



WELSH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Patron – Mr John Percy

President—Mr Peter Scott

Chairman—Mr John D Lloyd

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

AGM 2014

For those of you who don't know me I play my bowls at St Asaph City Bowling Club and also for Fron Park in Holywell. I have at some stage been a member of Prestatyn Highbury, Greenfield, Caerwys and Denbigh Bowling Clubs. I started playing competitively from a very young age and have been lucky enough to be selected for the Welsh Juniors and Seniors. Unfortunately injuries now prevent me from playing at a level where I can compete at County standard, but my love of the game has never left me. This is the main reason I applied for the job. Hopefully during my term in office we are able to raise the profile of bowls in Wales, not just for the talented individuals we have, but also for the teams, greens, competition and development.

I would just like to pay tribute, if I may, to our sponsors and donors:- Threeways, Co-Operative Funeral Care and our Patron, Mr John Percy. Also to Prys Jones & Booth in relation to score cards; Design 2 Print for our Match programmes; Sage & Co for printing our Financial reports; and finally Ram & Co for providing discounts on all purchases. Significantly in these times of austerity we are most grateful to have these partners aboard with us. On behalf of the Executive Governance Board, myself and all bowlers in Wales, we are most thankful.

I would also like to thank the members of the Executive Governance Board, Officers of the Association and the various members of the Committees since I have taken up post in July 2013. You have all been most supportive. Not to single any one officer out but thanks to Pauline Lindley, who has not only been my right-hand "man", but kept the association running between Chief Executives. Finally to our outgoing President, Peter Scott, who has served and represented the Association so well during his term in office.

Whereas I look at the whole game in Wales I think it would be remiss of me not to mention one or two individual performances this season, which have been outstanding. For a player to win a competition at British level is significant and yet again this year a Welsh bowler has managed to do just that. Many congratulations to Courtney Metcalfe from Ellesmere Bowling Club on winning the British Ladies Junior Merit. Another significant Junior performance this year came from Dylan Williams from Llanfair PG just losing out in the British Junior Final, very narrowly. Most definitely stars of the future who are a credit to Welsh bowls. I would also like to mention Jane Bowler from Conwy who also lost out in the final of the British Ladies Merit and Sarah Hey (Sychdyn) who reached the semi-final (losing out to Jane).

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Gay Cooper from Connah’s Quay reached the quarter-finals of the Ladies Champion of Champions whilst Darren Williams, also from Conwy, reached the quarter-finals of the British Senior Merit. Finally, to Viv Roberts & Lesley Williams who lost in the final of the Dorothy Pearce Pairs and Gay Cooper and John Bonatti who lost in the semi-final of the BCGBA Centenary Pairs.

Development Committee

Under the new structure, which came in to being following the Special General Meeting in 2012, the Development Committee had not met in any formal capacity before I took up post. I am most grateful to Trevor Ashenden for agreeing to Chair this “essential” committee. I cannot impress on bowlers enough that if we do not develop the game of bowls then the game will most certainly die. The WCGBA also have a Development Officer in post, Gareth Tibbetts. It is essential that the Areas appoint Development Officers to feed in to and serve on this committee. The remit is to look at developing the game, players, juniors, greens, sponsorship and competition (amongst other things). Whereas this seems a very wide remit, the more Development Officers we have on board from the Areas, the easier this will be. I would urge Areas as a matter of urgency to appoint Development Officers to aid this committee.

Finance Committee

This is Chaired by EGB Member, Dusia Price. This committee makes sure we are in order financially and makes recommendations to the Board in relation to fees, fines, honoraria, and purchases, by way of a small example. It is important that there is a robust Financial Officer in post and we have that in Betty Hope. Sadly for the Welsh, Betty is stepping down this year and we will be very sorry to lose her. Betty has left the WCGBA in a very healthy financial position and all credit must go to her for the sterling work she has undertaken. This is no easy task. Betty, although I haven’t worked with you for very long, I would like to thank you for your commitment to the Welsh. You will be missed.

National Performance Committee

This is Chaired by EGB Member, Brenda Jones. This committee looks at the Performance of the National Teams. Last year was a forgettable year as far as Team results were concerned. It is a very hard task to compete at County level so I would just like to thank Selectors, players, officials and volunteers for the hard work with the National Teams. The (Men’s) Senior Team finished third in their group of four and did not progress. A creditable performance was forthcoming in the Supplementary Championships losing out to a strong Potteries & District side.

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The Ladies Team finished fifth in their group of six. They did progress to the supplementary championships (after a late withdrawal) and to their credit finished runners-up in the group to North Lancs & Fylde.

The Junior Team finished second in their group, which took them to the supplementary championships, losing out to Merseyside (who they actually beat on the day). The Junior Ladies Team narrowly lost out in the Final to Shropshire Alan by 5 chalks.

The (Men's) Veterans Team finished third out of four in their regional group. The Ladies Veterans Team ending up with the same placed finish as the Men.

Apart from the Veterans Teams and the Junior Ladies Team, which have appointed Team Managers, all Teams now have three selectors and a Co-ordinator. It is hoped that this will bring some “freshness” to the Teams. I wish them all luck for the 2014 season. Reports from all the Teams in 2013 can be found on the website www.wcgba.com (At the time of writing this report there is still a vacancy for the Junior Co-ordinator. If anyone is interested in taking up this post then please contact me for a discussion).

Competitions Committee

This is Chaired by EGB Member, David Walker, who is also our Tournament Officer. The Committee considers and governs all the Tournaments run by the WCGBA. There is a commitment to running these Tournaments and Dave must be thanked for the work that he puts in to the calendar of events. You may have also noticed the “new” electronic scoreboard at some of the key events. There were a few teething problems but Mike Ormond has worked on the prototype in order to improve it further for this coming season. Our thanks go to Mike.

Winners this season have included:-

- Welsh Senior Merit – John Bonatti
- Welsh Ladies Merit – Gay Cooper
- Welsh Junior Merit – Dylan Williams
- Welsh Junior Ladies Merit – Courtney Metcalfe
- Welsh Veterans Merit – Kevin Nicholas
- Welsh Veterans Ladies Merit – Jane Jones
- Welsh Club Championship – Conwy
- Welsh Veterans Club Championship – Coed Talon

The Calendar of Events for 2014 can also be found on the website www.wcgba.com

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Welfare Committee

Notionally this is Chaired by me, as the named Welfare Officer. This is actually a vacancy; if you are interested in becoming the WCGBA Welfare Officer please contact me for a discussion.

This Committee has not met regularly and there is a proposal from the Executive Governance Board to include this committee as part of our Constitution. The Committee should consist of the WCGBA Welfare Officer, the Area Welfare Officers together with the Welfare Officers for the Referees and Coaching Societies. The Committee looks at and considers all welfare issues including DBS checks and safeguarding policies. This is a very important committee and needs to be established correctly this season. Pauline Lindley acts as out counter-signatory and links with the BCGBA.

Conclusion

I would like to thank all clubs who made their greens available to the WCGBA last year.

Finally, I would like to congratulate Mr D T Evans of Beaumaris Bowling Club who was chosen to officiate as a Referee in the final of the Crossfield Cup (Men's Senior County Championship) contested between Warwick & Worcester and Derbyshire. A huge honour indeed for a much respected referee.

I would also like to pass on good wishes to the Board members who are stepping down this year. Sandra West, who is to become our new President and Roy Mills who is "retiring." Thank you Roy for all your hard work and commitment to Welsh bowls.

Matt Foster
Chief Executive Officer
19.01.2014

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