



BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

SHEILA ELECTED LADIES PRESIDENT



SHEILA WHITELEY, a Life Member and former President of Yorkshire County, was elected as the thirty-fourth President of the British Crown Green Ladies when they held their Annual Meeting in November of last year. She follows in the footsteps of the late, Joan Wrigley, herself a former President of Yorkshire, who was Ladies President in 2001.

Sheila's presidential year began at the Ladies Presentation Lunch at Winnington Park in December and will be supported by Deputy President, Mavis Hancock (Lancashire).

Preparation is now underway for a full season of ladies bowls with the draws for the Club Championship, Veterans County Championship, Junior County Team Championship and Average Winners Classic scheduled to be made at the County Secretaries Meeting on Sunday 20th March.

All competition draws will be posted on the BCGBA website and on our Facebook page.

RIP BOB HARRIGAN / JOHN KNAPPER

The BCGBA are sad to report on the passing of two esteemed members of the association.

BOB HARRIGAN passed away in early November, just a few weeks after his North Midlands colleague and former BCGBA President, Phil Brown. Bob himself was BCGBA President in 2002 and a valuable member of the Management Committee for many years. He was also President of North Midlands CCGBA for thirty-five years and held the position of Chairman and Secretary of Dunlop BC.

JOHN KNAPPER, secretary of Cheshire CBA, lost his battle with cancer in early December. John was a member of the Management Committee until his illness took hold and at the Cheshire Annual General Meeting at the end of October he was delighted to announce that he was in remission and was looking forward to the 2022 season. John had galvanised his county and his passing will leave a big void in Cheshire bowls.

Both gentlemen will be sorely missed and our thoughts are with their families as they come to terms with their sad loss.

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HUB CLUB

The BCGBA has been working closely with the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) with an initiative to develop 'Hub Clubs', Hub Clubs will become a base for BCGBA and affiliated clubs of other bowling codes to seek help and support in the locality.

The first of these Hub Clubs is being trialled in Merseyside at Oxton Conservative Club (pictured below) with Erdington Court in the West Midlands now underway.

The idea will be to lay on seminars and courses (free or subsidised) for Clubs in the area, as well as having Ian Gill, the BDA Club and Community Development Officer for the Northwest, based there for Clubs to come and meet with him. Ian is working closely with Bill Dow, the Merseyside County Development Officer.



The Hub Club initiative will also explore how clubs can be better connected into their local communities and serve some of the more disadvantaged in society who may struggle to access the sport currently due to perceived barriers such as age, disability, gender or economic disadvantage.

Many clubs may be doing fine, but there is always scope for learning new things and, for those clubs that are struggling for members, there are some easy strategies that have been proven to work to help you get new members and enable your club to thrive.

Following a recent survey to clubs in the locality of the Hub Club, it became clear that the most important courses for clubs will be around 'Grants and Finance', 'Member Recruitment and Retention', 'Club Promotion and Advertising' and 'First Aid'. These will be prioritised throughout the year and will either be held online or in person.

In addition, it was slightly worrying to learn how few clubs from those who answered the survey had no website or social media presence and help will be available for clubs who wish to develop in this area. Several clubs have been assisted to start new websites to both inform their members and as a tool to attract new ones. This is not actually that difficult to do and very often there are free options, such as Wix and WordPress.

CLUB HEALTH CHECKER

The BDA is soon to be introducing an online 'Club Health Checker'. All County Development Officers were invited to an online presentation last month with the aim of the Health Checker, once all sections are completed, is to provide a comprehensive report on what your club is doing well and where there are areas of improvement needed. Clubs will be notified once it is ready for them to complete.

2022 BCGBA WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The draw has been made for this season's World Club Championship, which once again will be played at Spen Victoria Cricket, Bowling & Athletic Club (Spen Lane, Gomersal, Cleckheaton BD19 4PJ). All sessions commence at 11am.

Two former winners, M&B Cheslyn Hay (Staffordshire) and Parkfield (North Lancs & Fylde), are in the 32-strong line-up and play Catcliffe (South Yorkshire) and Springbank (Greater Manchester) in their first round match.

SUNDAY 20th MARCH

Top Green:	Pudsey (Yorkshire)	v	Norton Sports & Social (Potteries & District)
	Holme (Cumbria)	v	New Street (Greater Manchester)
Bottom Green:	Willenhall Nordley (Staffordshire)	v	Dearne Sports (South Yorkshire)
	Wrockwardine Wood (Shropshire)	v	Birchley St Marys (Merseyside)

SUNDAY 27th MARCH

Top Green:	South Ramsey (Isle of Man)	v	Wharton Cons (Cheshire)
	Police (Cumbria)	v	George Warley (Warwick & Worcester)
Bottom Green:	Atherstone Cons (North Midlands)	v	Lower Hopton WMC (Yorkshire)
	Parkfield (North Lancs & Fylde)	v	Springbank (Greater Manchester)

SUNDAY 3rd APRIL

Top Green:	Copsewood (North Midlands)	v	Alvaston & Boulton (Derbyshire)
	Catcliffe (South Yorkshire)	v	M&B Cheslyn Hay (Staffordshire)
Bottom Green:	Gladstone (Merseyside)	v	Ravine (Lancashire)
	Coed Talon (Wales)	v	Lightwood (Potteries & District)

SUNDAY 10th APRIL

Top Green:	St Georges (Shropshire)	v	Castle Sports (Cheshire)
	Llay Welfare (Wales)	v	Foulridge (North Lancs & Fylde)
Bottom Green:	Kings Heath Park (Warwick & Worcester)	v	Wolstanton High Street Club (British Parks)
	Fairfield (Derbyshire)	v	Woolston Sports & Social (Lancashire)

SUNDAY 17th APRIL Final 8

Safeguarding News

February 2022

Focus on ... Safeguarding in Bowls

Safeguarding is all the processes used to keep people safe from harm, abuse and/or neglect. It involves raising public awareness so that communities, alongside professionals, understand their part in preventing, identifying, and responding to abuse and neglect. People in sports clubs and organisations can help by being aware of what constitutes abuse of **children and adults at risk** and by knowing what to do if they have concerns about the wellbeing of a fellow bowler or the behaviour of someone in the sport towards children or adults at risk.

Working Together to Safeguard Children

Paragraph 63 of this statutory government guidance booklet identifies the role of sports clubs and organisations in safeguarding children.

'There are many sports clubs and organisations including voluntary and private sector providers that deliver a wide range of sporting activities to children. Some of these will be community amateur sports clubs, some will be charities. All should have the arrangements described in this chapter in place and should collaborate to work effectively with the safeguarding partners as required by any local safeguarding arrangements. Paid and volunteer staff need to be aware of their responsibilities for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, how they should respond to child protection concerns and how to make a referral to local authority children's social care or the police if necessary.'

The Care Act 2014

This is the main piece of legislation regarding the safeguarding of Adults at Risk. Bowls clubs have many more adult members than children and so awareness of responsibilities under this law is important alongside those related to child protection. The Act defines Adults at Risk as a person who: Has care and support needs, whether or not the Local Authority is meeting any of those needs and; is experiencing, or at risk of, abuse or neglect.

Safeguarding Support Helplines

Two main helplines for safeguarding issues in sport are:

Child Protection in Sport Unit - 0116 366 5580

The Ann Craft Trust - 0115 951 5400

Types of Abuse / Safeguarding Concerns

There are more types of abuse of adults identified in the main legislation than there are for children, although this is changing all the time. The 4 main types of abuse are the same for both and can be remembered using the word PENS.

- **P**hysical abuse
- **E**mootional abuse
- **N**eglect
- **S**exual abuse



Additional types of abuse for adults are:

- Financial / material abuse
- Discriminatory abuse
- Domestic violence/abuse
- Modern slavery
- Self neglect
- Organisational abuse

Prevent Duty Update

Protecting children and adults at risk from all types of grooming is a safeguarding responsibility. This includes the grooming activity of extremist groups who want to radicalise individuals. Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) launched a website in November 2020 - actearly.uk - to encourage friends and family to act early, share concerns and seek help if they are worried that someone they care about is being radicalised.



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2022 BCGBA CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

The list of qualifying competitions for this season's Champion of Champions has now been confirmed. The list is subject to change as a few competition organisers are still to confirm that their competition will run in 2022. Updates will be included in future editions of the Newsletter along with results from the various competitions.

Following the closure of the Waterloo Hotel green in Blackpool, this year's competition will be played at Heaton Park (Greater Manchester) on Saturday 24th September, commencing at 10am.

QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS

Cheshire Merit	BCGBA Senior Individual Merit
Cumbria Merit	BCGBA Junior Individual Merit
Derbyshire Merit	BCGBA Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Handicap
Greater Manchester Merit	Autumn Waterloo
Isle of Man Merit	Brighthouse Classic
Lancashire Merit	British Parks Merit
Merseyside Merit	Coors Meole Brace Open
North Lancs & Fylde Merit	Hillcrest Classic
North Midlands Merit	Isle of Man June Bowling Festival
Potteries & District Merit	Isle of Man September Bowling Festival
Shropshire Merit	Midland Masters Merit
South Yorkshire Merit	Pudsey Classic
Staffordshire Merit	Spring Waterloo
Warwick & Worcester Merit	St Georges Open
Welsh Merit	Talbot Trophy
Yorkshire Merit	Wharton Cons Open

RESERVE COMPETITIONS (In order)

1 Sandal Classic	10 Lindley Bowling Club 2000
2 Spen Masters	11 Cleckheaton Sports Classic
3 Richmond Open Classic	12 Kirkheaton Con 64
4 Castle Private Classic	13 Wrockwardine Wood Open
5 George Masters	14 Mastertech Nursery Classic
6 West Brom Open	15 Brownedge Classic
7 Woodley Spring Classic	16 Isle of Man Bowling Festival June Tourism
8 Conwy County Bowling Festival	17 Isle of Man Bowling Festival September Tourism
9 Rastrick Classic	

BOWLS' BIG WEEKEND 2022



Bowls' Big Weekend is back for 2022 and will be held between Friday 27th and Sunday 29th May.

This is an excellent way to recruit new members to your club and those clubs that took part in the inaugural year in 2021 will reap the rewards of their efforts with increased membership for the season ahead.

You can register your club's interest at bowlsbigweekend.com

ANNUAL MEETING RESCHEDULED

Due to the concerns over continuing recording of positive Covid cases, the 2022 BCGBA Annual Meeting that should have taken place on Saturday 15th January will now take place on Saturday 5th March. As usual, the morning session will be to discuss and vote upon any proposed rule changes with the afternoon session for the submission of reports and other agenda items.

In the morning Rules Revision Meeting, the only contentious issue will be the proposal to introduce a £10 annual fee for all leagues and associations. The rationale behind the proposal is that leagues and associations receive the same benefit as our clubs regarding Public Liability Insurance but do not currently pay an annual fee.

Other rule changes up for discussion are:

- To reduce the time frame that counties have to submit their teams for the Senior and Junior County Championships, from 21 days before a match to 14 days.
- To allow counties to appoint a 'home' referee in county matches, except for the semi-final and final where neutral referees will be appointed.
- To further define the 'definition of a playing member' to cover those leagues who allow players to 'guest' for a club without having to be a paying member.
- To introduce the same system for the allocation of places in the Junior Merit to match those of the Senior Merit.
- To approve a raft of proposed changes to the Laws of the Game, some of which are just a tidying up exercise.

The afternoon session will hear the annual reports of the CEO and Financial Officer and will also vote upon accepting the Federation of Crown Green Bowls as full members of the association. Probably the most important decision of the day will be the vote to allow the CEO to move forward with establishing an Independent Board to allow the association to move forward. If he is given the green light, after a period of consultation with county associations, it is hoped to have the new board in place in January 2023.

BOWLS' BIG WEEKEND 2022

Friday 27th – Sunday 29th May

PRESENTED BY



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