



BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

BCGBA Management Committee Meeting Saturday 2nd July 2022 – 10am – via Zoom Meeting Summary

Present:

All Officers were present with the exception of the President, National Registrar and Men's Competition Officer who tendered their apologies. All County Association were represented with the exception of the Isle of Man who tendered their apologies.

Minutes of the previous Management Committee Meeting

The minutes of the Management Committee Meeting held on Saturday 12th March 2022 were accepted as a true record.

As minutes often include 'sensitive' information the minutes of meetings must not be shared by the recipient within their county association. The BCGBA National Administrator (NA) will issue a separate 'Meeting Summary' document with the salient points of the meeting which can be shared within county associations. County Representatives will be permitted to add their own comments to this document.

Matters Arising from the previous Management Committee Meeting

Discussions are taking place on implementing a junior academy plan for counties to follow and it is planned to visit Bowls England to see their academy structure.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) referred to discussions with the other bowling codes on Discipline so we have a consistency of punishments etc across all bowling codes.

It was noted that no County Association has contacted the NA with a list of Winter Bowling Leagues and Associations.

The National Safeguarding Officer (NSO) advised that counties have been made aware that they are not to charge for completing DBS applications.

The NA advised that the 18-25 Open Championship will now be played at Windle BC, Merseyside as Heaton Park have now told us their greens are unavailable due to a major competition taking place.

The Chairman asked County Associations to supply the NA with email addresses of their clubs, leagues and associations so JustGo can be updated and used to send our information. Only Potteries & District and South Yorkshire had responded.

Relevant Correspondence

An email proposal to increase the number of qualifiers in the 2022 BCGBA Champion of Champions, to include those that missed out in 2022, received no support

An email from David Williams, regrettably advising of his resignation as Deputy President due to his health and wellbeing. He will remain in position until his county, Greater Manchester, finds a successor and will continue in his role as British Crown Green Referees Society Secretary for the foreseeable future. Greater Manchester advised that they were currently struggling to find a suitable replacement from within his county, but as a last resort, they may have to pass up on the position. It was agreed that Greater Manchester would still retain the hosting of the 2022 Junior Individual Merit and 2023 Senior Individual Merit.

Chief Executive Officer Report

The CEO added to his written report by advising of changes to Safeguarding and the governance of our clubs, which will become a major project for the association. The CEO advised that he has been working with David Williams on our governance review and has included Phil Scott, CEO of the British Parks, in the discussions. He was considering bringing in another County Secretary into the review committee, to review where we have got to so we can get to the point of proposing rule changes for the 2023 Rules Revision Meeting.

Executive Committee Report

The meeting agreed to the following Executive Committee recommendations:

- To allow the Federation of Crown Green Bowls (FCGB) to play their National League fixtures on the second Sunday of each month.

- From 2023, to play the World Club Championship in the same year as the current season, on the first two Sundays in October. It was agreed to adopt this recommendation and to hold an additional competition in March and April of 2023 for clubs that would have normally qualified to play from the 2022 season so they don't miss out.
- To remove the competition rules from the BCGBA Handbook
- With no dissenting voices, the meeting agreed that any County Association that fails to provide the requested information or competition entries by the required date will not have their entries included in the respective competition and may also receive an appropriate fine.

Finance Report

The meeting agreed to his proposal that the prize money for the Men's and Ladies Senior Individual Merit and Champion of Champions will be the same from this year onwards. He advised that work would begin to see how we can rationalise prize money across all competitions together with entry fees.

Heaton Park

Concerns were raised about our involvement with Heaton Park and the condition of the greens. After a lengthy discussion, it was agreed that the Heaton Park Project Committee will be resurrected and are to draw up a five-year plan with a schedule of works/funding opportunities which, in the first instance, is to be reported back to the next Executive Committee Meeting. Every effort will be made to get the greens brought up to standard in preparation for the 2022 Champion of Champions weekend.

Officer Reports

Administration - The NA to draw up a proposed rule change to present to the November meeting following a suggestion that there should be a standardised rule that all counties should follow to decide their final qualifier where they have an odd number of qualifiers in our competitions. Due to the conditions of the green at Royton Cricket Club, the venue for the Junior Merit in Greater Manchester has moved to Ashton Cricket Club. The greens at Prees Cricket & Recreation Club have been inspected and we have been assured that they are in a suitable condition to stage the Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship.

Competitions (Ladies) - The Ladies Competition Committee (LCO), Yvette Gregory reported on three successful competitions but was disappointed that only seven teams entered the Junior County Team Championship. She referred to the appointment of referees at Ladies County matches as some appear not to be of a qualified standard. She was disappointed with some spectator behaviour at a recent Ladies County Championship fixture.

Safeguarding - The National Safeguarding Officer (NSO) referred to the CEO's report of the changes in Safeguarding, which will now see us have to start all over again with the Safeguarding Standards for Children. The benefit of the new system will alert all codes to any safeguarding issues.

Media - The Media Officer (MO), Steve Davies, advised that he will be planning to record the Ladies Senior Merit at Brighouse Sports and a decision is still to be made as to whether the Men's Senior Merit will be streamed live through JAYMOTV or recorded for later publication.

Referees - The British Crown Green Referees Society Secretary (BCGRSS), reported that we may soon have referees on the Isle of Man again as six have taken Paper 1 with a 100% pass rate. He referred to the incident where a player played in bare feet so as not to contravene our rules. It was agreed that we can insert an 'addenda' to cover this issue.

Season 2023

It was agreed that there would be one Competition Committee to administer all competitions – Men's and Ladies - consisting of Yvette Gregory, Jim McGurk, Mark Bircumshaw and Brian Hampson. They would be permitted to invite members to support them at competitions throughout each season, review the competition rules and make recommendations to the Management Committee.

The meeting agreed on the dates for our 2023 competitions in which there will be two men's World Club Championships, two Ladies Club Championships and two Ladies Average Winners Classics.

The NA was asked to come up with a suggested amendment to the regions in the Veterans County Championship, to present, in the first instance, to the next Executive Committee Meeting.

Bowls' Big Weekend

Following feedback from counties, it was felt that the administration by Bowls England was a complete shambles, with clubs not receiving the links with information etc. These eventually came through, via the BCGBA, a week before the advertised weekend. The advertising material was questioned with flat green terminology on crown green flyers. It was felt that we should reconsider our involvement in future events if things don't change drastically.

Date and Time of Next Meeting

Saturday 19th November - Winnington Park Recreation Club - 9.30am.

The meeting closed at 13.26pm.

