

# Merseyside Crown Green Bowling Association

## BCGBA Management Committee Representative report

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Ladies and Gentlemen this is just a small report to update you on the action from the BCGBA rules revision and annual general meeting. This document is the abridged version. The full version has been presented to the Merseyside committee for discussion.

I would like to thank John Hignett, Paul McDonnell, Ronnie Webster and Harold Taylor for attending the meeting on behalf of this association. Whether they will wish to attend another one soon is a matter for debate. We formed part of the 99 voting members at the meeting and each proposal needed a two thirds majority before it could pass into law.

The rules revision meeting started promptly at 10:06 and a bit and shuddered to a tired and blurry conclusion at 1:20. We then had what can only be described as a truly excellent lunch, before the annual general meeting started at exactly 2 hours 16 minutes and 38 seconds past midday for the officer's reports, and drifted along to its own inevitable conclusion a few hours later.

I would like to pay tribute to the excellent work of the outgoing President, Alan Tizard from South Yorkshire. Although not well known this side of the Pennines, Alan has had an impressive year in office and has made many new friends. Alan has promised to stay involved and has already started on his past President projects. I believe initially he is looking at the amount of coaching done with schools throughout the country.

I am glad to say that Ron Holt survived my nervous proposal speech and started his year as BCGBA President with an interesting speech. Ron has strong views on the future of the game and asked whether the last 30 years has seen an improvement in the game.

The rules revision meeting saw 12 proposals withdrawn prior to discussion. Of the remaining 22 proposals only 7 were passed and many overwhelmingly rejected. To summarise the Child Protection Officer is now added to the list of BCGBA officers, all full and associate members of the BCGBA must now have Public Liability Insurance of at least £2 million, each club must provide the postcode of their green to the BCGBA, each county has had its fees for entering their qualifiers in the senior and junior merit doubled and entries from each county for the veterans merit are now based on the previous year's entries.

The annual general meeting saw another comprehensive report from the Chief Executive which covered in depth the BCGBA activities throughout the year. During this report the achievement of Terry Glover, our County Champion, was mentioned

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as he reached the final of the British Championships. The Junior Merit final held at Heswall RBL was also described and universally described as a credit to our county.

We then had a report from the Financial Officer and a number of questions were answered to the satisfaction of the meeting. The accounts had been the discussion on numerous websites as publicised losses in the investment accounts had attracted a great deal of interest. The actual accounts were not as bad as we thought as total assets had dropped by just over £2000. Of greater interest was the £51,000 drop in the value of the investment account.

The Chairman of the trustees then gave a comprehensive report on the problems faced during the past 12 months. You may remember £100,000 was invested a number of years ago (before my time for an exact date I'm afraid) and managed by trustees. During 2007 the management committee transferred approximately £22,000 of the profits to the general account to fund the centenary activities. The market value of the investment account stood at £184,000 last year and this was now down to almost £133,000 in October. There are 3 main groups which our money is invested in, historically the most stable and profitable had performed the worst in 2008 and this was particularly disappointing.

I'm afraid I cannot offer any more details than this as I am not the best to ask on the navigation of a balance sheet. I can say that all financial reports and the balance sheet were accepted by the meeting. The Auditor was happy with the state of the association finances; although the losses were regrettable in the current financial climate this was not unexpected.

I am pleased to say that Barrie Cotterrill from Staffordshire was elected as a life member of the association. Barrie has been Secretary of the Referee's Society for longer than I can remember and has been involved with the game for, I think, more than 40 years.

Steve Davies

Management Committee Representative.