



Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at Winnington Park Recreation Club on Saturday 21st January 2023

1 Welcome by the President

The President, Ken Howarth, opened the meeting at 12.45pm and thanked those who had stayed following the morning's Rules Revision Meeting. He advised that the attendance would be recorded as the same as the morning's meeting though apologies have been received from David Williams (BCGRS Secretary), Marion Edmondson (Cheshire), Barry Massey (Potteries & District), Lyn Massey (Potteries & District) and Nigel Towey (Potteries & District).

He asked those who were able to stand and join him in a moment's reflection to remember those that have departed since we last met.

After being elected as President in 2020 he never expected to still be in position three years later and has become the longest-serving President of the BCGBA for 78 years. He said it was an experience he really enjoyed where he gained many new friends. He went on to highlight some 'highs' and 'lows' of his time in office and praised the work of his fellow officers who work tirelessly on behalf of crown green bowls and hope that they receive the support that they deserve.

2 Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting

On a proposal from Warwick & Worcester CBA, seconded by Cumbria CCGBA, the minutes of the previous meeting held on Saturday 5th March 2022 were unanimously approved as a true record, with the President signing the minutes accordingly.

3 Matters Arising

There were no Matters Arising.

4 Chief Executive's Report

The CEO, Mark Bircumshaw, began his report by referring to the passing of two family members in recent months, one being his father, which has changed his outlook on life. He said that he has been involved in sport for fifty years but he remains committed to his work with the Association.

Since taking over as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) some five years ago, he has endeavoured to modernise and move our sport forward and we are now recognised as an equal partner with Bowls England, the English Indoor and English Short Mat who work together to promote all codes.

He referred to progress with Safeguarding and a new Code of Conduct, which will be issued to all counties in March. He is due to meet with Bowls England to discuss the 2023 Bowls' Big Weekend but acknowledged that there were many issues in 2022 that he expects to be resolved at this meeting.

He referred to the Heaton Park Project where we now have a cross-code group working for the benefit of bowls and, following a recent meeting, significant progress has now been made.

He advised that crown green bowls received one million pounds from the Covid Fund but noted that there are various funding streams available that clubs can source. As an association, we need to have a discussion within the next twelve months as to how we fund and move our game forward as we currently have no full-time employees compared to other sports. He said he doesn't want to keep coming back with the £1 per player proposal each year but he wants to leave his successor with the funds available to grow the sport and was happy to listen to any ideas counties may have on the matter.

He addressed the issue of the Trust Fund, which belongs to the Trustees. They can use this money to rebate projects for development and we currently have a bid in progress which will support Coaching, Bowls

Development Alliance (BDA), Heaton Park Project etc. It was agreed not to use this fund during the last three years due to the volatile stock markets, which would have had a detrimental effect on the fund.

The criticism he sometimes receives does make him question his involvement within our sport and confirmed that he will not be in the position in another five years' time. He will be issuing all counties with a Strategic Development Plan for the periods 2023 to 2026, which will be the focus of future meetings. He advised that after today's meeting we can elect Board Members and the election process will be issued by March. He will issue a document with the areas he feels the Representative Council need to discuss at their March Meeting. One such item will be the balancing of our competition account as it was acknowledged that we cannot continue to sustain the losses we make year on year on this account.

He referred to the infinity schemes of easyfundraising and A Plan in which the BCGBA receive a rebate, but this requires all bowlers to play their part and sign up for free.

In closing, he thanked everyone for their help and contributions over the last five years saying it is appreciated. The President thanked the CEO for his report and acknowledged his appreciation for the work he undertakes on behalf of all bowlers. He felt that when the time comes for him to stand down his successor will have a hard act to follow.

5 Financial Officer's Report

The Financial Officer, Graeme Underhill, began his report with special thanks to the outgoing President, Ken Howarth, whom he felt has done a terrific job during his three years as President. Although not in attendance, he welcomed the incoming president, Martin Goddard, and his new Deputy President, Frank James. 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 felt that 2022 was more of a normal year with the association in a secure financial position but warned of financial headwinds that lay ahead. He echoed the comments of the CEO that we must keep pace with ever-increasing costs by raising funds from the bowling community.

He was surprised that, despite a request that went out with the Accounts, he has not received a single email on the accounts. He noted that the comparison between 2022 and 2021 was somewhat difficult to compare as 2021 still had the impact of Covid. The headline was that we incurred a deficit of £21,484 which wasn't as he had expected but hoped to explain the reasons as he went through each page of the accounts.

He then went through all the pages of the Financial Statement, highlighting several items on each page and answering questions from the floor. He raised his concerns about the deficit in the men's and ladies competitions account and welcomed any ideas that would help reduce this deficit. He felt that the registration income was a revelation and never believed we would get the number of new bowlers that registered in 2022. He was confident with the work being undertaken we will continue to see a steady influx of new bowlers and the signs are already encouraging for 2023.

He referred to the Trustees Fund which saw a £32,000 recovery in 2022 but is currently showing a £10,000 deficit to this time last year probably because of events across the globe. Since going to print the markets have improved slightly. He confirmed that the Trustees have released £20,000 to the association's accounts and he will work out where that will be shown on the accounts as it is not income but just a movement of funds.

In closing his report, he thanked everyone for listening and hoped 2023 was a cracking year.

The President thanked the Financial Officer for an excellent report and all his hard work on behalf of the association.

6 Financial Statement 2022

On a proposal from the Ladies Competition Committee, seconded by Cheshire CBA, the meeting approved unanimously the 2022 Financial Statement.

Summary of Annual Surplus / (Deficit)

	2022	2021
General Funds	19.74	8,578.28
Competitions Account	(22,132.00)	(10,274.33)
Ladies Competition Account	(11,626.65)	(2,951.27)
Development Account	6,858.47	16,928.75
Investment Account	5,396.90	4,838.00
	(21,483.54)	17,120.03

7 Accountant's Report

The Finance Officer, Graeme Underhill, advised that Ian Dutton, of Reporting Accountants, Worton Rock Limited, didn't feel it necessary for Ian to attend today's meeting as the Chartered Accountants Report was attached to the accounts. There were no questions from the floor regarding their report. On a proposal from Staffordshire CBA, seconded by Cumbria CBA, the meeting unanimously approved the Accountant's Report.

8 Elections

President:

Paul Murphy, on behalf of Greater Manchester CCGBA, first paid tribute to David Williams who was elected Deputy President in 2020 but due to ill health and family reasons is unable to continue in the role. David has done so much for our game at national and county levels and if it wasn't for him Greater Manchester county may not exist today. He was however pleased to nominate Martin Goddard as President of the British Crown Green Bowling Association for 2023 and felt that he would be a fine ambassador for crown green bowls.

Ken Howarth, on behalf of Cumbria CBA, was happy to second the appointment of Martin Goddard as President for 2023. Having worked with him since June of last year he feels that he will be an asset to the association. On a personal note, he thanked David Williams for the support that he had given him during his two years as his deputy and felt it was a great shame that he has missed out on being President as a result of Covid.

Ken advised that unfortunately, Martin could not be in attendance today as he had a pre-arranged holiday to Australia to visit his family. At the November BCGBA Management Committee Meeting, he presented Martin with his Presidential Blazer and chain of office.

Deputy President:

John Andrews, on behalf of Staffordshire CBA, nominated Frank James for the position of Deputy President for 2023. He outlined a long list of his roles he has held within our sport and other sports and was a former deputy mayor of Stafford. Frank is hard-working and an enthusiastic person and was sure these attributes will be transferred in his role as Deputy President.

Yvette Gregory, on behalf of the BCGBA Ladies Competition Committee, said she has known Frank for the last five years and can see his passion for our game and felt he would be a great asset to the BCGBA. She therefore proposed Frank as Deputy President and wished him every success in his new role.

Frank thanked his sponsors for their kind words and hoped he can serve the association well.

Reporting Accountants

On a proposal from Graeme Underhill (Financial Officer), seconded by Merseyside CCGBA, the meeting unanimously agreed that Worton Rock Limited should continue as our Reporting Accountants.

9 Date of 2024 Meeting

The Chairman advised that next year's Annual Meeting will take place on Saturday 20th January.

With no further business, the Chairman thanked everyone for their attendance, wished everybody a safe journey home and then closed the meeting at 2.20pm.

SIGNED _____ (CHAIRMAN) 20th January 2024

ROLL OF HONOUR 2023

SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Winners – Staffordshire

Runners-up – Derbyshire

Semi-Finalists – Shropshire

Semi-Finalists – Yorkshire

JUNIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Winners – Yorkshire

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP – MARCH (SPEN VICTORIA)

Winners – Fenton Private (Potteries & District)

Runners-up – Pudsey BC (Yorkshire)

Semi-Finalists – Crossland Moor (Yorkshire)

Semi-Finalists - Stretton Anglesey (Derbyshire)

JACK & JEAN ISHERWOOD VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIP

Winner – Martin Simcock (Potteries & District)

Runner-up – Andrew Sorsby (South Yorkshire)

Semi-Finalist – David Jackson (Cheshire)

Semi-Finalist - Phil Boydell (Lancashire)

JUNIOR SIX-A-SIDE CHAMPIONSHIP

Winners – Cumbria

SENIOR INDIVIDUAL MERIT

Winner – Simon Coupe (North Lancs & Fylde)

Runner-up – Reece Farr (Staffordshire)

Semi-Finalist – Andy Hamman (Cheshire)

Semi-Finalist – Robbie Ellis (Yorkshire)

VETERANS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Winners – South Yorkshire

SENIOR SUPPLEMENTARY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Winners – Warwick & Worcester

Runners-up – Cheshire

ROLL OF HONOUR 2023

18-23 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Winner – Owen Cookson (Cheshire)

Runner-up – Louise Jones (Warwick & Worcester)

Semi-Finalists – Mark Bushell (Cheshire)

Semi-Finalists – Josh Thomas (Yorkshire)

JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL MERIT

Winner – Louie Furness (Derbyshire)

Runner-up – Owen Evans (Staffordshire)

Semi-Finalists – Ethan Lowden (Cumbria)

Semi-Finalist – Alfie Knight (North Midlands)

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

Winner – Greg Smith (Ribblesdale Classic)

Runner-up – Robbie Ellis (Yorkshire Merit)

Semi-Finalist – Andy Hamman (Cheshire Merit)

Semi-Finalist – Simon Coupe (North Lancs & Fylde Merit)

CENTENARY MIXED PAIRS

Winners – Jasmine Kendal & Craig Gant (Yorkshire)

Runners-up – Sophie Rigney & Tom Eccles (Greater Manchester)

Semi-Finalists – Lyn Bolton & Peter Jones (Isle of Man)

Semi-Finalists – Emily & James Kernick (Warwick & Worcester)

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP – OCTOBER (HEATON PARK)

Winners – Pudsey BC (Yorkshire)

Runners-up – Greville Arms (Warwick & Worcester)

Semi-Finalists – Stretton Anglesey (Derbyshire)

Semi-Finalists – Parkfield Labour (North Lancs & Fylde)