



BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

We have been through the most extraordinary period that I can remember. Since 23rd March it seems like the world's changed. The Covid Virus has had a major impact on our season; however, we have tried to keep abreast of the almost daily changes to legislation issued by the government. Throughout this period the Association has endeavoured to keep you as informed as we could and to provide simplified advice for clubs to open safely.

BCGBA is the Governing Body for Crown Green Bowls recognised by Sport England and the Department for Culture, Media And Sport and our small workforce of part time staff, with the majority being furloughed during this period to protect the Association. We are slowly bringing the employees back to work in a controlled way. As an Association we have tried to ensure that the long-term sustainability is maintained, and this means that we still need to collect membership fees. The fee we charge clubs (£35.00 pa.) is probably the lowest of any sporting governing body and this works out at less than £0.06 a player a week. There are some who have questioned the need to pay this fee, the simple answer is that we must keep the sport alive. We are re-working the budget through to October 2021 and where we can save, we have done so. We work on small margins and over the years we have worked without a significant internal reserve. This will need to change and how we fund the organisation for the future will become a major priority. If we are to be able to access outside funding, we need to put our finances on a stable footing and as part of this we need to restructure the Association to enable bids for funding in the future. We are up against the other Sporting Bodies including our colleague in Flat Green who have a number of full-time staff who have not been furloughed. However, their members pay a much higher set of fees to the National Governing Body.

What we have been working on to achieve this:

As part of the long-term project we have been working on the National Database of player and this is now at a point where the majority of playing members have been entered and listed under clubs. All new registrations will now be directly entered into the National Database and individual registrations issued (this needs a personal email account to enable your access). New members will receive an e: mail giving access once registered. This is a major step forwards as we will be able to produce statistics on players that are required when bidding for funding. We know that our Junior membership is running at 5% of players and those over the age of 60 at 70%. Female members currently make up approximately 25-28% of all members, but there is still some work to do to complete the Ladies upload of members.

As part of the package members will shortly be able to sign up for the BCGBA Benefits package which will provide discounts on shopping (currently at over 270 retailers). This should be available shortly. An average family shopping at Sainsbury, Tesco, Asda, or Waitrose could save up to £240.00 per year just on food shopping. There is an annual cost of £7.00 for the app or an alternative card is available. To purchase this benefits package,



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you will need access to your go-membership profile. This will be enabled once you have provided an email address.

Covid19 Corona virus update.

BCGBA as with all sporting organisations are closely following the advice issued by the Government and the changes in law that have been put in place to combat the virus.

BCGBA is following government legislation issued from the 23rd of March and ongoing closing all sports pitches and as such no greens or bowling, can take place until we are given permission to open. This was part of the social distancing measure that were issued to protect the elderly and vulnerable as well as reducing the opportunity for social gatherings to spread the virus. As soon as measures are relaxed, we will be able as a Governing body to look at the potential issues to allow sporting fixtures and or exercise to commence we will do so.

Throughout the pandemic we have tried to ensure that all clubs able to open have done so in a covid secure way that follows the notifications issued by the Government.

Following the launch of the Community Emergency Fund over 400 clubs applied and circa £750,000 has been made available to Crown Green Clubs.

We are very aware that the sociability part of our game is important, but we should not be looking at any measures that puts the health and well-being of our members at risk. (It would be very irresponsible to do so).

How do we Fund the organisation?

BCGBA is funded by being a member's association, each Club and County pay an annual affiliation fee which is due from the AGM in January each year. Clubs generally pay via their County Association which is subsequently paid to BCGBA. Revenue is also generated from members registration fees and sponsorship as well as competition fees.

Why do we need a Governing Body?

All sports have to be recognised by Sport England, Wales, IOM etc. and need to be recognised as the governing body for their Sport by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport. Without this status they would be recognised as a pastime, this would have implications for grants and awards for Clubs & Counties if they were not recognised as a sport.

Sport England Funding for Bowls is directed through the Bowls Development Alliance and as we are not currently a member, we do not receive any of this funding. The BDA Club support packages have been offered to a limited number of BCGBA clubs, but these offers



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are obviously on hold at the present time. This has been offered following constructive discussions with the BDA and have followed the ongoing support we have via the safeguarding bowls group which we are members of that has established the safeguarding Standards for Bowls.

We are also members of the Youth Sport Trust and the Sport and Recreation Alliance which offers guidance and support to all sports and provides us with information on National initiatives that affect all sports.

Clubs can sign up to Sport England's Sport Matters website where a lot of information is available to clubs. We do circulate these messages to each County on a regular basis.

These groups help us maintain information that we require to follow and enable us as a Governing body to comply with any relevant legislation.

We are an associate Member of Coach Bowls Ltd and were looking to become a full member in 2020. (This is currently on hold)

Who runs the Association?

The Association is run by the Management Committee and the Executive Committee. The Management committee is made up of representatives from each County Association and Ladies representatives, as well as the officers of the Association. The Management Committee normally meets three times a year with the Executive committee meeting between these meeting. The Officers are listed in the BCGBA Handbook.

Development.

After many years we have now re-joined the Bowls Development Alliance to help and assist clubs develop over the coming years and more news will follow as we rebuild the relationship with the BDA. We have also been working on our own project (Bowls for Health) working with Merseyside Active Partnership to promote and encourage new members to our clubs. This will work in addition to the BDA Club Development Program, Women Can



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What does British Crown Green Bowling Association do?

- Operates as the Governing Body of Crown Green Bowls (recognised by Sport England and the Department for Culture Media and Sport)
- Manages and maintains the governance of the sport to comply with legislation
- Ensures we have the systems and procedures to comply with legislation
- Undertakes the above to maintain a safe sport for all
- Works with outside organisations and groups for safeguarding, coaching and development
- Manages and maintains the structure of the sport, including Counties, League, club records and membership of players
- Maintains a National database of players
- Maintains the Laws of the Game and Bye laws of the organisation
- Organised and runs the National level competitions, for County Championships, Senior, Junior, Ladies and Veteran players, merits and pairs competition, Champions competitions.
- Produces annual handbooks and supporting information
- Maintains the records of the Association
- Working with outside bodies to support the Associations members – including discounted **Public Liability Insurance**, discounted **accident cover options for players, Officers and Directors** extension is available to cover club and league committees. (This is a membership benefit) **Between £45 and £50 depending on level of cover. Commercially this could cost £200.00 per club.**
- Promotes the game with the assistance of Volunteer County development officers, Coaches, referees, and other volunteer members.
- Manages and maintains the discipline code and appeals processes
- Supports the development of referees
- Grants for Clubs see handbook for details
- Green maintenance seminars through Dennis
- Equipment – Standards Jacks committee – working with the bowls manufacturers
- Disability – supporting players with a disability or long-term health condition to play bowls
- Player development- projects to help clubs increase membership, working with County development officers and sports partnerships. To deliver the National development plan. Additional support in identifying funding opportunities