



BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Annual General Meeting

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting

Held at Winnington Park Recreation Club on Saturday 20th January 2024

MINUTES

1 Welcome by the President

The President, Martin Goddard, opened the meeting at 10:37am.

A minute silence was held in remembrance of passed friends & colleagues.

Martin had a very enjoyable year as President, he thanked Frank James for his support as Deputy President. He had made many new friends along the way and thanked the Counties for their hospitality shown to himself and his wife Brenda. There had been a number of highlights along the way, he had been invited to the Welsh Juniors at Beaumaris Anglesey and the Welsh Merit. Other highlights were presenting the All Britain Cup to Simon Coupe at Heaton Park, and presenting the World Club Championship to the Pudsey Captain. Martin attended numerous County matches during the season and was pleased to present the Crosfield Cup to Staffordshire at Stretton Bowling Club. He thanked the Officers of the Association for their support in particular Yvette Gregory and the Ladies. A special thanks to Mark Bircumshaw for his support in a difficult year, we all appreciate his invaluable work for the Association. The greatest challenge was the All Britain at Heaton Park as it was the only venue available in Greater Manchester, with the help of Paul Murphy, Nigel Fryer, his wife Brenda and numerous other volunteers we achieved successful day. Finally in thanking everyone he hoped they would continue to support the BCGBA.

2 Minutes of the Previous Annual General Meeting

On a proposal from Merseyside seconded by Cheshire, the minutes of the previous meeting held on Saturday 21st January 2023 were unanimously approved as a true record, with the President signing the minutes accordingly

3 Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising.

4 Chief Executives Officer's Report.

I have a series of things here I want to talk about and I'm going to go through some of the highlights of where I think we've moved over the last eight years. Firstly well I think one of the big highlights for me is the fact that we've now had a significant number of new Level 1 and Level 2 Coaches in last twelve months, sixty-seven level One's have passed, fourteen on the Isle of Man and we will at some point this year have a Level 2 on the Isle of Man as well, six in Helsby, thirteen at Penistone in South Yorkshire seven in Warwick and Worcester and five at Heaton Park. We have a course currently ongoing which will complete in February 18 in North Lancs & Fylde and we've got nine Level 2's which should hopefully pass this this year. I'm talking with Bill Dow about course in Merseyside side area, and I'm talking with Steve Cochrane about a course on the East Coast. I will continue to be involved with Coach Bowls.

Over the last six years he has been involved in the Sport England Pitch Strategy. He commented that there was considerable funding available for sporting venues under threat of planning applications. There has been a number of these Pitch Strategy applications been now passed down to the Counties. It is important that when received they are dealt with. Mark thanked all the Officer's he has worked with over the year's. It was difficult as a governing body to move forward as we were lacking funding. He felt that the incoming Chief Executive & Board needed to address the funding of the sport and the long term future.

Mark thanked Paul Ashmore for all his work for Safeguarding largely as a volunteer. He informed the meeting that he had a copy of the Online Safety Act, this would be a huge challenge to understand going forward. Mark urged everyone to get involved with the BDA and what they can offer via their website. He had been heavily involved with the Juniors and had been introduced to around twenty five primary schools. Mark reported that a bid was to go forward on Monday of £250,000 through the BDA for Disability Equality & Inclusion, working with Lisa the Managing Director of the BDA they had been out looking at different projects around the Country to enable for them to put the bid together.

Mark commented that the Association was moving forward with the Board now in place and the nomination forms & packs for Board Member nominations are due to be sent out shortly. With looking for them to returned to the NA by Mid-February. Mark informed the meeting that the BDA have appointed a new Development Officer Chris Hollinshead. He has been working with him, and were looking into the possible placement of development hubs around the Country.

In closing Mark said that in the last six years he had tried to put the Sport first, he hadn't put his County or himself first but the Sport first, he hoped that the Sport would benefit from all his efforts over the years. Mark thanked everyone for their support over the years.

5 Financial Officer's Report / Financial Statement 2023.

The Financial Officer, Graeme Underhill, began his report with special thanks to the outgoing President, Martin Goddard, whom he felt has done a terrific job during his role as President. He welcomed the incoming President Frank James and the Deputy President. He also thanked his fellow Officer's and colleagues for their support in the last twelve months. In particular Mark Bircumshaw who despite extreme personal circumstances, has devoted a considerable amount of time and effort to the BCGBA in 2023. Finally to thank all of the County Secretaries and Treasurers who have responded to his requests in a timely manner.

Graeme commented that it had been a mixed year financially for the BCGBA, nether less the Association is in a secure financial position. We will continue to keep pace with ever increasing costs and this will inevitably involve raising funds from the Bowling Community.

The Account shows a surplus of £908, his original budget showed a deficit of 30k. He felt that his comments at the time had the desired affect and with the small surplus at the end of the financial year it needed saying.

The Financial Officer then proceeded to through the Financial Statement page by page, inviting questions from the Meeting.

Page 1:-

What is the situation with the lease on the BCGBA Office ?.

The BCGBA would leave their contract at the end of February.

The figures on Handbook advertising have been reduced, yet the actual amount handbook adverts was still the same.

We have a number of partner Sponsors that receive a free advert. The difficulty in acquiring payment from other advertisements continues to be a problem.

Page 2:-

Can the AGM catering expenditure been shown individually on the Accounts ?.

The Financial Officer indicated that the gross items can be shown on the Account.

Can we possibly save expenditure by not having face to face meetings ?.

It was felt that a face to face meeting once a year was acceptable.

Page 3:-

The 5k from page 2 is that included in the £6392, if that had not been moved the deficit would be 20K ?.

This was confirmed, this figure of 5k was due to Endsleigh in the past wanting to be a specific sponsor.

Where is the Footer Fee in the Accounts ?.

These are contained within the competition income.

Page 4:-

It hasn't been mentioned that some competitions have been staged twice, so the expenditure had increased ?.

There had been a slight increase in the overall expenditure, but it was stated that there had also been two amounts of income.

Prior to the merger of the Ladies & Men's Associations, the Ladies Accounts had broken even.

Prior to the merger the Ladies Association received a grant every year from the BCGBA.

Page 5:-

The BDA Safeguarding figure covers what ?.

This covers various items within Safeguarding.

The Annual payment to the BDA is this likely to increase ?.

There is no intention on the part of the BDA to increase the fee.

In reference to Heaton Park, the question was asked why the decision had been made by the BCGBA to withdraw from the Park. It was felt that the possible funding of an Indoor Bowling Facility at Heaton Park hadn't been made known when the decision was made.

The CEO indicated when the decision was made he was unable to see anything at the time due to the press release which was to be made by Greater Manchester City Council the following Monday.

The question was asked on behalf of Greater Manchester on how this decision had been made and that Greater Manchester City Council warranted an explanation in writing on why the BCGBA had withdrawn from Heaton Park.

The Chairman would personally write to Paul Murphy with a full explanation.

Summary of Annual Surplus / (Deficit)

	2023	2022
General Funds	9,838.62	19.74
Competitions Account	(15,179.58)	(22,132.00)
Ladies Competition Account	(14,430.44)	(11,626.65)
Development Account	14,634.70	6,858.47
Investment Account	6,045.18	5,396.90
	(908.48)	(21,483.54)

On a proposal from the Ladies Committee, seconded by Cheshire CBA, the meeting approved unanimously the 2023 Financial Statement

6 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. Graeme informed the meeting that Worton Rock had now changed their name to BK Plus.

7 Election of President.

John Andrews on behalf of Staffordshire CBA, nominated Frank James for the position of BCGBA President for 2024.

Frank as you know is currently Vice President and has served as President of Staffordshire and he's currently the Chairman of the local Association and Chairman of the local Bowling Club and a Director at Stafford Town Football Club. He has been involved in sport and charity work for over 60 years and is an active member of Sports Stafford which helps to raise a lot of money for local clubs and individuals in and around Staffordshire. In his younger days he was quite an active footballer and he does a lot in other sports as well but Bowls is now his first love. Outside of his Sporting interests Frank was a local councillor for many years and he served as Deputy Mayor for Stafford, and in last year's elections despite doing absolutely no canvassing whatsoever purely on his local reputation he was re-elected as a Councillor. I think that says a lot of about his standing in the local community people are very well aware of all the work he does for Sport and also for Charity. I know from personal experience as does Mark Bircumshaw how hard Frank does work at his various organisations and things that he does and I'm sure he will bring the same enthusiasm and work ethic to his role as President of this Association. I thank you for your indulgence and I hereby nominate Frank James for the position of President for the upcoming term.

Yvette Gregory on behalf of Cheshire CBA, seconded Frank James for the position of BCGBA President.

I've known Frank for a few years now at various competitions and he certainly likes to be involved. He has had successful year as Deputy President year and attended many competitions. Frank certainly enjoys meeting people and certainly works hard so Frank I wish you all the very the best for this coming year and we look forward to working with you.

The newly elected President Frank James thanked the meeting for bestowing this honour on him. I know a lot people have give me a lot of praise but there is a lot of people behind me who make all these things happen. Special thanks to Martin Goddard for his role as President during the past year, thanks of course to Mark Bircumshaw for the excellent help he also gave me and I'm very sad to see Mark leave. To Graham Underhill thank you very much and to all the Committee who worked along side me during the past year, and to all the clubs who have made me welcome.

8 Election of Deputy President.

Rose Robins on behalf of South Yorkshire, nominated Lesley Allan for the position of BCGBA Deputy President for 2024

Lesley Allen has grown up within a crown green bowling family. She would often accompany her grandparents and parent to various bowls matches from an early age. However, she did not actually start bowling until she married in the 1990's. Her husband had taken up bowling and thought it would be a good idea if she followed suit. She did, and had a number of successes. She bowled for 3 clubs, namely Cortonwood, Yorkshire Main and Armthorpe in the Barnsley, Doncaster and Wath areas of South Yorkshire, and won the Barnsley Ladies Competition a number of times. In 2000 she took on the role of Assistant Secretary of SYCGBA with responsibility for running all the competitions organised by South Yorkshire. In 2009 family commitments took her away from bowling. In 2018, Lesley returned to the bowling world as Competition Secretary for South Yorkshire. In 2019, Lesley took on responsibility for the Go registration system for all bowlers in South Yorkshire, which involved much untangling of data and cross referencing to establish a clear picture of registered bowlers in South Yorkshire. In 2021 Lesley became the South Yorkshire Representative to the BCGBA Management Committee and also joined the Disciplinary Panel for BCGBA. In 2022, Lesley joined the Competitions Committee for BCGBA. In addition to her duties with BCGBA, Lesley has also set up a web site for SYCGBA and a Facebook page. It is with great pleasure that I nominate Lesley Allan, on behalf of South Yorkshire, to be your Deputy President for 2024, and I think the first Lady to hold that position.

Yvette Gregory on behalf of Cheshire CBA, seconded Lesley Allan for the position of BCGBA Deputy President.

On behalf of Cheshire County Bowling Association I'd like to reiterate what's been said about Lesley. In the last three years I have come to know Lesley very personally she's been absolutely amazing at Competitions. She has assisted at the British Crown Green Competitions proving how valuable and capable she is. The biggest thing for me is getting back on track with the Juniors, and to see them compete this year was amazing. Her work ethic is phenomenal and nothing is ever too much trouble, we at Cheshire County Bowling Association wish to second her nomination and we wish her the best of luck as Deputy President.

9 Election of Accountant.

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

10 Date of the next Annual General Meeting.

The Chairman advised that next year's Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday 18th January 2025.

SIGNED _____ (CHAIRMAN) 18th January 2025



BCGBA ROLL OF HONOUR 2024

SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Winners – Warwick & Worcester

Runners-up – Yorkshire

Semi-Finalists – Greater Manchester

Semi-Finalists – South Yorkshire

JUNIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Winners – Yorkshire

WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Winners – Crossgates (Yorkshire)

Runners-up – Greville Arms (Warwick & Worcester)

Semi-Finalists - Esclusham (Wales)

Semi-Finalists – George & Dragon (Greater Manchester)

JACK & JEAN ISHERWOOD VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIP

Winner – Clive Chapman (Greater Manchester)

Runner-up – Gareth M Williams (Wales)

Semi-Finalist – Graham Bennett (Wales)

Semi-Finalist – Barry Harris (Wales)

JUNIOR SIX-A-SIDE CHAMPIONSHIP

Winners – Warwick & Worcester

JUNIOR SIX-A-SIDE CONSOLATION CHAMPIONSHIP

Winners – Cumbria

SENIOR INDIVIDUAL MERIT

Winner – Greg Smith (Warwick & Worcester)

Runner-up – Chris Mordue (Yorkshire)

Semi-Finalist – Ross Dunkley (Warwick & Worcester)

Semi-Finalist – Lee Longland (North Lancs & Fylde)



BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

VETERANS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Winners – Yorkshire

Runner-up – North Lancs & Fylde

3rd Place – Shropshire

4TH Place – Greater Manchester

SENIOR SUPPLEMENTARY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Winners – Derbyshire

Runners-up – Shropshire

18-23 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP

Winner – Shannon Kernick (Warwick & Worcester)

Runner-up – Olivia Fishwick (Warwick & Worcester)

Semi-Finalists – Rhys Marshall (Shropshire)

Semi-Finalists – Harry Parsonage (Shropshire)

JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL MERIT

Winner – Ronan Allen (North Midlands)

Runner-up – Jacob Hatfield-Goodall (Yorkshire)

Semi-Finalists – Jordan Millman (Shropshire)

Semi-Finalist – Jess Lacey Wales

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

Winner – Paul Dudley (Federation Merit)

Runner-up – Greg Smith (BCGBA Senior Merit)

Semi-Finalist – David May (Derbyshire Merit)

Semi-Finalist – Lee Brown (Potteries & District Merit)

CENTENARY MIXED PAIRS

Winners – Clair Russell & Steve Clamp (North Lancs & Fylde)

Runners-up – Emma Earlam & Robert Winnington (Cheshire)

Semi-Finalists – Mags Swift & Robert Swift (North Lancs & Fylde)

Semi-Finalists – Kerry Brown & James Thomas (South Yorkshire)



BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

BCGBA LADIES

ROLL OF HONOUR 2024

SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Winners – Shropshire

Runners-up – Greater Manchester

Semi-Finalists – Burton & District & North Lancs & Fylde

MAVIS DEARDEN SUPPLEMENTARY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Winners – Yorkshire

Runners-up – Cumbria

Semi-Finalists – North Derbyshire & North Midlands

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

Winner – Wrockwadiene Wood (Shropshire)

Runner-up – Dearne Sports (South Yorkshire)

VETERANS COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

Winner – Greater Manchester

Runner-up – Warwickshire & Worcester

3rd Place – Cheshire

4th Place – Burton & District

SENIOR INDIVIDUAL MERIT

Winner – Linda Williams (Wales)

Runner-up – Cheryl Caswell (Shropshire)

Semi-Finalists – Louise Ollerton (Greater Manchester), Jane Hollingworth (Yorkshire)

DOROTHY PEARCE MEMORIAL PAIRS

Winners – Liz Bennett & Carol Darley (North Lancs & Fylde)

Runners-up – Belinda Lloyd & Linda Williams (Wales)

Semi-Finalists – Sue Worrall & Nicola Boulton (Mid Cheshire), Laura Hallsworth & Janet Salmon (Staffordshire)

JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL MERIT

Winner – Jess Lacey (Wales)

Runner-up – Holly Jenkins (Yorkshire)

Semi-Finalists – Sapphire Wilson (Greater Manchester), Ava Hocknull (Warwickshire & Worcester)

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

Winner – Lyndsey Gorman (Merseyside)

Runner-up – Andrea Ainley (South Yorkshire)

Semi-Finalists – Andrea Buckley (Yorkshire), Cheryl Caswell (Spring Waterloo)