

**Investigation into the long running Welsh Crown Green Bowling Association ("WCGBA") dispute with Mr Brian Roberts**

**Panel Decision following a meeting held at Abergele Bowling Club at 7pm on 9<sup>th</sup> June 2014**

**Invited Participants:**

**Panel Members: Roger Morgan, Mike Riley, Peter Scott ("the Panel")**

**Representative for the WCGBA : Matthew Foster (CEO WCGBA)**

**Mr Brian Roberts (Absent)**

**Mr Mark Isherwood AM (Absent; unable to attend)**

**Mr Randal Hemingway (Sport Wales, Independent Observer)**

Following representations made on behalf of the WCGBA by Matthew Foster and the examination of documentation tabled by both the WCGBA and Mr Brian Roberts the Panel reached the following decisions:

- 1) The Panel expressed its profound sadness and regret that both parties had failed, despite a number of attempts, to reach an amicable solution to a problem that has existed for over 16 years.
- 2) The Panel concluded, without prejudice and any recognition of culpability on either party, that had Mr Brian Roberts been unable to substantiate the allegations requested by the WCGBA regarding the newsletter that he wrote, the likely appropriate sanction would, in the opinion of the Panel, have been a warning or a short suspension.
- 3) Mr Matthew Foster took the panel through each individual item in relation to Mr Brian Roberts' letter of 3 December 1997. These were considered and the Panel agreed that no further action was required.
- 4) Furthermore, the Panel agreed to the adoption of the relevant April 2005 Sports Council for Wales recommendations chaired by Mr Ian Blackburn, namely:
  - Mr Brian Roberts to be re-instated as a playing member of the WCGBA (subject to club fees and affiliation forms being completed).
  - Mr Brian Roberts to cease with immediate effect any further correspondence/discussions to all organisations / parties with regard to this matter.
  - WCGBA to circulate a letter to all Gwynedd Bowling Clubs [and announce on the WCGBA official website] that the suspension relating to Mr Roberts is lifted.
  - The Panel instructs the CEO of the WCGBA to draft this reinstatement letter. This letter to be a WCGBA Letter [and to be posted on the WCGBA website].
  - The CEO of the WCGBA to contact Mr Roberts' nominated club (as appropriate) to expedite the membership process.
  - All demands for an apology (from both sides) to be withdrawn.
- 5) For the avoidance of doubt, the decision of this Panel is deemed to be final and as such no further investigations, correspondence or communication will be entered into with either party as the matter is now closed.

**For and on behalf of the Panel**

**9<sup>th</sup> June 2014**