



Patron: Mr. John Percy

President: Mrs. Pauline A. Lindley

Minutes of the 99th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

2 pm at The Festival Church, PRESTATYN Saturday 15th February 2025

Chair: Mrs. Pauline A. Lindley

- Opening Remarks:** The Chair, Mrs. Pauline A. Lindley, welcomed delegates to the meeting, and introduced Mrs. Lesley Allan, the President of the BCGBA as a guest of honour; The Chair also welcomed Mr. John Percy, Patron of the WCGBA.
- Apologies** for absence were given by Paul Ashmore (CEO BCGBA), Ann Banks (Gwynedd Area Secretary), Robin Bennett (Senior Team Average Winner), Bryn G. Hughes (Highest placed Welsh bowler in the BCGBA Senior Merit, Geoff Pugh, John Davies, Pat Crowther (BCGBA National Registrar), John Crowther, Parciau BC, Ellesmere BC, and Holyhead BC.

There were 110 registered attendees, across Clubs, Leagues, Societies, Guests, and Association officials; 78% of clubs registered with the WCGBA attended.

- Obituaries:** The Chair noted Geraint Jones, Betty Hope, and Dave Gaskell as members who had passed this last season and gave the attendees a flavour of their many achievements of each in the sport.
Prior to moving on to Item 4 on the agenda, Pauline took the opportunity to express her enjoyment in her year as President, noting that she attended key WCGBA & BCGBA events virtually every week during the season past. She noted how grateful she felt regarding the dedicated volunteers who helped at the events, and also thanked Peter Higham, Simon Walker, Ron West, John Davies, and latterly, the Lacey Family for transporting her to the various events in which she attended; she finally expressed her pleasure at being able to meet bowlers, referees, and supporters again, after getting through a series of medical appointments throughout last season, and looked forward to once again meeting old friends around the greens.
- Minutes:** The Minutes of the 98th WCGBA AGM held on Saturday 10th of February 2024 and circulated prior to this meeting, were proposed as a true record of events by Gary Buckland (Bangor City), and seconded by Simon Walker (Gladstone), which was carried unanimously; the Chair noted next year, being the Centenary year of the WCGBA, a series of celebrations were being planned, and attendees should look out for information forthcoming in the new season; she also noted that those who wished to share memories or memorabilia should come forward.

5. Presentation of Trophies:

The Trophies were presented by Mrs. Lesley Allan, President of the BCGBA.

Ray Springfield – Senior Team Aggregate: Robin Bennett (Apologies)

Ashenden Shield – Ladies team Aggregate: Amanda Nicholas

Hugh Owen – Highest placed in BCGBA Senior Merit: Bryn G. Hughes (Apologies)

Stan Higham – Junior Aggregate Flintshire & Wrexham: Jess Lacey

Llew Roberts – Junior Aggregate Glyndwr & Gwynedd: Joshua Humphries

Inducted into the Hall of Fame – Sandra West, long serving member of the Wrexham Area & League; Pauline introduced her as a stalwart of the WCGBA, the Wrexham Area & League for many years, and long overdue for induction into the Hall of Fame; noting her as a regular attendee at all events, Pauline commended her into the Hall of Fame, and thanked her for her dedication to the association.

- 6. Chief Executive's Report:** Mr. Trevor Clarke (CEO WCGBA) was pleased to report that the past season had been largely successful; he noted the 4 Academies continued to prosper thanks to Jack Hunt (President 2023), as he continues to work with them, and maintain links with the schools.

He congratulated the winners of the WCGBA Merits as:

Gwyn Morris Senior Merit – Francis Penlington

Ladies Merit – Linda Williams

Veterans Merit – Francis Penlington

Junior Merit – Jess Lacey

Mixed Pairs – Adam Penlington & Nicola Boulton

18-23 Merit – Jamie Williamson

Ladies Pairs – Jess Lacey & Kelsey Morgan Rowlands

The qualifiers took part in the BCGBA events, and in particular, Jess Lacey (Esclusham BC) winning the BCGBA Junior Merit & Linda Williams winning the BCGBA Ladies Merit.

Nationally, all Welsh teams entered the BCGBA County Championships with hard fought games, but missed out , narrowly in some cases; Senior Men's, Senior Ladies, Junior's, Men's, and Ladies Veterans all competed well during the season.

The CEO went on to report that due to the financial burden of supporting the Champion of Champions event, and without sponsorship, it was not viable to continue beyond 2025, and in its place for this year and going forward a new event aimed at 'grass roots' Bowlers will be introduced.

The CEO then went on to pay tribute to Pauline A. Lindley and her work as President of the Association and thanked her personally for sharing her knowledge and experience throughout the season.

He noted that the WCGBA continues to be fully and constructively involved with BCGBA matters, thanked Mr. Peter Higham, our representative, for ensuring our interests here are protected.

Trevor noted that we also continue our supportive position with Bowls Wales and indicated that a governance review was taking place within, and we awaited the outcome accordingly.

In conclusion, he thanked all clubs who hosted WCGBA events during 2024, and also the Executive Governance Board, noting that Mr. Peter Scott (Financial Officer) had brought diligence and professionalism to the role, and would be sorely missed.

Finally, he noted that 2024 had brought in individuals to fill open positions on the Board and was pleased to report Paul A. Daniel (Secretary), Ashley Zepeda (Tournament Officer), and Ged Ironmonger (Assistant Treasurer) were in place; there were still open positions however, in which we have had no volunteers, and we continue to be short of Referees in the Referees Society; he felt more optimistic about matters, but indicated that is still work to be done.

- 7. Financial Report:** Mr. Peter Scott (Financial Officer WCGBA) reported the financial position for the accounts Year End 31st of October 2024 (circulated prior to this meeting) and compared the key figures to the prior year. He called for the accounts to be accepted, which were proposed by Ged Ironmonger, and seconded by Gareth G. Hughes, and were subsequently unanimously approved. Mr. Scott advised the AGM that he was standing down after many years' service,

in which we are all grateful for his contributions, however, he would remain in post until a successor is nominated, and be on hand for the incumbent's familiarisation of the Association's financial process.

7.1. There were no prior written questions to the accounts.

7.2. He noted that the registration fee for the 2025 season would include a £1 BCGBA Development Fee, and therefore the total Registration Fee per player would increase to £6; there was some discussion over the increase and need to pay this, and after some explanation the fee was accepted, and noted as to be collected via the CR1 Form

7.3. Mr. Scott indicated that the WCGBA Merit entry fees remain as:

Seniors & Ladies - £10.00

Juniors - £5.00

Vets - £8.00

Pairs - £10.00

7.4 Affiliation Fees would also remain as £50.

7.5 The appointment of independent auditors 'Sage & Co' for 2025 was accepted.

7.6 Honoraria were accepted as:

Chief Executive Officer: £1,200.00

Financial Officer: £1,000.00

Secretary: £1,000.00

Registrar: £750.00

Tournament Officer: £400.00

Assistant Tournament Officer: £400.00

BCGBA Representative: £50.00

Ladies Secretary: £50.00

Safeguarding Officer £250.00

There being no further comments to the accounts, Peter closed off his report accordingly.

8. Competition Reports: These were noted as being available on the WCGBA website – www.wcgba.com
Pauline Lindley thanked Jeanette Higham for attending these events and submitting reports for the membership; and congratulated our winners and high performers, also noting that there were many improvements to the website, thanking Ashley Zepeda for the work involved.

9. Elections of Officers for 2025:

9.1. Mrs. Pauline A. Lindley was elected as President by Ann Banks (Gwynedd Secretary); although she was unable to attend, Gary Buckland read out her proposal speech, which was seconded by Ron West (Wrexham Area) and carried unanimously.

Mr. Peter Higham was elected as Deputy President, proposed by Simon Walker (Flintshire Area), and seconded by Ron West (Wrexham Area) and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Lesley Allan (President BCGBA) presented Peter with the Deputy President Badge, Peter thanked Simon, Ron, & the delegates; he then presented Pauline Lindley with a photo album of events throughout her presidency last season; Pauline thanked both Peter & Jeanette Higham for the album.

Confirmation of officers 2025:

Officers were introduced by Pauline Lindley as the elections were confirmed and noted to the delegates that they were welcome to get to know the officers, as are the officers, who wished to know them through the coming season.

Chief Executive Officer – Trevor Clarke

Financial Officer – Vacant

Registrar – David Walker

Secretary – Paul A. Daniel

Assistant Finance Officer – Ged Ironmonger

Assistant Secretary – **Vacant**

Development Officer – Simon Walker

Tournament Officer – Ashley Zepeda

Assistant Tournament Officer – Simon Walker

Senior Team Manager – Joey Williams

Senior Team Coordinator - **Vacant**

Ladies Team Managers – Linda Williams & Sarah Lowndes

Junior Team Managers – Peter Griffiths / Geoff Pugh / Sian Ollerton / Gari Williams

Men's Veterans Manager – Mike Barrodale

Ladies Veterans Manager – Amanda Nicholas

Commercial / Sponsorship Officer – Ged Ironmonger

Press Officer – **Vacant**

Welsh Liaison Officer – David T. Evans

Safeguarding Officer – Judy Hughes

Website Manager – Ashley Zepeda

BCGBA Representatives – Peter Higham & Pauline Lindley

Disability Liaison Officer – Ray Barnes

9.2. Confirmation of Area EGB Members 2025

Flintshire – Peter Higham, Ashley Zepeda, Simon Walker

Glyndwr – Danuta Price, Gareth E. Hughes, Judy Hughes

Gwynedd – David T. Evans, Ann Banks

Wrexham – Sandra West, Peter Griffiths, Ron West

10. Rule Changes & Notice of Motions

10.1. Insertion into Clause 4 (Honorary Patron, President, and Deputy President) of the WCGBA Constitution:

‘ In the event of an Area unable to appoint a Deputy President or President, the Area committee will be responsible for providing an official for each of the events that the Deputy President or President would be expected to attend. The Area Committee will also be responsible for all events on the Presidential rota for their Area.’ The motion was proposed by the EGB and seconded by Martin Richardson, which was carried unanimously.

- 10.2. The Chair confirmed that this was not a voting motion, but by way of information and confirming that the Executive Governance Board decided that the Champions of Champions event is held for the 2025 season and ceases as a competition from 2026 due to the intolerable financial burden; in place of this, a ‘Novices’ Competition will be held for the 2025 season and for the future; further information on this would be forthcoming.

11. In conclusion, the Chair thanked by name all those individuals who had organised and run the event, and also the Festival Church staff for their help; Pauline went on to thank the delegates, and Mrs. Lesley Allan, President BCGBA, for attending the AGM; There being no further business on the agenda, the Chair closed the meeting at 15:30.