



BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

THREE FORMER WINNERS IN MERIT FINALS

The **BCGBA Senior Individual Merit** takes place this coming Saturday (29th) when the 64 county representatives will descend on Heaton Park BC, Greater Manchester, for the 107th running of this prestigious competition.

Defending champion Callum Wraight and last year's runner-up Gary Owen, failed to navigate through their county qualifiers in Shropshire and Potteries & District respectfully. This leaves just three former winners in the line-up with **Matt Gilmore** (winner in 2001 and 2016, both at Llay Welfare in Wales), **Graeme Wilson** (winner in 2000 and 2004) and **Noel Burrows** (winner in 1976 and 2010), all hoping to make it a hat-trick of victories.

Local interest comes in the form of Greater Manchester champion, Ben Gloag, John Ashton, Anthony Walker, Grant Eckersley and Tom Eccles and the full draw, showing their opponents, can be found on page 11.

Admission is £10 and spectators can bring in their own seating into this dog-friendly venue. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Please note that there is a daily car parking charge of £3.00 (see page 13).

YORKSHIRE IN SEVENTH HEAVEN

YORKSHIRE juniors wrapped up another **BCGBA Junior County Championship** title, their seventh in a row, when they completed their final fixture of the 2023 season. You have to go back to Sunday 11th May 2014 to when they last lost the overall aggregate when Warwick & Worcester claimed a 29-chalk victory against a Yorkshire team that contained Robbie Ellis, Josh Mordue and Chloe Hirst to name but a few.



The White Rose County final fixture saw them pitted against Shropshire and they used their Golcar Liberal Club home green to full advantage in a 78-chalk victory.

Charlie Ripley (21-3), Zinedine Ayub (21-6), Denis Hufton (21-7) and Holly Jenkins (21-9) were the best of their ten winners. Cerys Marshall (21-15) and Owen Hanmer (21-18) were Shropshire's two winners. Over at Bowring BC in Shropshire, Yorkshire came away with a 23 chalk victory in a close match with their vice-captain, Scott Singleton, handing in the best card of the day, 21-8.

Shropshire's defeat meant victory for Wales would see them take second place in the table. In a close match at Amery Unionists Club in Staffordshire, the sides shared the winning jacks six apiece but Wales claimed victory by 3 chalks thanks to two late cards from Cody Edwards (21-2) and Sam Bennett (21-9). At Caernarfon BC, Tom Lloyd was Staffordshire's solitary winner as his side succumbed to an 89-chalk defeat.

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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP REACHES ITS PENULTIMATE STAGE

The four counties leading their sections as they entered their final group match of the 2023 [BCGBA Senior County Championship](#) kept their place at the top of the table and progressed to the penultimate stage requiring one more victory to reach the final.

Derbyshire and Wales finished level on four points each after Wales came out on top in the final group match, winning by 7 chalks. But it was **Derbyshire** that topped the Section 1 table by having a better overall aggregate than their Welsh counterparts (10) and progressed to the semi-finals. They will now play **Yorkshire** who rounded off their Section 2 matches with a 52-chalk derby victory over neighbours South Yorkshire.

Last year's beaten finalists, **Shropshire** finished Section 3 with an unblemished record though they were pushed all the way by Greater Manchester in their final match. The sides drew at Springbank Bowling Club but a 31-chalk victory on Shrewsbury No 1 green saw them reach the last four for the second successive year. **Staffordshire** came through the three-team Section 4 unscathed after a comprehensive 80 chalk victory over Cumbria. They drew up in Cumbria at Kendal Victoria but four single-figure winners in the second half of the match ensured they reached the semi-finals.

The semi-finals will be played on Sunday 6th August with Derbyshire choosing Stretton Anglesey as their home venue while Yorkshire has selected Ossett Cricket & Athletic Club. Shropshire will be playing on Meole Brace No 2 green against Staffordshire, who have elected to play on The Rag. Live scores will be available on the BCGBA website.

SOUTH YORKSHIRE TO DEFEND SUPPLEMENTARY TITLE

The 2023 [BCGBA Senior Supplementary County Championship](#) takes place on Sunday 6th August at Lancashire's Bellingham Bowling Club (New Lodge, Wigan WN1 2ND) for those counties that finished second and third in their sections. The exception is in Section 4, where the Isle of Man replaces the bottom side, Cumbria.

South Yorkshire, winners in 2022 at Fox Lane Sports Club in North Lancs & Fylde, are in Group 1 and will play Cheshire, Isle of Man and Wales. Group 2 comprises of Merseyside, North Midlands, Potteries & District and Warwick & Worcester. The two group winners will contest the final. Play gets underway at 10am and live scores will be available on the BCGBA website.





2023 BCGBA Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship

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With former winners, Noel Burrows (Cheshire) and Paul Stretton (Derbyshire) bowing out in the first round of the 2023 **BCGBA Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship** - Burrows losing 21-20 to Yorkshire's Howard Broadbent having been 20-14 up, while Stretton lost his way from 19-16 against Phil Boydell (Lancashire) to suffer a 21-19 defeat – a new name was guaranteed to be engraved on the trophy. And that name was **MARTIN SIMCOCK** (Potteries & District) who added his name to the winner's list when he recorded a 21-15 final victory over South Yorkshire's Andrew Sorsby, played at Prees Cricket & Recreation Club in Shropshire.

Ian Howard (Yorkshire) was his first opponent of the day when he came from 13-9 down to go five in front at 18-13 with a run of 9 chinks without reply. Howard hit back to level the match at 18 across but Simcock regained the jack to eventually win 21-18.

In Round 2, he faced North Midlands Alyson Evans, one of two ladies in the thirty-two strong field. Evans had won her opening match 21-15 but suffered a nightmare start as Simcock stormed to 14 before she could get any points on the card. Once Evans had the jack she settled into a rhythm but her bad start proved costly as Simcock finished a comfortable 21-12 winner.

Simcock posted the same scoreline in the quarter-finals against Brian Mallon (Greater Manchester) having always held the upper hand and booked his place in the final at the expense of Cheshire's David Jackson where again he was always in control in a 21-13 victory.

Sorsby's path to the final saw him overcome the challenge of Barry Harris (Wales) 21-14, Ronnie Regan (Warwick & Worcester) 21-13, Joe Melvin (Potteries & District) 21-17 and in a titanic semi-final battle with Lancashire's Phil



Boydell he saw his 14-9 advantage reduced to an 18-17 deficit but held his nerve to get out a 21-19 winner.

In the final, Simcock made the better start to open up leads of 8-5 and 13-7. Sorsby hit back to get within two of his opponent at 11-13 and then again at 15-17 as he started to put pressure on Simcock. He was though unable to sustain this pressure on the 'Potters' player who kept hold of the jack to score singles at the next four ends and record a 21-15 victory.

BCGBA President, Martin Goddard, made the presentation of prize monies and the trop

ANDREA KEEPS MERIT TROPHY IN YORKSHIRE

ANDREA BUCKLEY followed in the footsteps of last year's winner, Chloe Hirst, to keep the **BCGBA Ladies Senior Merit** trophy in Yorkshire when the sixty-four county representatives assembled at Tarleton Bowling Club, Lancashire, for this year's contest.

Buckley defeated the County Average Winners Classic winner, Jordan Picken (South Staffordshire) in the final, 21-14. She clawed back from a 6-1 and 11-9 deficit to lay game at 20-11 only for Picken to deny her victory. Picken moved on to 14 and was lying another two but saw her hopes of a comeback dashed as Buckley played a wonder bowl to clinch the title.

BCGBA Ladies President, Mavis Hancock, commented on the high standard of bowling throughout the day and presented the trophy and prize monies to the final competitors.

Buckley's first opponent of a long day was against her namesake, Charlotte Buckley from Greater Manchester on Green 1. The champion-elect was always in control in her first-round game as she opened with a 21-12 victory and was then equally impressive in her 21-10 success over Shannon Kernick (Warwick & Worcester) on Green 2 in round two. Back on Green 1, she ran out to game having trailed South Staffordshire's Vikki Wilson 12-11 to reach the last eight.

Picken meanwhile had a tough start against Debbi Davis from Yorkshire. She was coasting to a first-round victory on Green 2 with 12-5 and 19-11 advantages but was made to wait for victory as Davies fought back to get within a couple of chinks of her opponent at 18-20. In round two she made sure there was to be no repeat as she stormed to a 21-8 defeat of Sarah Edmondson (North Lancs & Fylde) on Green 1 but back on Green 2 she again saw her opponent, Tracy Bound (Shropshire), fight back, this time from 16-9 down, to again get to within two chinks at 14-16. Picken won three of the next four ends, to book her place in the quarter-finals, 21-16.

Just as the first of the quarter-finalists were called to the green the thunder & lightning storm that had threatened made its untimely appearance turning Green 1 into a lake and unplayable. After an hour delay, it was agreed to play the quarter-finals on Green 2, which had cleared with not even a puddle in sight.



Buckley won a hard-fought match with Emily Weaver (Warwick & Worcester) 21-19 having trailed 13-8 at one point and booked her place in the final courtesy of a 21-18 victory of another Warwick & Worcester player, Emily Kernick in which she saw her 18-10 advantage disappear as Kernick levelled at 18 across. Picken certainly found the green to her liking as she defeated Suzy Ladbrooke (Yorkshire) 21-6 and Dudley & District County Secretary, Susan Pugh, 21-8.

The two previous winners, Nicola Boulton (Mid Cheshire) and Linda Williams (Wales) both made first-round exits. Boulton lost 21-16 to North Warwickshire's Liz Buckley while Williams lost out to Shropshire's Sally King, 21-14, having led 14-12.

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LADIES ALSO REACH THEIR PENULTIMATE STAGE

Three of the counties in last season's **BCGBA Ladies Senior County Championship** semi-finals are through to the penultimate stage again following the completion of the Section matches, with one semi-final being a repeat of last season's final. Yorkshire and Shropshire will do battle once again as the Salopians will be hoping to avenge last season's 76-chalk defeat,

Shropshire topped Section 3 following the one-game shoot-out with South Yorkshire with both sides locked on four points and one aggregate point separating the sides as they went into their final match. Shropshire emerged victorious with 31 chalks to spare and will now play the defending champions, **Yorkshire**, who finished their Section 4 matches with a hard-fought 22-chalk overall victory over Greater Manchester.

In the other semi-final, last season's beaten semi-finalists, **Warwick & Worcester**, finished Section 1 undefeated with an 88-chalk defeat of Staffordshire and they will play **Dudley & District** who finished top of the pile in Section 2 with an unbeaten record, completing the section matches with a comfortable 85 chalk success over North Lancs & Fylde.

Counties finishing runners-up in Sections 1 to 4 play in the **Mavis Dearden Supplementary County Championship**. The semi-final line-up will pair Cheshire against Burton & District and last season's winners, South Yorkshire, against Greater Manchester.

The semi-finals of both competitions will be played on Sunday 20th August and the teams will be live on the BCGBA website on Sunday 6th August.

COUNTY AVERAGE WINNERS HEAD TO WALES

The second **BCGBA Ladies County Average Winners Classic** takes place at Abergele Bowling Club (40 Water Street, Abergele LL22 7LD) on Saturday 5th August when the county averages winners from the 2023 season play to determine this year's winner.

The competition played at Woodfield Sports & Social Club in May was for the 2022 winners but with a change in policy where all BCGBA competitions must take place in the same calendar year, a second competition, along with the Club Championship, will be played in 2023.

ROUND 1

- | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| 1 Gillian Greenbank (North Midlands) | v | 2 Lindsay Mulrooney (Cheshire) |
| 3 Amy Dandy (Dudley & District) | v | 4 Carol Faram (Staffordshire) |
| 5 Joanne Smith (Burton & District) | v | 6 Kirsty Jones (Wales) |

ROUND 2

- | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------------------|
| Greenbank or Mulrooney | v | Dandy or Faram |
| Smith or Jones | v | 7 Sonia Lucas (Shropshire) |
| 8 Lynn Carter (Yorkshire) | v | 9 Joan Groom (North Shropshire) |
| 10 Sarah Edmondson (North Lancs & Fylde) | v | 11 Suzie Lawson (Lancashire) |
| 12 Sue Gawne (Isle of Man) | v | 13 Alyson Evans (North Warwickshire) |
| 14 Sarah Sterland (Warwick & Worcester) | v | 15 Pat Roscoe (Greater Manchester) |
| 16 Debbie Talbot (South Yorkshire) | v | 17 Tamsin Birkett (Mid Cheshire) |
| 18 Sophie Brown (Yorkshire) | v | 19 Hanna Lussey (Merseyside) |

HOLDERS BACK TO DEFEND THEIR LADIES PAIRS TITLE

The qualifiers in the **BCGBA Ladies Dorothy Pearce Memorial Pairs** make their way to Roose Conservative Club (Leece Lane, Barrow-in-Furness LA13 0EB) on Saturday 12th August for this season's finals.

Defending champions, Belinda Lloyd & Linda Williams (Wales) have qualified again and will start the defence of their title against the Yorkshire pairing of Andrea Ainley & Jayne Kent.

Two-time former champions, Lynsey Gorman & Anita Richardson (Merseyside), will be hoping to make it a hat-trick of titles but they must first overcome the change of Irene Bloor and Tina Ralph (North Shropshire). The 2019 winners, Nicola Boulton & Sue Worrall (Mid Cheshire), who defeated Gorman & Richardson in that final, will be hoping to claim their second title but face stiff opposition from Rebecca Dixon & Cheryl Fowles from Burton & District.

Local interest comes in the form of Caroline Bushell & Jessica Pickthall and Diane Harrison & Gill Sim. All scores will be available on the BCGBA website.

THE DRAW

Louise Cotton & Sarah Weaver (Shropshire)	v	Denise Smith & Sheila Wilson (North Derbyshire)
Kathryn Gee & Ronnie Lyon (Cheshire)	v	Karen Gant & Jasmine Kendal (Yorkshire)
Kerry Brown & Danielle Miles (South Yorkshire)	v	Gillian Alliot & Marilyn Kelly-Walley (Burton & District)
Linda Harpin & Lynn Wood (North Midlands)	v	Liz Bennett & Carol Darley (North Lancs & Fylde)
Wendy Jackson & Lisa Mills (Burton & District)	v	Caroline Bushell & Jessica Pickthall (Cumbria)
Lisa Keford & Deborah Shaw (Lancashire)	v	Sonia Robson & Wendy Smart (North Warwickshire)
Jenny Hadwin & Bev Taylor (Wales)	v	Jess Mortiboy & Ann Marie Parson (Warwick & Worcester)
Lyn Bolton & Jayne Smith (Isle of Man)	v	Jane Bradshaw & Sue Nugent (Merseyside)
Lyn Clarke & Carol Verdon (North Midlands)	v	Emma Earlam & Katie Harrop (Cheshire)
Leanne & Toni Riley (North Warwickshire)	v	Helene Downham & Pauline Townson (North Lancs & Fylde)
Nicola Boulton & Sue Worrall (Mid Cheshire)	v	Rebecca Dixon & Cheryl Fowles (Burton & District)
Irene Bloor & Tina Ralph (North Shropshire)	v	Lynsey Gorman & Anita Richardson (Merseyside)
Gill Dixon & Elaine Moore (Isle of Man)	v	Natasha Charlesworth & Wendy Harris (North Lancs & Fylde)
Ann Goddard & Tracy Hill (North Derbyshire)	v	Diane Harrison & Gill Simm (Cumbria)
Sarah Hall & Emily Weaver (Warwick & Worcester)	v	Debbie Davis & Pam Lindley (Yorkshire)
Andrea Ainley & Jayne Kent (South Yorkshire)	v	Belinda Lloyd & Linda Williams (Wales)

CHANGE OF VENUES

The venues of several 2023 competitions, scheduled to have been played at Heaton Park BC, have now changed and will be played as follows:

18 to 23 Open Championship (Sunday 13th August) at Windle BC (Merseyside)

Champion of Champions (Saturday 30th September) at Monk Sports & Social Club (Warrington)

Centenary Mixed Pairs Championship (Saturday 7th October) at TBA

World Club Championship (Sunday 15th October) at TBA

Ladies Club Championship (Saturday 23rd September) at Ashton Gardens BC, East End BC, Freckleton BC (NL&F)

Ladies Champion of Champions (Sunday 1st October) at Monk Sports & Social Club (Warrington)

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The advertisement features a teal background with a yellow circular graphic on the right containing a photograph of a man in a white shirt and cap holding a bowling ball. The text is in white and yellow.

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18 to 23 OPEN CHAMPIONSHIP / JUNIOR INDIVIDUAL MERIT

The **BCGBA 18 to 23 Open Championship**, introduced in 2022 but with an upper age limit of 25, returns to Windle Bowling Club (Hard Lane, St Helens WA10 6JT) on Sunday 13th August (10am). Due to the number of withdrawals in its inaugural season, each of the sixteen counties will have two qualifiers on finals day. With entries due to close shortly, the draw will be posted on the BCGBA website on Thursday 3rd August.

The following week, it's the turn of the juniors to battle it out for the right to become the 2023 **BCGBA Junior Individual Merit** champion and claim the magnificent trophy. The 32-strong field will assemble at Essington Bowling Club (High Hill, Essington, Wolverhampton WV11 2DW) on Saturday 19th August (10am). Entries will close at the same time as the 18 to 23 Open Championship and the draw will be posted on the BCGBA website on Thursday 3rd August.

NEW CHAMPIONS GUARANTEED IN VETERANS CHAMPIONSHIP

Qualifying for the **Veterans County Championship** took place on Thursday 13th July with the four regional winners, none of whom have won the trophy before, reaching the final to be played on Thursday 3rd August at Monk Sports & Social Club (Hillock Lane, Woolston, Warrington WA1 4NF), commencing at 10am.

In **Region 1**, played at Lindal Bowling Club (Cumbria), the host county took full advantage of their tricky home venue to record victories of Lancashire (40), Merseyside (20) and North Lancs & Fylde (12). **Region 2** was played at Matlock Golf Club (Derbyshire) where South Yorkshire finished their three group matches with an unblemished record. Having beaten Derbyshire by 23 and South Yorkshire Parks by 3, with five winning cards in this eight-a-side format, South Yorkshire qualified for the final with 21 chalks to spare against neighbours, Yorkshire.

Greater Manchester emerged victorious from **Region 3**, played at Owley Wood Recreation Club (Cheshire). They opened with a 2-chalk victory over the hosts, Cheshire, then defeated Wales by 3. They qualified by defeating the 2019 champions, Potteries & District by 12. In **Region 4**, played at Haunchwood Sports & Social Club (North Midlands), Warwick & Worcester proved too strong for their opponents Staffordshire, Shropshire and hosts North Midlands.

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2023 BCGBA SENIOR INDIVIDUAL MERIT

Saturday 29th July – 10am

Heaton Park Bowling Club, St Margaret's Road, Prestwich, Manchester M25 2GT

Admission £10

1	Natty Tonks (North Midlands)	v	2	Simon Coupe (North Lancs & Fylde) *
3	Spencer McCarthy (Staffordshire) *	v	4	Grant Eckersley (Greater Manchester)
5	Ashley Wellings (Shropshire)	v	6	Thomas Boyd (South Yorkshire)
7	Scott Follis (Warwick & Worcester)	v	8	Brian Walker (Yorkshire)
9	Richard Worthington (Derbyshire)	v	10	Ryan Sandham (Cheshire)
11	Gordon Flower (Yorkshire)	v	12	Neil Withers (Isle of Man) *
13	Paul Thompson (Cumbria)	v	14	John Ashton (Greater Manchester)
15	Mick Thompson (Potteries & District)	v	16	Jordan Riley (Wales)
17	Robbie Ellis (Yorkshire) *	v	18	Mark Booth (South Yorkshire)
19	Matt Gilmore (Merseyside) *	v	20	Darren Carter (Derbyshire)
21	Noel Burrows (Cheshire)	v	22	Josh Hale (Warwick & Worcester)
23	Jamie King (Shropshire)	v	24	Darren Day (North Midlands)
25	Shane Day (North Midlands) *	v	26	Sam Patterson (North Lancs & Fylde)
27	Adam Weaver (Warwick & Worcester)	v	28	David Fisher (Yorkshire)
29	Alan Manuel (Lancashire)	v	30	Joey Williams (Wales)
31	Tom Eccles (Greater Manchester)	v	32	Kevin Hocknall (Staffordshire)
33	Andy Hamman (Cheshire) *	v	34	Ben Gloag (Greater Manchester) *
35	Ian M Jones (Wales)	v	36	Harry Church (Shropshire)
37	Robert Thompson (South Yorkshire)	v	38	Martin Gilpin (Cumbria) *
39	Graeme Wilson (Yorkshire)	v	40	Paul Lamb (North Midlands)
41	Tom Kelly (Isle of Man)	v	42	Joe Stockdale (Yorkshire)
43	Lee Brown (Potteries & District)	v	44	Neil Harrell (Warwick & Worcester) *
45	Ed Furniss (Derbyshire) *	v	46	Adam Penlington (Wales)
47	Adam Bell (North Midlands)	v	48	Billy Speed (Lancashire) *
49	Paul Morgan (Yorkshire)	v	50	Mark Blackmore (North Midlands)
51	Steve Barber (Derbyshire)	v	52	Andrew Milford (Merseyside)
53	Richard Lawson (Shropshire) *	v	54	James Duffin (Cumbria)
55	Tim Hodge (Lancashire)	v	56	Anthony Walker (Greater Manchester)
57	John Short (Wales)	v	58	Peter Slinger (Isle of Man)
59	Reece Farr (Staffordshire)	v	60	Craig Podmore (Potteries & District) *
61	Jack Dyson (Yorkshire)	v	62	Liam Lowery (Warwick & Worcester)
63	Harry Chapman (North Midlands)	v	64	Scott Taylor (North Lancs & Fylde)

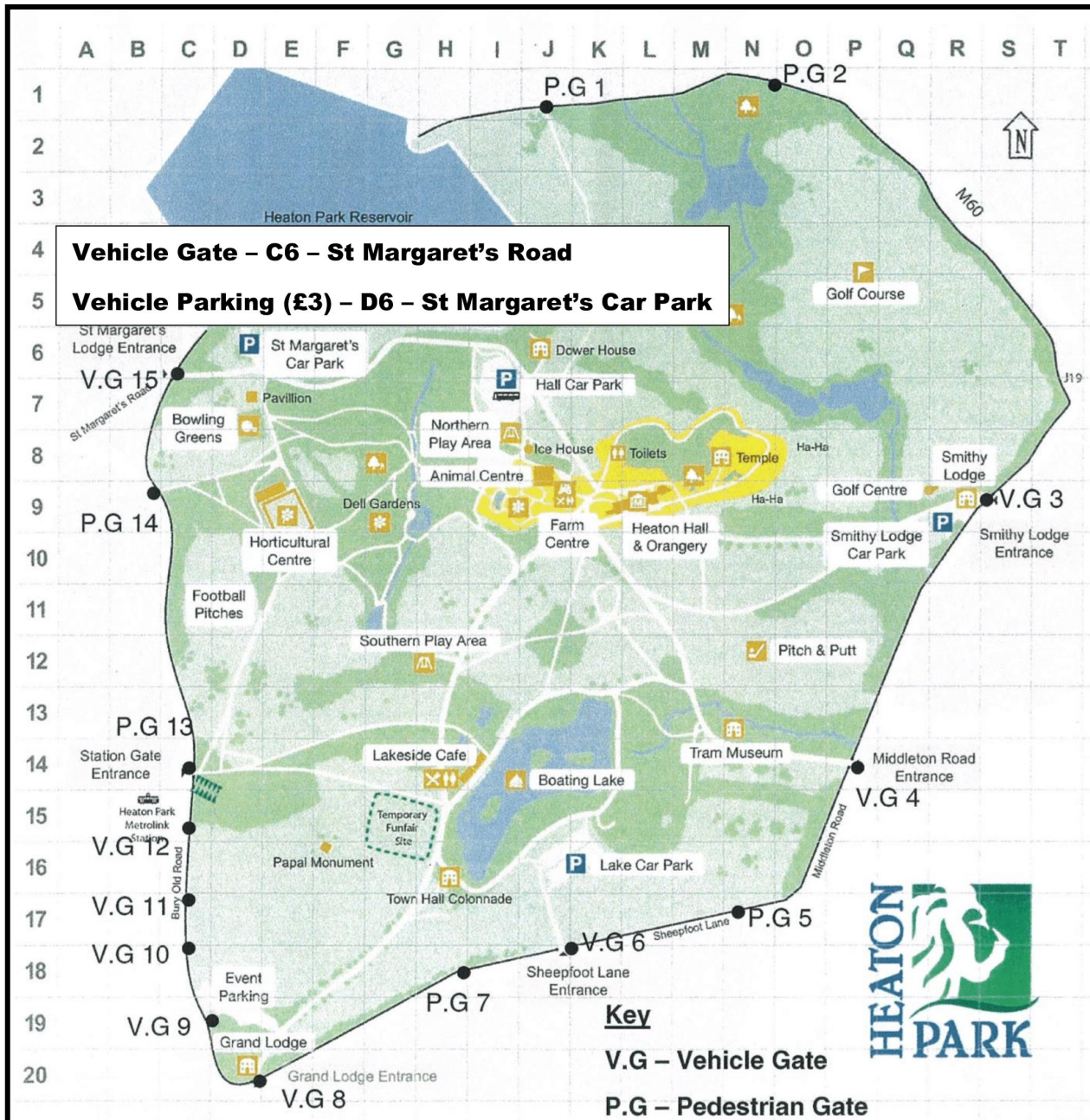
* Denotes Merit Winner (South Yorkshire and Wales Merit Winners are unable to attend)

2023 BCGBA SENIOR INDIVIDUAL MERIT

Heaton Park Bowling Club

Directions to Park entrance and car park

There is a daily car park charge of £3



If for any reason you are unable to park in any of the car parks surrounding the bowling green, you will be directed to the Sheepfoot Lane car park (J17) where overflow parking will be available.

Coach Parking - Coaches / Minibuses are to drop off at the St Margaret's Road car park. If your coach requires parking within the Park, they should go to Gate 9, Bury Old Road (C19) where they can park up for the day on the hardstanding (event parking) inside this entrance, for which there is no fee.



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