



GRAHAM JACKSON (Derbyshire) was elected as the 2019 BCGBA President when County Representatives gathered in January for the Annual General Meeting, held at Owley Wood Bowls Club, Cheshire.

Graham served as Deputy President during 2018 and was proposed by his proud Son, Calvin, on behalf of the Derbyshire CCGBA. Calvin gave a humorous power point presentation to outline the many skills and talents his father possesses, where, in his working life, he had been a Teacher.

His Crown Green Bowls journey started in 1974 when he became secretary of Littlelover Bowls Club, a position he held for 20 years. He has held almost every position available on the South Derbyshire Association committee and last year received their Services to Sport award.

Graham will work alongside Ken Howarth (Cumbria) who was elected Deputy President.



LYNSEY GORMAN (Merseyside) followed in her mother's footsteps when she was elected as the 2019 Ladies President. Mum, Pat Crowther, held the presidency in 1999 and they become the first mother and daughter to both hold high office. Lynsey began her role at the ladies Annual Dinner held last December.

Despite having a full-time job as Cancer Manager at Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Lynsey still manages to play regularly for her club, New Brighton Quarry Vikings, in Wirral bowling leagues and she is a regular in the Wallasey Association Federation side. She is also a regular in the Wirral / Merseyside Ladies county team and has been since the age of 14. This season should see her make her 100th county appearance.

One of the many highlights of her career saw her win the BCG Ladies Champion of Champions in 2017 and she will be aiming to repeat her success this season.

MARK BIRCUMSHAW has been appointed BCGBA Chief Executive Officer having served as Interim CEO since John Crowther's retirement in April of 2018.

Mark, a retired Educational Advisor for the University of Wolverhampton and secretary of Staffordshire CBA, is honoured to be asked to continue with the development of the association. With a full team now in place following the appointment of Brian Hampson as National Administrator and Lee Smith as National Development Officer, all officers and management of the association can build on the progress made during 2018.

Mark said that the last twelve months has seen a lot of work in preparing the association to take on the many challenges that will enable us to move forward, however there is still a lot of work to do.

During 2018 the association has been working hard to comply with the guidance being laid down in the safeguarding arena. We now have Safeguarding officers in place in the majority of clubs and we are leading the way within the bowls community. Safeguarding is an integral part of development as is ensuring that we are aware of our responsibilities as a sport and a governing body.

Growing our game and ensuring that we have plans in place for Coaching, Development and Safeguarding go hand in hand and we will be working on plans to enable clubs to grow in a sustainable way for the future. Part of this development work will be to ensure that we can finance the work of the association. This will involve looking for additional partners, sponsors and how we generate income to enable us to provide the services that the grassroots have been asking for. To do this we need to ensure that the officer team have the tools available to them to make this happen.

We all have a part to play to ensure that this wonderful sport is available to all, that there is a future to grow and that each time we introduce a new player we enable this to happen. He looks forward to working with the team to further progress the association from Club, County and National levels.





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ALL SET FOR THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

May sees the start of the long-awaited Endsleigh Senior County Championship, Drakes Pride Junior County Championship and Ladies County Championship season, with all teams playing in the hope that they will be crowned County Champions when the trophies are handed out in September.



ENDSLEIGH SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (Sunday 5th May, 2pm)

Defending Champions, Warwick & Worcester, have been drawn in **Section 2** of this seasons competition but sit out the opening fixtures as they are in a group of three. They must wait for the outcome of the Cheshire v South Yorkshire result as the losing team will be their opponents in June. Whatever happens, a repeat of last season's

Crosfield Cup final is on the cards where South Yorkshire will be out to avenge their one chalk defeat in last September's final.

Potteries & District will once again be hoping to qualify for the semi-finals, this time from **Section 1**, and put last season's five chalk defeat to South Yorkshire behind them. They face Lancashire in their opening fixture with Derbyshire and North Midlands battling it out in the other fixture.

Former champions, Shropshire and Yorkshire, meet in what should be an enthralling opening **Section 3** fixture with Cumbria and North Lancs & Fylde playing out a 'local derby' in the same section. Meanwhile, Merseyside will be hoping to once again reach the semi-finals but must first qualify from a tough **Section 4**. They play Staffordshire in their opener and then play Greater Manchester and Wales, in their quest to become semi-finalists once again.



DRAKES PRIDE JUNIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (Sunday 12th May, 2pm)

Yorkshire will be hoping to retain their **Premier Division** title and maintain their unblemished record. They face newly-promoted Staffordshire in the opening match with last season's runners-up, Warwick & Worcester, playing Shropshire. Wales have a bye in this five-team division.

In **Division 1**, also with five teams, relegated Derbyshire play Lancashire in their opening fixture hoping to make a quick return to the Premier Division. Newly-promoted, North Lancs & Fylde, play South Yorkshire with North Midlands juniors sitting out the opening fixtures.

Division 2 will now only contain three teams as the proposed combined team of Merseyside and the Isle of Man failed to secure enough players to field full teams. This means Potteries & District won't have a fixture on the opening day but will play Greater Manchester in June after the mancunians have taken on Cheshire in their first match.

LADIES COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP (Sunday 19th May, 2pm)

Warwick & Worcester start the defence of their title against North Lancs & Fylde in **Section 2** and have further fixtures against Staffordshire and Dudley & District who meet on the opening day. Defeated finalists, Shropshire, face the Presidents Section winners of 2018, Mid-Cheshire, in **Section 3** with South Staffordshire and Wales completing the section.

North Shropshire will be aiming for at least another semi-final place but first must get past South Yorkshire in their opening **Section 1** match. Burton & District and North Derbyshire will meet in the other section match and will be stiff opposition as both just missed out on a semi-final place in last year's competition. In **Section 4**, last season's semi-finalists, Yorkshire, have a 'Battle of the Roses' fixture with Lancashire in their opening match. Cumbria and North Warwickshire meet in the other section match.

Finally, in the Presidents Section, for teams who finished bottom of their sections last season, Cheshire take on Greater Manchester while Merseyside play North Midlands.

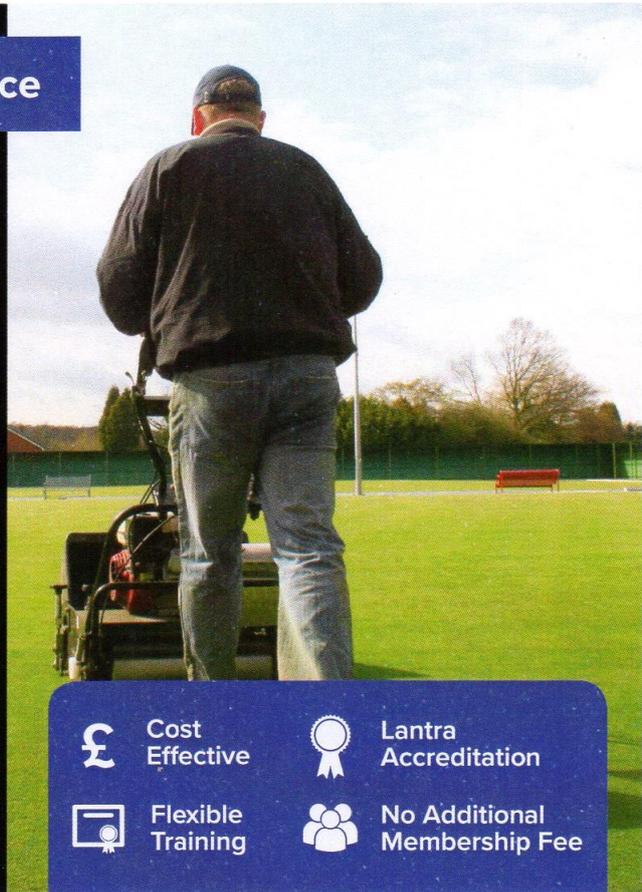
Results of all [Senior](#), [Junior](#) and [Ladies](#) county championship matches can be viewed via the BCGBA Website, by clicking on the respective link. It is hoped that all matches will be 'live-scored' by each county.



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GREVILLE ARMS CROWNED WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONS



The World Club Championship, sponsored by **GROUNDS TRAINING**, moved to a new venue at Spen Victoria CB & AC in Yorkshire where Greville Arms (Warwick & Worcester) defied the odds to defeat local favourites, Lower Hopton (Yorkshire), to win the 2019 championship.

Having been played at Fox Lane Sports & Social Club for the previous three seasons, Spen Victoria were awarded as hosts for this year's competition, played over five Sundays - four qualifying Sundays culminating in the final 8 Sunday. 'Spen' proved to be perfect hosts offering two good playing surfaces, superb catering and excellent hospitality resulting in the World Club Championship returning to the Cleckheaton venue again next season.

Greville got off to a dream start in the final with Darren Plenderleith and Carl Fielding handing in 21-5 and 21-7 winning cards respectively. 'Hopton' hit back to claim the remaining two jack's – Liam Griffin (21-10) and Wayne Ditchfield (21-12) - from the first four to leave Greville Arms with a ten-chalk advantage at the half-way stage.

Simon Walder turned a 13-7 deficit into a 21-18 victory for the Yorkshire side to reduce the deficit to seven and their hopes of victory received a welcome boost as team captain, Ashley Tattersley, handed in a timely 21-7 card. Almost immediately Lower Hopton's advantage was wiped out by Ross Dunkley's 21-9 card leaving just five chinks between the sides and Robert Hitchen (Lower Hopton) and Andrew Nuttall (Greville Arms) to decide the destination of the trophy.

Hitchen won the opening exchanges to lead 5-2 but Nuttall hit back to go on a ten-break, scoring four two's and two singles to lead 12-5. Back came Hitchen to get within three of his opponent at 10-13 but Nuttall pulled away to lead 16-10 meaning that if Hitchen was to run out the match would be drawn, though Lower Hopton would lift the trophy as they would have had the most winners. Although Hitchen scored a double at the next end Nuttall got the chalk he required for the trophy to make its way down south and into the Greville Arms trophy cabinet, eventually winning 21-18.

Greville Arms had qualified for finals day with two comfortable victories, over Bradfield (South Yorkshire) by 38 and Marton Institute (North Lancs & Fylde) by 24. On finals day, they first defeated Ecclestone (Merseyside) by 24 and reached the final at the expense of Dudley Dell from Staffordshire by 41.

All results can be viewed via the [BCGBA website](#).



Lower Hopton		Greville Arms	
Stuart King	5	21	Darren Plenderleith
Josh Brown	7	21	Carl Fielding
Liam Griffin	21	10	Josh Hale
Wayne Ditchfield	21	12	Peter Dunkley
Simon Walder	21	18	Ant Bracken
Ian Booth	9	21	Ross Dunkley
Ashley Tattersley	21	7	Ash Bracken
Robert Hitchen	18	21	Andrew Nuttall
	123	131	

WROCKWARDINE WOOD RETAIN THE LADIES CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Shropshire's Wrockwardine Wood kept a firm grip on the Ladies Club Championship trophy following a thrilling four chalk victory in the final over former winners, Wharton Cons (Mid Cheshire).

Mid Cheshire hosted this year's competition and used the two greens at Owley Wood and Winnington Park for the qualifying round-robin group matches which see the four group winners qualify for the semi-finals at Hazel Pear. Both finalists qualified at Winnington Park and came through their three group matches undefeated as did Alicia Dawn Photography (Yorkshire) at Owley Wood. King George V (Warwick & Worcester) claimed the other semi-final spot by virtue of having a better aggregate over three-time winners New Mill (Yorkshire) and Dunlop (North Midlands) with all three teams finishing on four points each.

In the semi-finals, both finalists won by 14 - Wharton Cons defeating Alicia Dawn Photography with Wrockwardine Wood overcoming King George V.

In the final, Nicola Boulton got Wharton Cons off to the perfect start with a resounding 15-3 opening card but Sian Skelton responded for the defending champions with a 15-9 success. With the other two cards of the opening four jacks shared, Wharton Cons held an eight-chalk advantage at the half-way stage.

Team captain, Jodie Rutter, reduced the deficit to three with a 15-10 victory and when Sarah Weaver handed in a timely 15-9 winning card, Wrockwardine Wood had taken the lead for the first time in the match, to lead by three with two games left on the green. Rose Walker's 15-13 card for the Mid Cheshire side left Hazel Williams and Jackie Rutter to decide the destination of the trophy with the sides now separated by a solitary chalk. It was though Wrockwardine Wood who were celebrating as Jackie Rutter's 15-12 win meant that the Shropshire side would retain the trophy they won last year and made it their fourth success in the competition's history.

Ladies President, Lynsey Gorman, was on hand to present the trophy to Wrockwardine Wood.

All results can be viewed via the [BCGBA website](#).



Wharton Cons		Wrockwardine Wood	
Nicola Boulton	15	3	Louise Cotton
Tamsin Birkett	9	15	Sian Skelton
Joan Jackson	15	11	Sophie Meredith
Dawn Nield	13	15	Sally Clee
Mary Pritchard	10	15	Jodie Rutter
Rose Walker	15	13	Barbara Hughes
Hazel Williams	12	15	Jackie Rutter
Cindi McLean	9	15	Sarah Weaver
	98	102	

AVERAGE WINNERS CLASSIC

The 2019 Average Winners Classic takes place on Saturday 4th May. The county average winners from the 2018 season will play at Wrockwardine Wood and the draw is as follows:

First Round: Danielle Miles v Wendy Smart; Claire West v Nicky Spittle; Clair Russell v Lesley Welling; Sheila Lloyd v Sarah Burton.

Second Round: Tania Gilfoyle v Wendy Jackson; Margaret Leach v Linda Gledhill; Nia Jones v Katie Harrop; Gillian Greenbank v Chris Price; Janet Hargreaves v Stacey Linegar; Gill Sutton v Helen Williams.

A Club Matters Guide to...

Putting Safeguarding into Place

Safeguarding is a key responsibility for every organisation that delivers sport and physical activity.

There are safeguarding essentials that all organisations should have in place, such as having stand-alone safeguarding adults and child protection policies and procedures.

To find out more about these essentials you can visit the links included in the final section of this infographic.

If you now have safeguarding policies and procedures in place but want to know what to do next, then read on!

SPREAD THE WORD...

Create a culture that means members can discuss issues and know where to go if they have a concern.

Putting up posters, updating your website and including safeguarding information in your newsletters and social media pages will all help to spread the word.



GIVE YOUR WELFARE OFFICER A PLATFORM

Having a designated welfare officer is critical for people feeling supported - this person can be the same for safeguarding adults and children. It's vital this person is chosen carefully and is proactive in their role.

It is vital that this person has a platform to get key information out to all participants, members and volunteers. Similarly, it should be easy for members to contact the welfare officer if necessary.



UP-SKILL YOUR MEMBERS

It's vital that members are given the opportunity to up-skill themselves. For example, are they aware of the differences in policies and procedures between safeguarding adults and child protection?

Encourage all your key volunteers and staff to make the most of the resources available to them, such as the online adult safeguarding workshop through Club Matters, so they know what abuse is, what is acceptable and unacceptable behaviour and how they can report if they feel something isn't right.

You should also identify who needs more in-depth training about safeguarding and suggest that they attend relevant workshops.

<https://www.sportenglandclubmatters.com/club-matters-workshops/>



HAVE A MONITORING SYSTEM IN PLACE

Safeguarding policies and procedures have to be implemented right throughout your organisation.

Your organisation should have arrangements in place to monitor compliance with your child protection policy and adult safeguarding policy in line with your specific NGB's requirements.

MAKE SURE EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS ARE ACCESSIBLE

Emergency contact details are often locked away somewhere. However it's vital that these can be accessed by all.

Ask yourself how available are they? Are they included on the website and throughout club facilities, for example?



PROVIDE PRACTICAL EXAMPLES

Members and participants need to have practical examples of what to do in a specific situation if there is a safeguarding concern.

For further information on this, visit the resources below.

Make sure that these examples are included in all your safeguarding resources.



For further information, including how to set up policies and procedures to safeguard adults and children, visit any of the following resources:

- Listen to our podcast here: <https://www.sportenglandclubmatters.com/podcasts/>
- Visit the resources on Club Matters: <https://www.sportenglandclubmatters.com/club-planning/governance/policies-procedures/child-protection/>
- Contact the Ann Craft Trust for safeguarding adults advice: www.anncrafttrust.org/contact/
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