettable that an administration charge is necessary; however, it is required to cover the human intervention and associated costs of processing the insurance manually. Once the new web portal is launched the application form will be available to download or a copy will be available from your County Secretary or the BCGBA National Registrar.

Endsleigh have kept the actual cost of the insurance at the same price as in previous years but the Government have increased the Insurance Purchase Tax (IPT) from 6% to 9.5%. The new insurance costs for 2016/2017 are as follows:

Public Liability	£2M	- £39.75
	£5M	- £47.00
	£10M	- £64.00
Personal Accident	0.94p	per person

Further information will be posted on the BCGBA website and on Facebook and Twitter as soon as it is available.

Pat Crowther

BCGBA National Registrar

BOWLING GREEN MAINTENANCE SEMINAR HEADS TO YORKSHIRE

The first, of what we hope will many, Bowling Green Maintenance Seminars takes place in Yorkshire during the last week of April. Cleckheaton Sports Club will play host to **DENNIS** and **SISIS** who advise club delegates on the care and maintenance of their bowling green.

The first one is aimed at Yorkshire clubs but it is hoped that other Seminars will take place throughout crown green land during the season and as soon as we have notice of any forthcoming events **BCGBA NEWS** will give you the details.



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SEMINAR REGISTRATION

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PROGRAMME

- 10.00am - Registration & Refreshments - 'Meet you fellow greenkeepers'
- 10.20am - Introduction & Welcome - by Ewen Wilson (Dennis & SISIS)
- 10.30am - BCGBA Update - by Development Officer
- 10.45am - Greens Care & Maintenance - by John Handley (Pitchcare)
- 11.30am - Refreshments
- 11.45am - Choosing the correct grass seed & Fertilizer - by Tito Arana (Rigby Taylor)
- 12.15pm - Grant Funding Support - by Karen Woolland (WCTD Ltd)
- 12.30pm - Complimentary Lunch
- 1.15pm - On Green Demonstration (Aeration/Scarification/Mowing/Brushing)
- by Andy Walker (Dennis & SISIS)
- 2.15pm - Pesticide & Spraying Regulations - by John Handley (Pitchcare)
- 3.00pm - 'Turf Clinic' - Questions & Answers

Close



COMPETITION NEWS

The new BCGBA website now has an **OPEN CONTESTS** page and show a list of all final day and one-day competitions in the Arthur Land Diary. As soon as results are known, the page is updated with the score.

Organisers of Open Contests are asked to let us know their result as soon as possible following the last bowl of their final being played. Furthermore, if your competition is not listed then please let us know and we will include it. We can be contacted at bcgbanews2@btinternet.com.

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