



Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

held at Winnington Park Recreation Club on Saturday 18th January 2020

1 Welcome by the President

The President, Graham Jackson, opened the meeting at 12.50pm and first asked the meeting to join him in silent tribute to remember our colleagues who have passed away since we last met. He welcomed once again those who had stayed following the morning's Rules Revision Meeting and advised that the attendance would be recorded as the same as the morning meeting.

2 Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting

On a proposal from Potteries & District CBA, seconded by Merseyside CCGBA, the minutes of the previous meeting held on Saturday 19th January 2019 were unanimously approved as a true record, with the Chairman signing the minute book accordingly.

3 Matters Arising

The President advised that on page 2 (8 – Elections – President) of the minutes his son, Calvin, was shown as speaking on behalf of Cumbria when it should have been Derbyshire. The National Administrator, Brian Hampson, advised that this error had been spotted and the minutes signed by the Chairman showed the correct county.

4 Chief Executive's Report

The CEO, Mark Bircumshaw, gave a comprehensive report confirming that the transfer of work from John Crowther was complete and thanked Brian Hampson for his contribution in his role as National Administrator.

He covered all key areas of the association advising that we now have over 41,500 bowlers entered on the GoMembership database and hoped to have all County Associations updated by the start of the 2020 season in April. He felt that we are unable to introduce an individual membership fee until the total number of bowlers is known.

He congratulated our Safeguarding Officer, Paul Ashmore, on his outstanding work throughout the year and advised that further safeguarding courses would continue as required. He spoke of the work undertaken by the new Development Officer, Lee Smith, with a number of projects ongoing to support clubs who are struggling to attract new members, one of which was Bowl for Health. This is an initiative running in Merseyside and he hoped that it could be rolled out to all counties. Level 2 Coaching Courses, through Coach Bowls, are now ready to be rolled out with the first one planned for May at Heaton Park.

He gave an update on Heaton Park which now has two grass crown greens laid and the first cut is due within the next week. It is hoped to have a team ready to play on the greens at the start of the season. He suggested that all counties contact their local council to check that they have a Pitch Playing Strategy. Each council should have one which gives a degree of protection to existing clubs.

In closing, he congratulated all of our winners from the 2019 season and thanked his fellow officers for their continued work on behalf of all of us, often putting in more hours than is expected.

5 Financial Officer's Report

The Financial Officer, Graeme Underhill, began his report with special thanks to the outgoing President, Graham Jackson, whom he had enjoyed working with at various events during 2019. He also thanked his fellow Officers and Management Committee for their support over the past twelve months and County Secretaries and Treasurers who have dealt with his requests in a timely fashion. He then went through all the pages of the Financial Statement, highlighting a number of items on each page. After each page he stopped to allow questions from the floor and he did his best to answer many of the numerous questions he received.

Concerns were raised by the continual loss on the Competitions Account. Whilst he agreed that any loss was disappointing, he pointed out that it is historic that this account has always run at a loss, though the deficit in 2019 was considerably less than in previous years, mainly as a result of the removal of the TV and Internet coverage.

In closing his report, he advised that as at the end of October 2019 the Association had available internal funds totalling £13,520.51 which was a dramatic improvement in 2018 and hoped this trend would continue.

6 Financial Statement 2019

On a proposal from North Lancs & Fylde CBA, seconded by Merseyside CCGBA, the meeting approved unanimously the 2019 Financial Statement.

7 Accountant's Report

Ian Dutton, of Reporting Accountants, Worton Rock Limited, had nothing further to add to what had already been said and read out his report on the Financial Statement for the year end 31st October 2019.

8 Elections

The retiring President, Graham Jackson, spoke of a wonderful two years, culminating in being elected President in 2019. He thanked all counties that he had visited and for their hospitality and for the support of his Deputy President, Ken Howarth. He then invited nominations for the position of BCGBA President in 2020.

President:

Joe Wardman, on behalf of Cumbria CCGBA, gave a humorous introduction in his proposal to nominate Ken Howarth as BCGBA President for 2020. He went on to say that Ken, a former Sheet Metal Worker, has been a playing colleague at Salthouse Bowling Club for some 45 years and during that time Ken had followed in his father's footsteps and was secretary of the club for 17 years. He was instrumental in improving the facilities at his club in which club membership increased by near 300%. His other passion is junior bowling where he has managed the Furness Junior Team in the Federation of Crown Green Bowls where he has been their Junior/Youth Officer for 13 years. He organises four junior competitions each year and has been Secretary of the Furness Crown Green Bowling Association for 8 years, Furness Senior Team Manager for 15 years and Vice-Chairman of the Furness & District Bowling League. Joe closed by saying that he was confident that Ken would lead the BCGBA in 2020 with immense pride and asked the meeting to support his nomination.

Phil Brown, on behalf of North Midlands CCGBA, reiterated that he had known Ken for some years through his outstanding work with the Federation of Crown Green Bowls and he was again more than happy to second Ken's nomination.

Ken was unanimously elected and received his President's blazer from the retiring President, Graham Jackson, and in his first duty presented him with his Past President's badge.

Ken thanked Joe and Phil for proposing and seconding him for this prestigious position. He felt he was unique in that he had no previous involvement with Cumbria County Crown Green Bowling Association until his appointment as Deputy President last year. He went on to quote the words of the 2007 President, the late Brian Chamberlain, who in his acceptance speech gave his views on the funding required to support the BCGBA and felt that we need an individual player fee. Thirteen years later we are still talking about it and Ken praised the Officers for their work in keeping the Association going. He felt they were not driven by money but for the love of the game and asked the meeting to give them their full support. In closing, he looked forward to visiting as many counties as possible during his year in office but asked everyone to remember the words of Brian Chamberlain.

Deputy President:

Michael Holden, on behalf of Greater Manchester CCGBA, was pleased to propose David Williams for the position of Deputy President of the BCGBA for 2020. Mike felt that David had single-handedly kept Greater Manchester alive over the last 17 years by taking on more positions than anyone should. He felt that there wasn't much reward given in our great game but felt it was the greatest honour a person could receive being nominated by their county. He asked the meeting to support his county's nomination.

Keith Andrews, on behalf of Lancashire CCGBA, said he had worked with David in his capacity as Chairman of the British Crown Green Referees Society and believed he would be an excellent choice to support the President. He was happy to second David's nomination.

David was unanimously elected and thanked Michael and Keith for their kind words and looked forward to working with the President throughout the season.

Reporting Accountants

On a proposal from the Derbyshire CCGBA, seconded by Potteries & District CBA, the meeting unanimously agreed that Worton Rock Limited should continue as our Reporting Accountants.

9 Date of 2021 Meeting

The Chairman advised that the next year's Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday 16th January.

With no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, wished everybody a safe journey home and then closed the meeting at 2.30pm.

SIGNED _____ (CHAIRMAN) _____