

# Merseyside Crown Green Bowling Association

## BCGBA Management Committee Representative report

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Ladies and Gentlemen this is another report on the activities of the national game. This report refers to a meeting held on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009 at Winnington Park in Cheshire and is the abridged version. The full report was presented to our committee for discussion.

We started the meeting with the traditional welcome for the new delegates. We also welcomed the new Child Protection Officer – Dave Collier – and the new Deputy President elect Barry Jennings from Shropshire who can attend meetings as an observer. We also had an update on the life members and committee members who were unfortunately not in the best of health.

As we all know “The Northern Club” in Crosby will host the BCGBA Senior Merit this season, the meeting decided that the admission costs will be £7 admission and £15 admission with reserved seating.

A letter from Warwick & Worcester association stated in that well known bowls journalist Mike Wakelam is no longer associated with the administration of that county.

The new BCGBA website is attracting a lot of interest, some of which is from companies with a commercial interest and they are looking to advertise on our site. We agreed a charge for the internet links and also revised the handbook advert charges.

Terms of reference for some of the sub committees were distributed. A decision on adopting them will be taken at a future meeting. The terms of reference covering the work of the Officers Working Group was agreed.

The national database was progressing and apparently all planning had now been completed, future meetings will be with a software developer.

It was revealed that this and other subcommittees have been having problems with the availability of its members.

The new Child Protection Officer updated the committee with his work so far. He has arranged a training course for our new County CPO.

Endsleigh Insurance had contacted the association with the offer of increasing their sponsorship of the association if more members took up Personal Accident cover with them.

The retraining coaches to level 1 were progressing and 9 seminars had been arranged, the Financial Officer had applied for a grant from Sport England to cover the costs.

The next update on the Investment Account which suffered a significant drop in profits in 2008 is not due until April.

The Finance Subcommittee was elected its members are; Ron Holt (President), Dr Henry Butler (Deputy President), John Crowther (Chief Executive Officer), Alan Whitworth (Financial Officer), Doug Stewart (Honorary Life Member), Glynn Holmes (Derbyshire), George Ollerenshaw (Active Past

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President), Ken Jarvis (Active Past President) and Alan Stephenson (Yorkshire). One of the aims of this subcommittee is to monitor and reduce the expenditure of the association, in keeping with this idea it will meet less often as this will reduce expenditure in itself.

The current list of Officials, Delegates, Past Presidents and Life members entitled to attend the management committee meetings now stands at 53. We may be requiring the use of the bigger room in the near future.

The list of open competition qualifiers for the Champion of Champions was circulated. The Olympic Classic in Liverpool is on the reserve list and the full list of automatic qualifiers is; Waterloo Spring and September, Isle of Man June and September, Midland Masters, Meole Brace, Tipton Building Society, Hillcrest, Cleckheaton, Brighouse, South Leeds, Spenningsdale Victoria.

We then headed optimistically into any other business and I quickly raised a point about why we should only have black and yellow standard jacks and expanding the use of the BCGBA website. New versions of the NR1 and NR1a forms were circulated and we had a quick discussion on it.

There then followed a lengthy discussion in the events regarding the Bowls Alliance, I firstly must advise you of a press release on the website of the English Indoor Bowls Association dated 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009.

### ***“SPORT ENGLAND AWARDS £750,000 FUNDING BOOST TO BOWLS***

*BOWLS has been awarded more than £750,000 by Sport England to help deliver grass roots opportunities and increase participation over the next four years.*

*A total of 46 sports have been awarded funding by Sport England to help deliver its strategy to increase the number of people playing and enjoying sport, and to create development pathways for those with talent.*

*The bowls funding bid was submitted by the ‘Bowls Family’, which consists of:*

- *British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA)*
- *English Short Mat Bowling Association (ESMBA)*
- *English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd (formerly EIBA and EWIBA)*
- *English Bowling Federation (EBF) and English Women’s Bowling Federation (EWBF)*
- *Bowls England (BE)*

*The funding will be used primarily to develop bowls and increase participation in the sport, in all its forms, across the country through joint recruitment and retention projects. The National Governing Bodies will be working with clubs and counties in a bid to achieve the increase in participation.*

*The award is also subject to the development of Business Plans by each NGB (leading to one Business Plan for the sport in England), the creation of “Bowls Alliance Limited” to act as the lead body for the sport and the employment of a Sports Development Officer to assist this work over the next four years.*

*The funding must be used jointly and accounted for separately from each National Governing Body’s own sources of income and expenditure, and expenditure will be closely monitored by Sport England.”*

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Further to this, last week a meeting took place with the alliance and Sport England. Apparently this grant is to be used to promote bowls amongst the 65 years and over age group and this was a surprise to all of the alliance. It will also include what could be large administration costs including using a marketing company which may include telephone polling company to monitor the effectiveness of the project. Our colleagues from Wales who have been through this already with the Sports Council for Wales advised the meeting that we were embarking on a lengthy process which includes the formation of a business plan.

I would hope that the relevant officials examine the work undertaken by the Welsh officials so as to make the journey developing the business plan and any organisational changes as efficient as possible.

When you consider the amount of work that still needs to be done by all the members of the bowls family then I think it is safe to say that it could be quite a while before any money could come our way. I think my reports on future meetings will inevitably include more reports on this.

Steve Davies  
BCGBA Management Committee Delegate