



CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORT

AGM 2016

This season is an exceptionally important season for the WCGBA. I am delighted to report that our own Peter Higham was installed as President of the British Crown Green Bowling Association on the 16th January 2016. This means that Wales will host the 2016 **British Senior Individual Merit**. This will be held on **Saturday 30th July 2016 at Llay Miner's Welfare Institute**. No leagues in Wales have fixtures on that day and it would be nice to see as many of you as possible supporting Peter as President. On behalf of the Executive Governance Board we wish Peter a very successful year. A well-deserved honour for a respected and hardworking official in Wales.

On the whole I am pleased to report a successful season during 2015. The season "opener" was the hosting of the newly formed WCGBA "Hall of Fame". The event was very well attended at Kinmel Manor and it was good to see some "old" faces reunited after all these years. It is to be hoped that we are able to add to the "Hall of Fame" as the years progress. The inaugural inductees were:- Cliff Littlehales, Eric Ashton, Ray Springfield MBE, Geraint Jones, Jack Hunt, Martin Haliwell, Bruce Conway, Gwyn Morris, Viv Roberts, Nicky Jones, Mel Higham, Sioned Booth-Coates (nee Taylor), Nicola Boulton (nee Dolby), Betty Phillips, John Bailey, Sarah Hey, Brenda Jones, Linda Williams, Merwyn Williams, Mike Riley and Courtney Metcalfe. I express my thanks to our Patron John Percy who very generously provided wine for the evening. Also to all those helpers who made the event possible: Brenda Jones, Sandra West, Dusia Price, Peter & Jeanette Higham and Pauline Lindley.

Again I make no apologies for thanking the Executive Governance Board for their tireless work. This year saw the appointment of a new Chairman, Mr D.T. Evans, who has helped steer us through some sticky patches. Together with the five committees and the Area Associations these volunteers ensure that competitions, leagues and representative matches run as smoothly as possible.

I would like to pay tribute to our various Partners, sponsors and donors:- Co-operative Funeralcare, and our Patron Mr John Percy. Thanks also go to Prys Jones & Booth, Ram Leisure Wear and Design2Print for assisting, in turn, with match cards, clothing and programmes. Finally, to Sage & Co for presenting the year-end accounts.

I would like to mention the work undertaken by your President, Trevor Ashenden and Deputy President, Martin Richardson. Where possible they attended events organised by the WCGBA and were ever present at representative matches. Your support has been most appreciated. Trevor has dedicated many years loyal service to the WCGBA and will now enjoy a well-deserved break. Finally to Pauline Lindley: as always your tireless work for this association cannot be quantified. You continue to be my right-hand "man" and a loyal officer – I thank you.

2015 – Team events

I am pleased and very proud to report the successes of our Teams this season.

The **Ladies Veterans** Team winning their County Championship for the first ever time. Congratulations to Carl Curzon as Team Manager together with his squad: Kath Altman, Gay Cooper, Lynda Curzon, Shirley Hughes, Jane Jones, Chris Nevitt, Amanda Nicholas, Cath Rogers, Sue Stanworth and Lesley Williams.

The **Ladies Team** won the Mavis Dearden Supplementary County Championship, after narrowly missing out on progression to the semi-final of the County Championship. Congratulations to the selectors Sue Dace, Sarah Hey and Olwen Edwards and Captain on the day Des Hey. The winning squad were: Miriam Forder, Linda Williams, Kel Richardson, Sue Dace, Sarah Nicholas, Sue Vayro, Jackie Ollerton, Courtney Metcalfe, Viv Roberts, Sarah Hey, Chris Hey and Amanda Nicholas.

The **Junior Team** lost in the final of the Drakes Pride Junior County Championship to a very strong Yorkshire side. Every credit must go to the side that progressed through a very tough semi-final against Shropshire. Credit goes to the selectors: Peter Griffiths, Jono Shaw, Dave Jones and Keith Bailey together with all players and reserves for a very good season and one to remember for a long time.

The **Senior Team** also had a successful campaign in the Endsleigh Senior County Championship in 2015 winning all their group matches and reaching the semi-final for the first time in a number of years. Expectations were high but it was not to be as they were beaten by a Cheshire Team who were just too good on the day. The selectors had a very tough year in dealing with the politics in the game. I can only say to Tim Haliwell, Brian Hayes and Gareth Foster, you have my upmost respect for the aggravation that this job caused and the way you handled yourselves. The Senior Team co-ordinator, Terry Williams, also steps down this year after a number of years in the post. As you may know Terry suffered a stroke at the back end of last year. We wish Terry well with his continued recovery and thank him most sincerely for the work he has undertaken for the WCGBA.

2015 – Individual successes

Linda Williams did Wales proud by winning the Ladies Waterloo which was broadcast live on ITV4. Linda commented after that no lady from Wales had ever won the event and she wanted to “put that right.”

Joe Langford lost in the final of the BCGBA Junior Merit held at Rhos Park BC 21-16. The eventual winner was Ben Stanway of Potteries and District. Joe had a day to remember on the green and conducted himself admirably.

Sarah Hey lost in the final of the BCGLBA Champion of Champions to former “Welshie” Nicola Boulton. It was great to see the two of them in the final. It was just a shame that there had to be a runner-up. Sarah also missed out in the BCGLBA Individual Merit losing in the semi-final to the eventual winner Karen Gant from Yorkshire.

John Bonatti also had a good run in his first ever BCGBA Veterans Merit losing in the final to Noel Burrows 21-19. The event was eventually won by Mike Leech of North Lancs and Fylde.

Competitions Committee

Another busy year continues on the calendar. I pay tribute to David Walker, Tournament Officer for his tireless commitment to this job. Also to the committee who work hard to ensure that the calendar of events runs as smoothly as possible.

A new event took place in 2015, namely the WCGBA Champion of Champions. Jason Jones won the inaugural event beating John Bonatti in the final. This was a popular event which attracted much debate. A new schedule of qualifying events has been set for the 2016 season which will be published on the WCGBA website.

Roll of Honour

Winners this season have included:-

WCGBA Champion of Champions: Jason Jones (Abergele)

Gwyn Morris Welsh Senior Merit: Leighton Roberts (Esclusham)

Welsh Ladies Merit: Sarah Hey (Sychdyn)

Don James Welsh Junior Merit: Ieuan Pugh (Esclusham)

Ken Hardman Welsh Junior Ladies Merit: Kelsey Morgan-Rowlands (Esclusham)

Welsh Veterans Merit: John Bonatti (Coed Talon)

Welsh Veterans Ladies Merit: Jane Jones (Connah's Quay)

Welsh Club Championship: Esclusham

Welsh Veterans Club Championship: Coed Talon

The Calendar of Events for 2016 can also be found on the website: www.wcgba.com

2015 saw the WCGBA trialling on-line entries for Open Competition certificates. I am pleased to report that in the main this was a success and Ian Hughes as Open Competitions Registrar will continue to run the on-line entries.

Development Committee

A few changes to the Committee this year with a new Chair in Roger Morgan. A brief spell saw a new appointment of Roy Elks. Unfortunately Roy tendered his resignation in August, but I am pleased to announce that Simon Walker the Flintshire Area Development Officer has stepped up to the mark. The work of the Development Committee is absolutely essential to develop, improve and promote the game in Wales.

A few changes in Area Development Officers:-

Phil Maddocks (Flintshire)

Stuart Lewis (Glyndwr)

Dave Ll. Jones (Gwynedd)

Geoff Pugh (Wrexham)

All contact details will be on the WCGBA website.

Mal Parry, as Website Manager, steps down this year after many years loyal service to the WCGBA. Mal has been busy running our website quietly in the background and we thank him for his work over the years. A new Website Manager will be appointed shortly.

Finance Committee

This committee continues to govern the finances of the WCGBA and has helped support Peter Scott as Financial Officer. As you can see the finances of the WCGBA are in a healthy state and there are no proposals to increase fees for the 2016 season.

National Performance Committee

There are vacancies for a Senior Team Selector and Senior Team-Co-ordinator. I have also just learnt that Keith Bailey has stepped down as a Junior Team Selector due to work commitments.

Full reports from the various Co-ordinators and Team Managers are available on the website.

Welfare Committee

Only a couple of incidents that ran through the Welfare Committee this year, which have been dealt with appropriately. The Welfare Committee continues to work with the Area Welfare Officers and counter-signatory, Pauline Lindley to ensure that every club has a nominated Welfare Officer. If you have any concerns in relation to child protection or protection of a vulnerable adult then please contact your Area Welfare Officer or the WCGBA Welfare Officer:-

David Walker (Flintshire) dmcwalker22@gamil.com

William Glazier (Glyndwr) billybiro@hotmail.co.uk

D T Evans (Gwynedd) dtevens182@googlemail.com

John D Lloyd (Wrexham) johnlloyd48@btinternet.com

Matt Foster (WCGBA). matt.m.foster@btopenworld.com

*** IMPORTANT NOTE ***

All copies of DBS certificates now have to be verified by the WCGBA Welfare Officer. Can all Club Welfare Officers and WCGBA Officers who have DBS certificates ensure that copies are forwarded to the WCGBA Secretary. Once verified these copies will be destroyed in line with Data Protection laws

Insurance

There will be a new system for obtaining insurance this season for Clubs, Leagues and Association alike. You will need to do this direct from Endsleigh to comply with guidance from the Financial Conduct Authority. This can no longer be facilitated through the BCGBA. The same competitive rates will be available to members. You will also be responsible for informing me, as Chief Executive Officer, which is why the proposed amendment for the Constitution has been added.

Can I also refer you to a matter that took place this year in which an accident occurred at a Bowling club, following which a claim was submitted.

Can all clubs please ensure that they have:-

- an Accident book
- an up to date First Aid kit
- regular inspections of their site to ensure that there are no issues. This should be reported at least monthly to a Committee meeting

Conclusion

I would like to thank all clubs who hosted WCGBA and representative events during 2015. Your co-operation is always greatly appreciated.

As in my report last season I would like to ensure that all Members are aware that the WCGBA is not just here to serve and facilitate to what some term the “elite” end of the game. The WCGBA is here to serve all its members in whatever capacity it can. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you require any assistance and the WCGBA will assist the best that it can. My e-mail address is: matt.m.foster@btopenworld.com Together with Tom Middlehurst, one of our life members, we are putting together an early intervention strategy to assist clubs should they find themselves in difficulties. In the first instance I would urge you to contact you Area Secretaries:-

Flintshire: Cath Rogers

Glyndwr: Will Glazier

Gwynedd: D.T. Evans

Wrexham: Keith Cherrett

I wish to pass on my sincere thanks to Board members who have stepped down this year for one reason or another: Nick Hughes, Mike Riley and Graham Rogers.

Can I please remind all players, spectators and officials alike that respect within our game is paramount. Be this on the green, on the side of the green or by use of social media. The WCGBA has built up a respected reputation within this game and I would like us all to be mindful of the fact that everyone should be treated as you would want to be treated yourself, with equality and dignity.

Matt Foster
Chief Executive Officer