



WELSH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Patron - Mr John Percy

President – Mr Jack Hunt

Deputy President – Mrs Pauline Lindley

Minutes of the 98th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2 pm at The Beaches Hotel, PRESTATYN Saturday 10th February 2024

Chairmen – Mr Jack Hunt and Mrs Pauline Lindley

1. Opening Remarks– The Chairman welcomed our special guest, Frank James – BCGBA President.

Jack said that it had been a privilege and honour to serve as President and gave his congratulations to all winners during his year in Office but particularly Jess Lacey for her victory in the BCGBA Ladies Junior Merit. He outlined his involvement in Disabled Bowls and the Academies during the year and singled out for special mention Ray Barnes for his worked with disabled bowlers at Bradley Park and Peter Griffiths and David Walker for their work with the Juniors.

Jack said that he had been advised not to take on the Presidents role because of deficiencies in the administration of crown green bowling and regrettably this had proved, in his opinion, to be the case. Despite his best efforts using his experience, advice, and presentation of ideas he had been unable to remedy deficiencies in the WCGBA which included problems with the Sub Committees, the Welsh teams and the lack of structure and younger administrators in the BCGBA amongst several others.

Jack thanked the Executive Board for their support during his time as President with particular thanks to Pauline Lindley, Dusia Price, Peter Higham, David Walker and Simon Walker.

2. Apologies for absence – Sarah Lowndes, David Matthias, John Lloyd, John Percy, Kirsty Jones and Simon Walker. More than 100 members were present.

3. Obituaries – Members stood for a minute’s silence in the memory of Matthew Foster, Allan Green, Sue Scott and other Bowlers who have passed away since the last AGM.

4. Minutes – Minutes of the 97th AGM held on Saturday February 18th, 2023 – these had been circulated and were proposed as a true record by Martin Richardson, seconded by Mark Ball and accepted unanimously.

5. Presentation of Certificates and Trophies: -

Certificates and Trophies were presented by Frank James, BCGBA President as follows:

Hall of Fame –

Jess Lacey – BCGBA Ladies Junior Merit Winner 2022

Dusia Price – For services to the WCGBA

Raymond Barnes – For services to Disabled Bowling

Ray Springfield – Senior team aggregate – **Paul Hallett**

Ashenden Shield – Ladies team aggregate – **Kirsty Jones (Collected by Linda Williams on her behalf)**

Hugh Owen – Highest placed in BCGBA Senior Merit – **Ian M Jones**

Stan Higham – Junior aggregate Flintshire & Wrexham – **Daniel Altman**

Llew Roberts - Junior aggregate Glyndwr & Gwynedd – **Lois Mai Jones**

6. Chief Executives Report: –

Mr Trevor Clarke said it was pleasing to report that the 2023 season at last saw Crown Green Bowls in Wales return to the pre pandemic norm with participation generally holding up well.

The progress made with the Juniors was particularly pleasing with our 4 Academies in Llanfair PG, Rhos Park, Penyfford and Esclusham continuing the excellent progress already made. Indeed, comment from the BCGBA suggests that we are virtually unique in firstly having this set up and, as a result, the number of Juniors we have playing. He recorded his particular thanks to Jack Hunt, 2023 President, for all the work he has put in to support the Academies.

The WCGBA Merits were played in their traditional formats and congratulations are due to the winners as follows:

Gwyn Morris Senior Merit – Joe Pritchard
Ladies Merit – Linda Williams
Veterans Merit – Barry Harris
Junior Merit – Kian Thomas
Ladies Pairs – Linda Williams and Belinda Lloyd
Mixed Pairs – Paul and Marie Hallett

Our Qualifiers all took part in the BCGBA events, and it is very pleasing to report that Jess Lacey of won the BCGBA Junior Ladies Merit, the second year in succession that a Welsh Lady has won.

In addition, he was delighted to report that Linda Williams was runner up in the BCGBA Ladies Champion of Champions. Well done to all our entrants.

Nationally, all our Welsh Teams entered the UK wide competitions and whilst the Senior Men failed to progress some encouraging signs were seen with qualification for the Semi Finals being missed by 8 points only in the final game. The Senior Ladies were in a very strong group and competed well but failed to qualify. The Juniors again did well on the national stage although a lack of competition was apparent with some Associations struggling to raise Junior teams.

He paid tribute to the work undertaken by the President, Jack Hunt whose knowledge and experience of the bowls scene has been invaluable. Jack has been very active in supporting both the Merits and the Welsh teams. Jack's contribution has also been significant in other areas including Junior development and disabled bowling.

We continue our full and constructive involvement in the BCGBA, and thanks are due to Peter Higham our representative with the BCGBA for all his hard work and input.

We continue to maintain an excellent relationship with Bowls Wales and are broadly satisfied with the support they provide.

Concerns continue to be raised regarding what could be perceived as an occasional bias towards the other forms of Bowls in Wales and the south of the country and a general lack of understanding of crown green.

Moreover, problems have continued with funding from Bowls Wales this past year where we see a reluctance to support our elite teams because they do not play internationally.

As a result of these issues, Trevor plans to attend the next Bowls Wales Board in Cardiff at the end of February to discuss our relationship with them in full.

Finally, thanks are due to Simon Walker for help on the Development Group amongst others.

Trevor thanked all clubs who hosted WCGBA and representative events during 2023. Your co-operation is always greatly appreciated.

He also thanked the Executive Governance Board for their tireless work in the past year. Thanks, are also due to David Walker who is standing down as Tournament Officer. Most attendees will be aware of David's long-standing work on behalf of the Association.

Trevor said that he would normally be content with the current position of our Sport but there is a major issue that he must unfortunately raise again. The reliance of the association on a small number of people to carry out the many and varied tasks required to efficiently operate. There are still have several vacancies open for some time which there have been no volunteers to fill including the vital one of Secretary. Moreover, we have been unable to fill the role of Deputy President for next year. Outside of administration, we are short of referees, and you will have seen the appeals from the Referees Society for new trainees.

He said that he cannot stress too strongly how critical this situation is becoming, our long serving Treasurer, Peter Scott, cannot be expected to continue forever and for himself, as he said when taking on the role, he intends to complete 2 terms as CEO, which will mean standing down at the 2026 AGM. Accordingly, potentially, over the next 2 years, the association will need to find a new CEO, Treasurer and Secretary. Given the current situation, he cannot be optimistic that this will be achieved.

Trevor apologised for speaking so frankly and acknowledged that, by their very attendance, all present are volunteers but unless the position improves then he must have doubts that the WCGBA will exist in 5 years' time which would potentially cause a disastrous fragmentation in the sport in Wales. He asked that attendees return to the organisations they represent and pass the message that we need help, and we need it now.

7. Financial Report – Finance Officer Peter Scott presented his report which had already been circulated. Acceptance of the Report was proposed by Peter Scott and seconded by Trevor Clarke and was approved unanimously.

The following proposals by Peter Scott Financial Officer were agreed unanimously by the EGB:-

7.2 The player's registration fee to be increased to £5 per player.

7.3 Entry fees the WCGBA Merit Competitions:-

Seniors and Ladies £10

Juniors £5

Vets £8

Pairs £10

7.4 Affiliation Fees for 2024 – to be increased to £50.

7.5 Appointment of Independent Examiners for 2024 Accounts – 'Sage & Co'

Peter read out to the meeting and answered 3 questions from members regarding the background to the fee increases which had also been covered in the paper sent to all affiliates.

7.6 Proposed Honoraria, the same as last year

Chief Executive – £1200

Financial Officer – £1000

Secretary – £1000

Registrar – £750

Tournament Officer - £300

BCGBA Rep – £50

Ladies Secretary – £50
Safeguarding Officer - £250

8. Reports

All competition reports are on the WCGBA web site – www.wcgba.com

9. Election of Officers for 2023

9.1 President – Mrs Pauline Lindley, Proposed by Wrexham – Ron West
Seconded by Flintshire – Peter Higham

Deputy President – No nominee

9.2 CONFIRMATION OF OFFICERS for 2024

Chief Executive Officer – Trevor Clarke
Financial Officer – Peter Scott
Registrar - David Walker
Secretary – Trevor Clarke
Assistant Secretary – **Vacancy** – will receive an honorarium in retrospect.
Development Officer – Simon Walker
Tournament Officer – Ashley Zepeda
Senior Team Manager – Joey Williams
Senior Team Coordinator - **Vacancy**
Ladies Team Coordinator/Secretary – Linda Williams & Sarah Lowndes
Junior Team Coordinator – **Vacancy**
Men's Veterans Manager – Mike Barrodale
Ladies Veterans Manager – Amanda Nicholas
Commercial/Sponsorship Officer – **Vacancy**
Press Officer – **Vacancy**
Welsh Liaison Officer – David T Evans
Safeguarding Officer – Judy Hughes
Website manager – Trevor Clarke
BCGBA Representative – Peter Higham
Disability Liaison Officer – Ray Barnes

9.3 CONFIRMATION OF EGB MEMBERS FOR 2024

Flintshire – Peter Higham, Peter Bennett, Simon Walker
Glyndwr – Danuta Price, Jack Hunt, Judy Hughes
Gwynedd – David T Evans, TBA, Ann Banks
Wrexham – Sandra West, Peter Griffiths, Ron West

At this stage Jack Hunt formally handed over the Presidency to Mrs Pauline Lindley who took over as Chairman.

Pauline thanked Ron and Peter for their nominations and said it was an honour to serve as President. She thanked Jack Hunt and previous Presidents for their service. Pauline updated the meeting on developments with Womens Institute involvement in bowls .

Pauline made a presentation of an album to Jack Hunt marking his time as President.

10. Rule Changes and Notice of Motions

**11. RULE CHANGES AND NOTICE OF MOTIONS –
None**

The Meeting closed at 3.22pm