

KEN HOWARTH, BCGBA PRESIDENT 2020

Ken Howarth, Cumbria, followed in the footsteps of county colleagues Ray Butcher (1990) and Gil Finch (2005) to become the 75th President of the British Crown Green Bowling Association.



Like many of us, Ken was introduced to bowls by his father, who previously played for Tonge Bowling Club in Middleton before the second world war. Little did his father realise that when he formed the Barrow Corporation Bowling Club in 1954, that one day his son would become BCGBA President.

Ken's introduction to league bowls came in 1959 as a 13-year-old and after winning his five games, at the end of the season a change of rule meant that you had to be aged 16 to play in the league.

He feels that this experience led him to being involved in the junior side of bowling. He has managed Furness Juniors for 25 years in the Federation of Crown Green Bowls, where he has also been their Junior/Youth officer for the past 13 years.

Ken had no previous involvement with the BCGBA or Cumbria CGBA before becoming Deputy President last year and mainly regards himself as a grassroots bowler with 60 years' experience.

While secretary of his club, Salthouse, for 17 years, the club's facilities have improved and the membership has grown almost 300% in the last 10 years.

He feels that the BCGBA have many challenges ahead, but with the excellent officers in place, are well equipped to deal with them. They will though need the counties to support them and he is looking forward to traveling around the country, hoping to listen and talk to bowlers about their views of the game.

OFFICER APPOINTMENTS

The British Crown Green Bowling Association are pleased to confirm the appointment of Competition Officers for the Ladies and Men.

Following the retirement of John Coxill as BCGBA Competitions Officer due to ill health, Jim McGurk has been appointed as his successor. Jim brings with him a wealth of experience having undertaken a similar successful role with Cheshire CBA, together with the organising and running of many local and open competitions.

Yvette Gregory has been appointed to the new role of Ladies Competition Officer following the merger with the men that took place in 2019. Yvette has been part of the organising committee of ladies events for some years and has led a successful team to ensure each competition runs smoothly.

Both Yvette and Jim are to be congratulated on their appointments and wished every success in their new positions.



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WHAT IS GOMEMBERSHIP



Why have we established a National Database?

GoMembership is the Provider service for the BCGBA National Database. GoMembership provide a secure database service to a number of sporting bodies, including British Rowing, Coach Bowl and the National Rifle service. This is a very secure way of holding large members data and will enable access to be granted at many levels to those authorised within BCGBA. This will reduce the risks associated with data being held on personal computers. This will also enable us to provide statistics on members and be able to reduce manual processes in the future when we are requested to provide a breakdown of members.

Where are we up to?

We now have all the Counties, Leagues and Clubs entered. Individual members are being uploaded to the clubs they are registered with on the last CR1/2 annual returns. If you're a member of more than one club, you should be added to both/all and will show in each club list but only have one profile. (we will be able to identify your primary / main club).

For most members the data only consists of the name and BCGBA registration number. However, to create the individual profiles we must input a date of birth and an email address. We have therefore included the date of birth where this has been declared and used a default 01/01/1901 for any we have not had. We have used a few email defaults depending on who has uploaded the data.

As of the end of February we have uploaded most current playing members for Cumbria, Greater Manchester, Isle of Man, Lancashire, North Lancs & Fylde (75% done), North Midlands, Potteries & District, Shropshire, South Yorkshire, Staffordshire, Wales and Warwick & Worcester (Total of 50,500 so far). Derbyshire and Merseyside are in the process of being entered with Yorkshire to follow. This will leave Cheshire, British Parks and the Ladies. The Ladies and the Parks will need some cross checking as many will already have been entered via the Counties.

Each Club will have their own Profile and we have been entering some pictures and contacts as we have progressed, each Club will be able to do this once club level access is rolled out. We are currently trialling with a few clubs so that the access levels and training can be set up. Once the log in screen goes live on the BCGBA website, counties will be given regional level access and the registrars will be able to add new registrations directly into the club lists. Clubs will be able to link the league they play in and Primary and Secondary County.

There will be a degree of rationalising the data as we have had a number of duplicate numbers. This means more than one person has the same number declared on the CR1/2 returns. There could be a number of reasons from simple data entry mistakes on the forms to mistakes in recording numbers. Where we have been able to identify the correct numbers these have been updated, where not the member has not been entered. An example being a Lady bowlers' number being entered as a County number i.e. a WW or NL number so when we try and enter the men's number a conflict occurs.

Who will have access.?

Initially the County Secretary or Administrator level access will be rolled out, then League and Club access. Followed by individual access. (to receive this, we will need an email address). Under Data Protection individuals are entitled to see data we hold, and this is the way we will ensure that we comply and provide the profile access. In order to get club level access, the Club secretary needs to be in the system as they get Individual access with the club level access added to the profile. (same goes for County and League level access).

The find a club service will be launched in due course, so having contact information on the club profile will enable your club to be found and contacted.

There are several innovations that can be added to the system, such as payment to BCGBA, County and Club via the club plus service which is available at a cost to the club / county. Further information will follow as clubs inquire. The information is available via the club profile.

Will my Registration Number change?

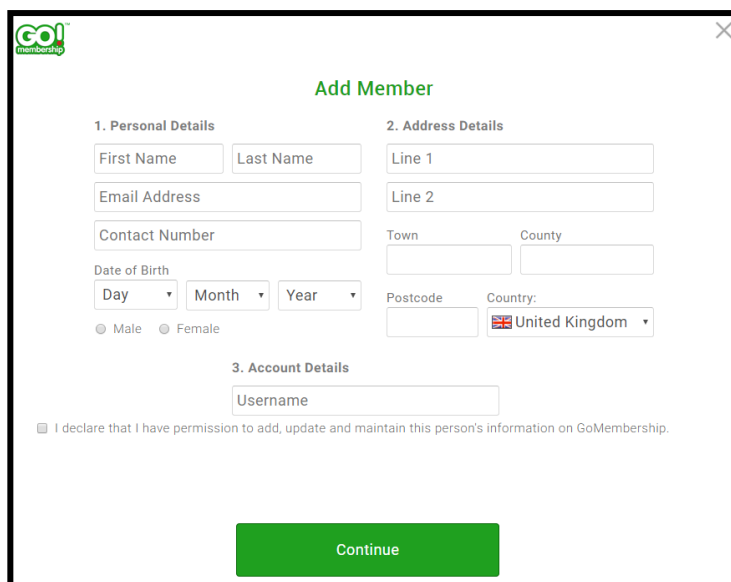
In the future we will provide the individual access as soon as they apply for registration. (as long as we have a valid email address). Each Player will have their British Crown green number and a GoMembership profile Unique number (these begin with an ME). These numbers may coincide at some point for new registrations. i.e. NL76700, ME076700.

Will I need to be good with IT to access?

If you are used to logging into a website and setting a password you should not have a problem, some of you may never access your profile, but there will be some benefits in the future which you will be able to access once you are logged in and have updated your account.

Data entry – individual members

The profile page will look very similar, the user account number will be the BCGBA number. This is just an example as this will be done by the County registrar.



This is a major BCGBA project and the roll out process will take some time to fully implement.

RULE CHANGES

The BCGBA held their Annual Meeting at Winnington Park Recreation Club with the morning session utilised to consider the Notices of Motion. All Notices of Motion were successful, with exception of Proposal 5 which was withdrawn.

As a result, all Officers of the Association now receive a vote at the Annual Meeting, the word 'sandals' has been removed from the footwear rule, the Isle of Man will once again be able to enter the Senior Supplementary County Championship and a number of competition rules were amended.

The results of the voting can be viewed and/or downloaded via BCGBA website – bcgba.org.uk.

JOAN WRIGLEY, RIP

It is with great sadness that the BCGBA advise of the passing of Joan Wrigley. Joan lost her battle with Cancer at the beginning of February.

Joan has been a stalwart of the British Crown Green Ladies for many years and was currently Vice-Chairman, having previously held the role of Ladies President (2001) and Competition Secretary. She was a member of the BCGBA Referees Society and a Past President of Yorkshire Crown Green Bowling Association. She was highly respected throughout the bowling community and her loss will be to the detriment of our great sport.

I am sure many bowlers will know Joan and will join us in sending our heartfelt condolences to her family, her Yorkshire County colleagues and many friends.

2020 HANDBOOK



The 2020 BCGBA Handbook will be distributed to all County Associations at the Management Committee Meeting on Saturday 21st March.

This year's book will contain results of all men's and ladies 2019 competitions but the county match results will now only show the semi-finals and final. All the County Championship results from the section matches can be viewed via the website.

If you would like to have your own personal copy, please contact the National Administrator – Brian Hampson, 2 Braunton Road, Wallasey CH45 5HL. You will need to send a cheque for £4.00 (cheques payable to BCGBA) which will cover the cost of postage & packing.

LADIES 2019 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

Earlier this year, the Waterloo Hotel, Blackpool, posted on Facebook an update on the situation with their famous green. Their post made bowlers aware of the difficulties they were experiencing in securing a lease on the green which could affect the running of their competitions during 2020.

We have now received confirmation from the Waterloo that their green will not be available on Saturday 18th April to allow us to complete the 2019 BCG Ladies Champion of Champions. As a result, the 2019 competition will now be completed at Marton Institute (Oxford Square, Blackpool FY4 4DR) which is only a short distance from the Waterloo itself. We are extremely grateful to Marton Institute for allowing us the use of their excellent venue and thank them for their support.

There is no change to the date but the competition will resume at 11am with free entry for all spectators.

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP ABOUT TO START

Sunday 22nd March sees the start of the 2020 World Club Championship which will again be hosted by Spen Victoria Cricket, Bowling & Athletic Club (Spen Lane, Gomersal, Cleckheaton BD19 4PJ). M&B Cheslyn Hay (Staffordshire) and Lloyd Hotel (British Parks) are the only previous winners in the 32 strong field. Last season's runners-up, Lower Hopton (Yorkshire), have qualified and play on the opening Sunday.

Qualifying continues Sundays 29th March, 5th April and 12th April with the final 8 returning on Sunday 19th April. All sessions commence at 11am and the full draw can be viewed and/or downloaded via the website.

SPORT ENGLAND EMERGENCY FLOOD RELIEF FUND

Sport England have announced an emergency flood relief fund for victims of recent storms. The fund is to support storm damaged pitches/facilities. More information is available via <https://www.sportengland.org/news/victims-storm-ciara-helped-emergency-flood-relief-fund>.

CORONAVIRUS

If you have any concerns about the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the following links may be of help:

<https://111.nhs.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public#risk-level>



Expression of Interest Standard Jacks Sub-Committee

The BCGBA are looking for bowlers, male or female, to join the Standard Jacks Sub-Committee – a minimum of one to a maximum of three.

Main Responsibilities

- Must be available during the day to attend Sub-Committee Meetings.
- Must be available during the day to meet with, or visit, Bowls Manufactures / Testers.

Skills Required

- Full, clean Driving Licence.
- Ability to work well within a team.
- Computer proficient with the ability to send and receive emails.
- Skilled communicator, with proven verbal and written ability
- Have at least five years' experience in the sport of Crown Green Bowls.

The BCGBA is the National Governing Body for the sport of Crown Green Bowls.

This is a voluntary position though travel expenses will be paid.

To register your interest, please submit a brief covering letter of your experience within Crown Green Bowls and forward it to the BCGBA National Administrator, Brian Hampson, at admin@bcgba.org.uk, to be received **no later than Wednesday 18th March 2020**.