



WELCOME TO THE NEW BCGBA NEWSLETTER

To all readers of this new publication it is indeed good news that we will have a new information publication specifically for the British Crown Green Bowling Association and the benefit of crown green bowls, something we have not had since the demise of the Bowlers' World. It is indeed a pleasure for me to be asked to write some welcoming notes.



I know that it will cover all aspects of our beloved sport and will seek specialist input.

I think that to make the new publication available through your County Secretary or email will make the publication accessible to everyone and at no cost must be unique.

From my point of view it will help to promote crown green bowls throughout the country with articles on coaching, development, refereeing and playing, especially to the advantage of bringing younger people into the sport. It will also keep everybody informed of any competitions and news from meetings.

On a personal note as President of the BCGBA for 2011 I look forward to the success of this publication. I will be travelling the country attending functions for both senior and junior bowlers and I will be attending many meetings and many presentations so it will be nice to have something to look back on periodically.

My hopes for 2011 will be for good friendship and fair play, less bad language and more development, especially for our younger bowlers to help sustain our numbers.

I look forward to meeting and greeting many many bowlers both young and old, both old acquaintances and new ones.

My Very Best Wishes

Barry Jennings, BCGBA President 2011

OUR TOP EVENTS TO BE SCREENED BY SKY TV

Just before we went to press came the excellent news that three of our major competitions are to be filmed with highlights to be shown on Sky Sports TV.

This can only be good for crown green bowls as the governing body endeavours to promote our game to a wider audience and receive the much needed publicity our game deserves.

The three events to be covered are the Senior Individual Merit, Champion of Champions and Senior County Championship Final.

One of the criticisms of crown green bowls on television has been the lack of atmosphere but the three events to be covered by the Crown Duels Ltd cameras are guaranteed to provide plenty of atmosphere and will do our game proud.

The days play will also be screened live on the internet with the highlights programme of three one hour specials to be shown on Sky Sports at a later date.

Watch this space for further developments.

www.crowngreenbowls.org

The official website of the British Crown Green Bowling Association

BCGBA WELCOME JOHN PARROTT MBE AS HONORARY PATRON

One of the country's top sporting stars has agreed to become the figurehead of crown green bowling's governing body, writes Steve McHugh.



Back - Graeme Wilson, Henry Butler (2010 President), John Parrott, John Crowther, Gary Ellis.
Front - Pat Crowther, Greg Smith, Nicola Dolby

John Parrott is widely recognised as a snooker great, winning the World Championship in 1991, and is now a pundit on the sport and also a member of the BBC's horseracing coverage team.

But one of his first loves in his native Liverpool was bowls. And he has now agreed to become Honorary Patron of the British Crown Green Bowling Association to try to help lift the game's profile.

Parrott, now aged 46, first started playing the game as a teenager with his father, Alan, at Wavertree Park in Liverpool, and showed such an aptitude that before long he reached the quarter-finals of the Junior Waterloo in Blackpool.

Once he picked up a cue he was bitten by the snooker bug, however, and his tremendous career in the game has been well chronicled.

But he has never forgotten his passion for bowls, and enthused: "It's a great game and needs more youngsters to start playing it. It

teaches competition and character, you've got the camaraderie of your team-mates, and there is so much more to it than people think".

He went on "It has in the past had the image of being an old man's game, but I've never really understood that, and believe that it's a great game for kids to take up. All you need is a pair of bowls, and then you can spend hour upon hour trying to improve. And who knows how good you could become?"

John finished by saying "The game has always been the same and anything I can do to help it along then I'd be delighted."

You can read Steve McHugh's full interview with John Parrott and a video interview by visiting the BCGBA website – www.crowngreenbowls.org

SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

The British Crown Green Bowling Association is grateful to our sponsors and urges all bowlers to support those that support us.

Endsleigh Insurance and leading bowling manufacturer **Drakes Pride** are long established sponsors of the senior and junior County Championships respectfully with Drakes Pride presenting medals and bowling towels to the junior finalists. Both companies also sponsor the Supplementary County Championships.

Grocontinental will be continuing their sponsorship of the Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Individual Championship with leading shoe retailer **Padders feelgoodfeet** once again sponsoring the Senior Individual Merit.

Pat & John Crowther, Officers of the Association, will support of the Centenary Mixed Pairs for a third year.

The BCGBA are always on the lookout for new sponsors and any enquiries should be directed to the CEO, John Crowther, on 0151 648 5740.

GET YOUR 2011 HANDBOOK

Did you know that your club receives a copy of the BCGBA Handbook each year?

The handbook is packed with information and includes the Association Rules, competition results including the individual scores from last seasons senior and junior County Championships and British Crown Green Ladies information amongst others.

If you would like to have your own personal copy then send your cheque (payable to BCGBA) for £2.75, which includes postage & packaging, to - John Crowther, 94 Fishers Lane, Pensby, Wirral, CH61 8SB.

CHRIS RADDY RIP

It is sad to report of the passing of former Cheshire County Bowling Association Secretary, Chris Raddy.

Chris was a tireless worker for the Cheshire County and lost his battle with Cancer at the beginning of February, just over twelve months since he retired as County secretary.

Chris will be greatly missed and our thoughts are with his family at this time

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP HOPING FOR A DRY DAY

The 2010 Club Championship will make its second attempt at completion when the County Champions return to Centre Vale Park (Burnley Road, OL14 7BS) in Todmorden at 10am on Sunday 13th March after last season's abandonment.

Torrential rain at the beginning of October caused severe flooding to the greens, particularly the green used by teams in Group 1 where play couldn't continue. The remaining greens managed to complete their First Round matches but with no let up in the persistent rain a decision was reluctantly made to call a halt to proceedings.

Holder, Lloyd Hotel (Cheshire), return with a 12 shot advantage over Llay Welfare (Wales) after three games completed in Group 1 while Fishwick Ramblers (North Lancs & Fylde) are 7 shots up on Nordley Liberals (Staffordshire) with just two games finished in the same group.

The eventual winners of Group 1 will play the winners of Group 3 in the semi-finals. Pudsey (Yorkshire), 1 shot winners over the 2001 champions Middleport Park (Potteries & District), take on Tonge (Greater Manchester) who won in 2008 and 2009, and received a walk over due to previous three-time winners Garswood Hall's non attendance.

In Group 2, Bradfield (South Yorkshire) will face St Georges (Shropshire) in Round 2 for a place in the semi-finals after they overcame Holme (Cumbria) by 7 shots and Onchan (Isle of Man) by 16 shots respectively.

Awaiting the winners will be the successful team from the all-Midlands clash between Kings Heath Park (Warwick & Worcester) and Highway Social (North Midlands) from Group 4. Kings Heath Park dispatched West Kirby Victoria (Merseyside) by 26 with Highway Social 13 shot winners over Littleover (Derbyshire).

Group 1: Lloyd Hotel (Cheshire) v Llay Welfare (Wales); Fishwick Ramblers (North Lancs & Fylde) v Nordley Liberals (Staffordshire).

Group 2: Bradfield (South Yorkshire) 155, Holme (Cumbria) 148; Onchan (Isle of Man) 134, St Georges (Shropshire) 150.

Group 3: Middleport Park (Potteries & District) 151, Pudsey (Yorkshire) 152; Garswood Hall (Lancashire) scr, Tonge (Greater Manchester) w/o.

Group 4: Kings Heath Park (Warwick & Worcester) 157, West Kirby Victoria (Merseyside) 131; Highway Social (North Midlands) 140, Littleover (Derbyshire) 127.

MARATHON SESSION AT RULES REVISION MEETING

Representatives from each County Associations gathered at Winnington Park in Cheshire on a cold January morning for the Rules Revision Meeting.

The morning session is devoted to rules revision and, after a delayed start due to some technical difficulties, the Chairman, Gerald Merry, finally brought the gavel down ten minutes late to get the meeting underway which turned into a marathon session lasting over 3 hours.

There were 28 Notices of Motion to be heard and for any one to be declared 'carried' it must receive at least two-thirds of those voting.

Each County in membership, which includes the Isle of Man, British Crown Green Ladies and British Parks, received four votes each plus the vote of their Management Committee Representative. Past Presidents and Officers of the Association, with the exception of the salaried officers – CEO, Financial Officer and National Registrar – have the right to a vote also. This brought the total entitled to vote to 93 but was reduced by one after a representative had to leave the meeting.

Ten Notices of Motion were carried, eleven defeated, five were withdrawn and two failed to get a seconder.

Among those that received the two-thirds majority and hit the jack were:

- Counties can now include a County's insignia, player's name, Club insignia, sponsors insignia and / or manufacturers insignia on their shirts.
- If two Counties finish level on points scored and on aggregate in the group stages of the County Championships then the County with the highest number of shots for will qualify for the semi-finals. If it still remains a tie the number of individual winners throughout the Preliminary Group Stages will be taken into consideration with the County with the greatest number of winners proceeding to the semi-finals.
- Each County must now provide an after-match meal at their home venue following a County Championship match
- Each County Association shall be given the opportunity to host the Veterans County Championship which will be held in the county of the Immediate Past President on greens chosen by his / her County Association.
- Where disability or infirmity prevent a player from delivering jacks or bowls directly from hand then a mechanical aid, of a type approved by the Association, may be used to provide assistance.
- Standard Jacks are not to be stamped on more than four occasions. The first three, in date order, to be made on the bias side with the fourth and final one being made on the non-bias side. The expiry date on that stamp will indicate the year after which the jack is no longer legal.

Those that fell short included:

- The appointment of Officers will remain the responsibility of the Management Committee
- All references to an increase in fees, including the proposed annual £1 per player playing levy.
- A move to change the voting system to a simple majority
- A proposal to stop practice for either team in the County Championship
- The Junior Individual Merit will remain at 32 players instead of the proposed 64.

The full list of voting results can be viewed at the BCGBA website – www.crowngreenbowls.org.

BCGBA CHIEF EXECUTIVE LOOKS BACK ON THE 2010 SEASON

The first competition in the BCGBA calendar of events in 2010 was the very popular **Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship** which was generously sponsored for the fourth year running by Grocontinental and played at Prees Cricket & Recreation Club near Whitchurch. The winner for the second time was Lancashire's Tony Rawlinson who produced an outstanding performance in the final against Cheshire's Gerald Merry.

The **Veterans County Championship** was played at the Severnside complex in Shrewsbury. The Group winners qualified for the semi-finals in which Cheshire defeated Wales and Shropshire beat a strong Yorkshire team. In a well contested final, with no individual score on either side less than 14, Cheshire defeated the host County. Unlike the previous year, I am sure that the result was, in part, due to the presence of the aforementioned Management Committee Chairman in the Cheshire ranks!

As usual, one of the highlights of the 2010 BCGBA calendar was the **Senior Individual Merit** which was played at Fleetwood Bowling Club and sponsored for the seventh year running by Padders feelgoodfeet. The very worthy winner was the remarkable Noel Burrows who, like good wine, seems to get better with age. I had the pleasure of witnessing his previous success in 1976 and, thirty four years later, at the venue where the very first BCGBA Senior Individual Merit was played in 1910, it was fitting and a tribute to Noel's powers of endurance that he triumphed in a memorable final against the pride of Derbyshire, Andy Spragg, himself back to back winner in 2006 and 2007.

The **Endsleigh Senior Supplementary County Championship** was played at Pilkington Recreation Club in Doncaster and culminated in an excellent final with a young Welsh side just getting the better of Derbyshire each team having four winners.

A week later, the **Drakes Pride Junior Supplementary County Championship** was played at Fulwood Conservative Club hi Preston and produced an outstanding final in which Shropshire very narrowly defeated Greater Manchester.

The **Junior Individual Merit** was played at Burway Bowling Club in Ludlow and, as usual, provided an excellent day's bowling. Greg Smith, winner in 2008, took full advantage of the absence of the over-age Wayne Ditchfield to defeat Owen Jackson in the final which meant that there have only been two winners of the event in the last six years - a quite remarkable achievement by Wayne and Greg.

The **Endsleigh Senior County Championship** was won in amazing fashion by Warwick & Worcester who came from a mile behind to defeat Greater Manchester in a truly memorable final. I was at the appropriately named Forget Me Not Bowling Club in Birmingham where the last game had already finished to witness countless mobile phones relaying a bowl by bowl account of the final ends in Greater Manchester where Steve became the 'darling' of the Warwick & Worcester fans by scoring the necessary points. Congratulations to both sets of players and their supporters for providing a remarkable occasion which will live long in the memory.

A week later, the final of the **Drakes Pride Junior County Championship** was won by Yorkshire who recorded a comfortable victory against Wales. I travelled from Blackpool to the venue in Wales where there was an excellent atmosphere and some outstanding and very mature performances by players on both sides. As usual, the sponsors generously provided medals and bowls towels for the winners and runners-up.

The **Champion of Champions** was once again sponsored by Beryl & Don Cooke and, as usual, was one of the highlights of the BCGBA calendar of events. The final was a repeat of the 2000 final and a similar result with Chris Mordue (pictured) repeating his previous victory against Andy Spragg in an excellent final. Sadly, Beryl & Don have indicated that they will not be sponsoring the event in 2011 and I would like to place on record the Association's thanks for their generous sponsorship over many years which included the provision of shirts for all the players.

The **Club Championship** was played on the four greens at Centre Vale Park in Todmorden on the first Sunday in October. Or rather, it began on that date and at that venue but, in the interest of the safety of players and referees, play came to a very early end because of torrential rain which flooded the greens. The competition is now scheduled to be completed on Sunday 13 March 2011 at the same venue.

The final competition in the BCGBA calendar of events was the **Centenary Mixed Pairs Championship**, sponsored by my wife, Pat, and myself, and played at the adjacent Calderfield and Eton Bowling Clubs in Liverpool. In an excellent final the worthy winners were the Merseyside pairing of Lynsey Gorman and Terry Glover who defeated the favourites and previous winners, Lynn Pritchatt and Mel Evans.



www.crowngreenbowls.org

for results of all BCGBA competitions

CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP GETS A NEW NAME

Following discussions with the organisers of the British Team Championships played at Irlam Steel in Manchester at the start of each season, the BCGBA have joined forces with their Irlam counterparts to amalgamate the two competitions under a new name of the World Club Championship.

The new World Club Championship will continue to be played at Irlam Steel but will be organised by the governing body who will stick with the 32 team format played over four qualifying weeks culminating with a final eight teams.

Each of the 15 Counties have been invited to nominate two representatives who have won a cup or league competition from within their County during the 2010 season together with one representative from the Isle of Man and one from the British Parks CGBA.

Qualifying starts on Sunday 20th March and continues on Sundays 27th March, 3rd April and 10th April. The final eight teams will play to a winner on Sunday 17th April. Play gets underway at 11am on each date.

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS ANNOUNCED

The list of qualifying competitions for this year's BCGBA Champion of Champions has now been finalised

With the Isle of Man September Festival moving back by one week due to a major Youth Tournament this will have a knock-on effect resulting in this season's competition taking place on **Saturday 1st October** with the excellent Waterloo Hotel Bowling Green in Blackpool once again the host venue.

The full list of qualifying competitions is divided between BCGBA (or BCGBA related events) and Open Competitions. If any player wins on more than one occasion then the reserve competitions list will come into play and any player who does not qualify through the main competitions will get their chance to play at Blackpool.

The BCGBA/Related events are:

Padders feelgoodfeet Senior Individual Merit,
Junior Individual Merit,
Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship,
British Parks Merit
16 County Merits winners

The Open Competitions invited are:

Waterloo World Championship
James Birks Memorial Midland Masters
Spring Waterloo
Isle of Man September Festival
Isle of Man June Festival
CCF Open (WBFSC)
Coors Meole Brace Open
Freeport Fleetwood Bowls Festival
Tony Pagett Open
Hillcrest Complete Packaging Services Classic
South Leeds Classic
John Smiths Classic (Cleckheaton Sports)

The reserve competitions (in order) are:

Brighthouse Classic - Spen Masters - Coors Pudsey Classic - Donnington Wood Dickie Bond Classic - The Riley Trophy (Wolstanton) - Carlsberg Olympic Classic - Richmond Classic - Moorside Classic - George Masters - Wharton Cons Open - West Melton Victory Cup - Arthur Johnson Memorial

The first of the seasons qualifying events is already underway. The Tony Pagett Open, played at Cradley Liberal Club (B63 2TN), started its qualifying rounds on Saturday 26th February and will continue each Saturday and Sunday through to Sunday 20th March.

Defending Champion Callum Wraight (Shropshire) has made it through to finals day on Sunday 27th March (11am) and will be joined by Mat Horton (Atherton Cons), Mike Gilpin (Wales), Phil Clinton (The George), Darren Smith (Stretton Anglesey), Simon Coupe (Tonge), Rob Fitzpatrick (West Kirby Victoria) and Paddy McGuinness (The George) who were the opening weekend's successful bowlers.

DIARY OF EVENTS 2011

Sunday 20th March (Irlam Steel)

World Club Championship Qualifying

Sunday 27th March (Irlam Steel)

World Club Championship Qualifying

Sunday 3rd April (Irlam Steel)

World Club Championship Qualifying

Sunday 10th April (Irlam Steel)

World Club Championship Qualifying

Sunday 17th April (Irlam Steel)

World Club Championship Finals (last 8)

Sunday 1st May

Endsleigh Senior County Championship

Sunday 8th May

Drakes Pride Junior County Championship

Sunday 5th June

Endsleigh Senior County Championship

Sunday 12th June

Drakes Pride Junior County Championship

Sunday 3rd July

Endsleigh Senior County Championship

Wednesday 6th July (Prees Cricket & Recreation Club)

Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship

Sponsored by Grocontinental

Sunday 10th July

Drakes Pride Junior County Championship

Thursday 14th July (North Lancs & Fylde)

Veterans County Championship

Saturday 30th July (Meole Brace Bowling Club)

Senior Individual Merit

Sponsored by Padders feelgoodfeet

Sunday 7th August

Endsleigh Senior County Championship Semi-Finals

Endsleigh Senior Supplementary County Championship

Sunday 14th August

Drakes Pride Junior County Championship Semi-Finals

Drakes Pride Junior Supplementary County Championship

Saturday 20th August (Winnington Park, Northwich)

Junior Individual Merit

Sunday 4th September

Endsleigh Senior County Championship Final

Sunday 11th September

Drakes Pride Junior County Championship Final

Saturday 1st October (Waterloo Hotel, Blackpool)

Champion of Champions

Saturday 8th October (North Lancs & Fylde)

Centenary Mixed Pairs

Sponsored by Pat & John Crowther

COACHES READY FOR A BUSY SEASON

Coaching is an integral part of any sport and the British Crown Green Coaching Scheme (BCGCS) members are gearing themselves up for the start of the new season. In addition to working within their own Clubs, many provide opportunities for children in schools and for members of their local communities to learn to play bowls.

At a time when Councils are faced with cuts and are looking at all areas in order to save money, we have a great opportunity to work with them. Green closures are a reality and the only way we have to retain many of our bowling facilities is by engaging with Local Authorities. Fortunately a number of them are trying to use their Development Officers to look for ways of getting more use out of the bowling greens. We need to be ready to step in and help.

In many areas, the BCGBA can supply qualified coaches to work with the Authorities to get more people into the sport. We are also working with the Bowls Development Alliance to promote our game, but we can do more. There are still some counties where coaches are very thin on the ground. We really do need more volunteers to come forward and train as coaches.

The BCGCS arrange both Coaching Seminars and Coach Training Courses with many Clubs taking advantage of this facility. Already, clubs and counties are arranging Full Day Coaching Seminars starting with:

Warton & District BC, Lancaster (Sunday 27th March)

Abbot Hall BC, Kendal. Cumbria (Saturday 2nd April)

Ashton Gardens, Lytham St Annes (Wednesday 6th April)

Tideswell BC, Derbyshire (Saturday 9th April)

Stafford BC, Staffordshire (Saturday 9th April)

Walton Le Dale BC, Preston (Sunday 10th April)

Dacre Banks BC, Harrogate, Yorkshire (Tuesday 12th April)

Low Harrogate BC, Yorkshire (Sunday 17th April)

Robinsons BC, Chesterfield, Derbyshire (Sunday 1st May)

Feniscowles BC, Blackburn (Sunday 8th May)

A number of these sessions are already full, but others will follow. For further details, contact the BCGBA National Coaching Administrator, Alan Tizard, on 01909 771438



Alan Tizard, National Coaching Administrator

BARRY AND PETER ELECTED TO HIGH OFFICE

Barry Jennings (Shropshire) was elected as the new President of the British Crown Green Bowling Association at last month's Annual General Meeting and will be supported by Peter Kelly (Cheshire) as his Deputy. Both gentlemen will travel the country visiting as many competitions and events as they can.

Barry, 60, a retired builder, is well known among the bowling fraternity and is the mastermind behind the popular Coors Meole Brace Open held annually at the start of each season and for his excellent organising skills.

County colleague Terry Sambrook was proud to nominate Barry for this prestigious role who now becomes the sixth BCGBA President to come from Shropshire County. He was confident he would not let the Association or his predecessors down by fulfilling his duties to the highest order.

Peter Kelly will support Barry as Deputy President throughout 2011 and he received his nomination from former BCGBA President (1996), Gerald Merry.

Mr Merry outlined Peter's involvement in bowls which all started in April 1958. With his vast knowledge of the game Peter would be a fine ambassador for our sport and will give the President fantastic support.



OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT

Mr Barry Jennings

DEPUTY PRESIDENT

Mr Peter Kelly

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Mr John Crowther

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Mr Mac Farlow

DEVELOPMENT CO-ORDINATOR

Mrs Pat Crowther

NATIONAL COACHING ADMINISTRATOR

Mr Alan Tizard

REFEREES SOCIETY SECRETARY

Mr Barrie Cotterell

WELFARE OFFICER

Mr David Collier

PAT'S ON THE MEND

The Association is delighted to hear that Development Officer, Pat Crowther, is on the mend following her recent operation.

Pat's New Year got off to a bad start as she was admitted to hospital during the first week of 2011 and following a series of tests it was discovered she had a malignant tumour on her kidney, resulting in the offending kidney being removed during a four hour operation.

Pat would like to thank everyone who has sent good wishes, cards, letters or flowers. She has been overwhelmed by everyone's kindness.

HOPE YOU ENJOYED IT

Well, that was the first of what we hope will be many editions of BCGBA News and we hope you enjoyed reading it.

It will take time for the Newsletter to develop but we are open to any constructive feedback you may have.

In the first instance, please send your feedback to bcgbanews@aol.com where your thoughts and ideas will be discussed with the relevant Officials.