



MERVYN ELECTED TO HIGHER ECHELONS

The BCGBA elected its sixty-eighth President at the Annual General Meeting with Mervyn Edwards progressing from Deputy President to the higher echelons of the governing body. Mervyn is now the sixth BCGBA President to come from his Warwick & Worcester Association and will be supported in his year in office by Chris Hasselby (Yorkshire) who was elected Deputy President.

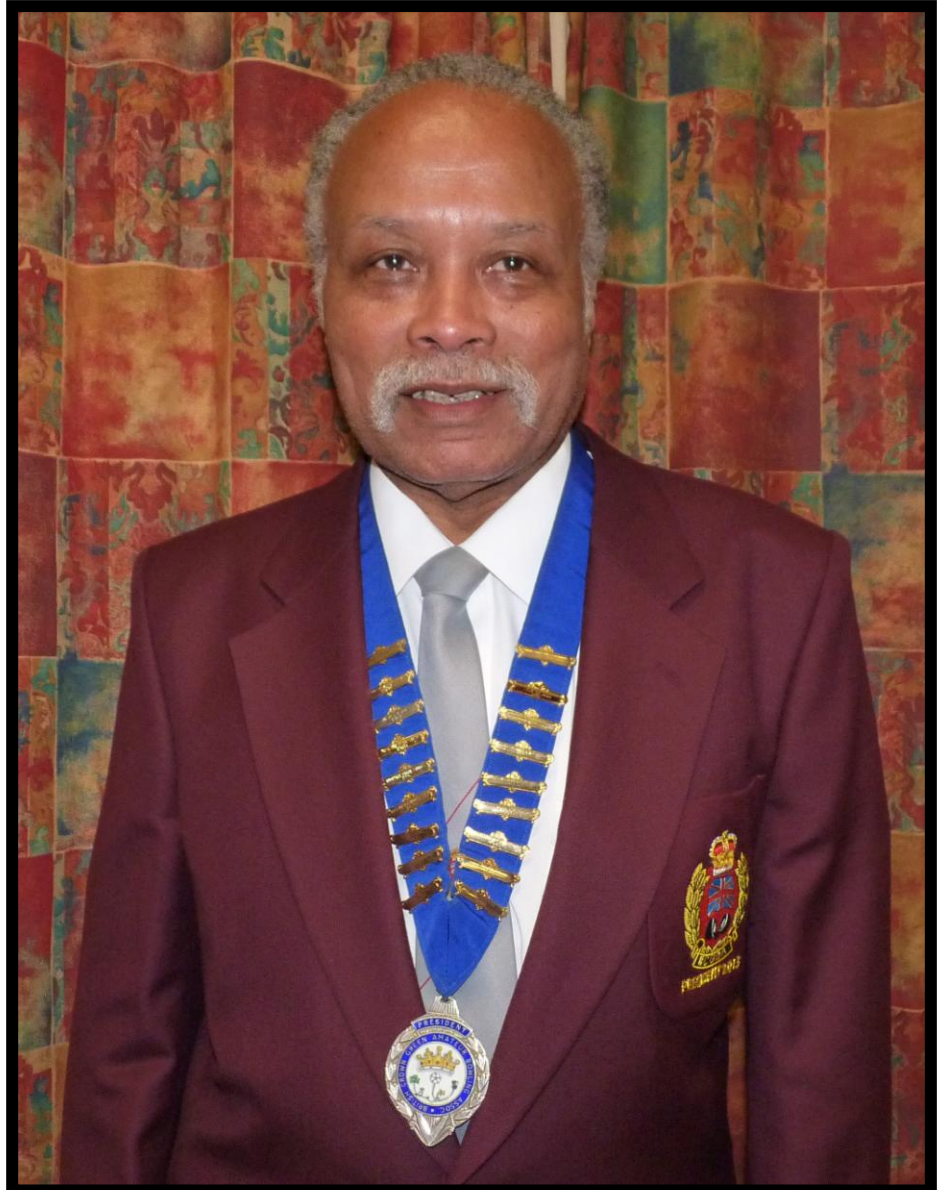
Mervyn said "I hope to enjoy my time as BCGBA President, visit as many Counties, BCGBA events and finals as I can. I will also listen to people and see if I can use my time as President to make some of the changes bowlers need. I know this is going to be a difficult task but I can only try to do my best."

Mervyn was born in December 1949 in Port Antonio, Jamaica, moving from the Caribbean holiday paradise with its tropical climate and idyllic sandy beaches in June 1965. He soon secured an apprenticeship in Mechanical Engineering in Birmingham and got into part time youth work with the City of Birmingham with the Aston and Handsworth Institute and then extended his community involvement with part time study on a youth work course.

Mervyn joined the Police Force as a Special Constable and became Manager at the 610 Youth Centre in Kingstanding and then was appointed to lead on Community Development as Centre Manager operating from the Amenities and Recreation Department Centre in Moor Lane.

Mervyn has connections with many ethnic minority groups. His skills were much sought after while at work and this will continue in the foreseeable future. One of his main tasks was to organise the infrastructure for two of the biggest ethnic minority events in Birmingham - namely the Handsworth Carnival (now the Birmingham International Carnival) and the Vaisakhi (VISARKI) Festival. The Handsworth Carnival is geared to culture, art, food and entertainment and Vaisakhi is a Punjabi harvest festival celebrating a significant Sikh date. Not as big as the Notting Hill Carnival but events from which Mervyn drew much praise.

You may remember that in 2005 Birmingham was hit by a massive tornado. The tornado centred on the Moseley area inhabited not exclusively but primarily by large ethnic minority groups. Some 100 local residents needed to be re-housed. Houses and cars were damaged. Mervyn responded to the needs of many families that needed short term re-housing and alternative accommodation at



the University of Birmingham. Mervyn was called into action and through his many contacts in the Housing Department, Education Department and Recreation and Amenities Department was able to re-house everyone affected.

What many may not know is that Mervyn has become modestly multi-lingual. There are in excess of 60 nationalities living in Birmingham. Mervyn can now say "one to you" and "two down" in 17 different minority languages!

Mervyn joined the Moor Lane Bowling Club in 1991 and he is still a member today where for some time he served as Secretary/Treasurer. At local level he is the Secretary/Treasurer of the highly successful Erdington Mid-Week Bowling League which covers the North and West areas of the City. For W&WCBA he has been Deputy President in 2006-07 and President in 2008-09 and served as the association's delegate to the BCGBA for the nine years prior to his appointment as Deputy President. He remains as Welfare Officer with special responsibility for Child Protection. He is a Class 1 Referee and has won the BCGBA Referees' Merit on three separate occasions.

NEW SPONSORS ON BOARD

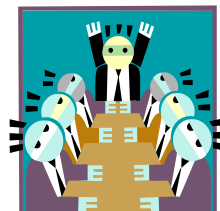
Unfortunately, Grocontinental and Padders feelgoodfeet have indicated that they will not be renewing their sponsorship of BCGBA events in 2013. Grocontinental have sponsored the Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship for the past 6 years while Padders feelgoodfeet have sponsored the Senior Individual Merit for the past 9 years. The BCGBA would like to thank Grocontinental and Padders feelgoodfeet for their generous sponsorship over the years.

The BCGBA would like to welcome new sponsors **XtraPhones** and **Flowfit** who they hope will enjoy a long and successful relationship. **XtraPhones** will take over the sponsorship of the Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship with midlands company, **Flowfit**, becoming the new sponsors of the Senior Individual Merit.

FORTHCOMING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

County Secretaries and Development Committee members are reminded of their forthcoming meetings.

The County Secretaries meet on Saturday 16th March at Winnington Park (10am), the Ladies County Secretaries meet the following day at the same time and venue, with the Development Committee meeting the following Saturday (23rd) at the same time and venue.



MERIT AND 'CHAMPS' TO BE STREAMED ON INTERNET



Mel Evans (right) and Lynn Pritchatt
at last season's Senior Merit

Following the success of the live streaming of BCGBA events in 2012, streaming is to continue on the internet only in 2013. The Management Committee chose not to renew the agreement for highlights to be shown on Sky television.

The Flowfit Senior Individual Merit and the mediaboxuk men's and ladies Champion of Champions will be streamed live across the internet via the BCGBA website and other free websites. Popular Staffordshire bowler, Mel Evans, will spearhead the production, ably assisted by Lynn Pritchatt and his team of commentators and technicians from Globegig.

Mel intends to dispense with cameras on the green opting for three strategically placed cameras, ensure play and the presentation of the trophy are not interrupted by interviews and will also provide a highlights programme to be shown at a later date.

The finer details are still to be ironed out but going by Mel's previous productions a quality programme will allow the game to spread its wings to the thousands of internet users.

CEO'S ANNUAL REVIEW OF THE SEASON

The first competition in the BCGBA calendar of events in 2012 was the World Club Championship at Irlam Steel. The winners were Lloyd Hotel (British Parks) who defeated Sale Excelsior WMC (Cheshire) in a well contested final.

On the first Wednesday in July the ever popular Jack & Jean Isherwood Individual Veterans Championship, generously sponsored for the sixth year running by Grocontinental, was played at Prees Cricket & Recreation Club near Whitchurch. After an excellent day's bowling the worthy winner was David Walker (Greater Manchester) who defeated Les Haylor (North Midlands) in the final.

The following Thursday, the Veterans County Championship was played at the Severnside Complex in Shrewsbury. The Group winners qualified for the semi-finals in which Cheshire, despite only having three winners, defeated Shropshire and Yorkshire beat Potteries & District. In a well contested final between two very strong teams Cheshire, despite again having only three winners, defeated the White Rose County.

As usual, one of the highlights of the 2012 BCGBA calendar was the Senior Individual Merit which was played at Owley Wood Recreation Club in Weaverham and was sponsored for the ninth year running by Padders feelgoodfeet. After a great day's bowling, the eventual winner was Gary Ellis (Greater Manchester) who defeated Chris Brown (South Yorkshire) in the final. This was Gary's second success in this event and was no great surprise considering the outstanding season that he was enjoying at the time. The Junior Individual Merit was played at Washwood Heath & Ward End Conservative Bowling Club (Maitland Hall) in Birmingham. Following a change of rule, this year was the first year that allowed female entries and Casey Bolton won the Isle of Man Junior Merit to qualify for this event. After an excellent day's bowling, the worthy winner was Danny Towning (Yorkshire) who defeated Sam Day (South Yorkshire) in the final.

The Endsleigh Senior Supplementary County Championship was played at Florence Tennis & Bowling Club in Stoke-on-Trent and resulted in a convincing win for Cheshire at the expense of North Midlands. Anyone who was there, especially the players, will recall with feeling the horrendous conditions and the waterlogged greens! Well done to the players and officials for seeing it through to a very soggy end. A week later, the Drakes Pride Junior Supplementary County Championship was played at Helsby Community Sports Club. In an excellent final Wales recorded a narrow victory against Derbyshire.

The Endsleigh Senior County Championship final was contested by Warwick & Worcester and Yorkshire. I attended the Yorkshire home leg at Marsh United where Warwick & Worcester recorded eight winners, including Gareth Herbert who deservedly received the Endsleigh Man of the Match award. At the Warwick & Worcester home venue, Valley BC, each team had six winners. The Endsleigh Man of the Match was Ryan Prosser, one of Warwick & Worcester's six winners. Warwick & Worcester, who were victorious home and away, were the worthy winners of the Crosfield Cup for 2012. A week later, the final of the Drakes Pride Junior County Championship was won for the third year running by Yorkshire who recorded a convincing victory home and away against Shropshire. Once again, the sponsors generously provided medals and bowls towels for the winners and runners-up.



As usual, the Champion of Champions, sponsored by Mediaboxuk and played at the Waterloo in Blackpool, was one of the highlights of the BCGBA calendar of events and was witnessed by a large crowd. One of the outsiders at the start of the day, John Finch, winner of the Merseyside Merit, came from behind in the final to defeat one of the favourites and a Waterloo specialist, Simon Coupe, who had qualified by winning the Spen Masters. John also recorded victories against Glynn Hargraves, Callum Wraight, Paul Lamb and Chris Brown on his way to becoming a surprise but very worthy champion. The sponsors generously arranged for all thirty two players to receive two shirts each to be worn during their participation in the competition. They also produced an excellent souvenir programme. John was later presented with a framed shirt signed by all 32 players.

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 Donnington Wood Bowling Club in Telford where the greens were in excellent condition. The worthy winners were the Warwick & Worcester pairing of Rachel Bennett and Greg Smith who defeated the husband and wife pairing, Kerry and Chris Brown, from South Yorkshire, in the final.

HANDBOOK AVAILABLE IN MID MARCH

The 2013 BCGBA Handbook will be available following the County Secretaries Meeting on Saturday 16th March.

The cost of the handbook remains at £2.50 and is packed with information which includes the Association Rules, competition results and all the individual scores from last season's senior and junior County Championships amongst others.

The British Crown Green Ladies also have a section containing all of their information and details for the coming season.

If you would like to have your own personal copy please contact the CEO - John Crowther, 94 Fishers Lane, Pensby, Wirral, CH61 8SB. You will need to add a further £1 to your cheque (**total amount £3.50 – cheques payable to BCGBA**) to cover the ever increasing postage & packaging.

BCGBA MOURN THE PASSING OF TWO PAST PRESIDENTS

The BCGBA lost two of its Past Presidents at the beginning of February.

Doug Lawrence (Shropshire), President in 1981 and Ron Mitchell (Greater Manchester) who was President in 1991 both passed away within days of each other.

The BCGBA would like to express our sincere condolences to the families and friends of Doug and Ron, both of who will be sorely missed.

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS QUALIFIERS ANNOUNCED

The list of qualifying competitions for this year's BCGBA Mediaboxuk Champion of Champions which will be played at the Waterloo Hotel, Blackpool, on Saturday 28th September has been announced.

The list has a familiar look to it with Spen Masters replacing the Brighthouse Classic in the main qualifying competitions with the latter dropping down to the Reserve List. Sadly, the South Leeds Classic and Carlsberg Moorside Classic will not run in 2013.

As usual, the list is divided between BCGBA related events and Open Competitions. If any player from the main competitions wins on more than one occasion then the reserve competitions list will come into play. Any player who does not qualify through the main competitions will then get their chance to play at Blackpool and like Ashley Daykin, following his victory in last season's Pudsey Classic, will be hoping for a couple of double qualifiers to allow him to take his place in Blackpool.



BCGBA Related Events:

Flowfit Senior Individual Merit - Junior Individual Merit - XtraPhones Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship - British Parks Merit - 16 County Merit winners

Invited Open Competitions:

James Birks Memorial Midland Masters
Osprey Waterloo Championship
Grange Valley Amusements Spring Waterloo
Tony Pagett Open
CCF Open (WBFSC)
Coors Meole Brace Open

Isle of Man June Festival
Fleetwood Bowls Festival
Isle of Man September Festival
Hillcrest Classic
John Smiths Classic (Cleckheaton Sports)
Spen Masters

Reserve competitions (in order):

Brighthouse Classic – Yorkshire Building Society Pudsey Classic (Ashley Daykin) - Olympic Classic - The Riley Trophy (Wolstanton) - Richmond Classic - Elland Open Classic - Wharton Cons Open - West Melton Victory Cup - Arthur Johnson Memorial (Chris Brown)

DRAW MADE FOR WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

The third running of the World Club Championship gets underway on Sunday 24th March with the first block of eight teams hoping to grab one of the two final qualifying places available in each of the four weekly sessions.

With defending champions, Lloyd Hotel, and beaten finalist, Sale Excelsior, failing to qualify the inaugural runners-up, Garswood Hall (Lancashire), open proceedings with a match against Staffordshire outfit, M & B Cheslyn Hay. The inaugural winners, St Josephs (North Lancs & Fylde) will be hoping to add to the 2011 title but first must overcome the challenge of British Parks champions, Meersbrook.

The competition will be played at Irlam Steel Recreation & Social Club, Manchester (M44 6AJ) with two teams from each qualifying week taking their place in the finals on Sunday 21st April. Play gets underway at 11am at all sessions with the final eight playing to a winner. Details of all the results, individual scores and final day draw can be viewed via the BCGBA website, crownngreenbowls.sharepoint.com.

SUNDAY 24 MARCH 2013

No.1 Green

Bradfield (South Yorkshire) v Holme (Cumbria)

Garswood Hall (Lancashire) v M & B Cheslyn Hay (Staffordshire)

No.2 Green

Maltby (South Yorkshire) v Tonge (Greater Manchester)

Norton Central (Potteries & District) v Victoria Park (Staffordshire)

SUNDAY 7 APRIL 2013

No.1 Green

Selly Park (Warwick & Worcester) v Tixall (Merseyside)

Thongsbridge (Yorkshire) v Houldsworth WMC (Cheshire)

No.2 Green

St Josephs (North Lancs & Fylde) v Meersbrook (British Parks)

Onchan (Isle of Man) v South Manchester RBL (Derbyshire)

SUNDAY 31 MARCH 2013

No.1 Green

Newport (Shropshire) v King George V (Warwick & Worcester)

Birches Head Hotel (Potteries & District) v Bailey Hill (Wales)

No.2 Green

Meole Brace (Shropshire) v Newdigate (North Midlands)

Burbage (Derbyshire) v Canalside (Yorkshire)

SUNDAY 14 APRIL 2013

No.1 Green

Castle Private (Cheshire) v Esclusham (Wales)

Haunchwood (North Midlands) v Walnut Tree (Merseyside)

No.2 Green

Wharton Cons (Cheshire) v Hoghton (North Lancs & Fylde)

BRNESC (Merseyside) v North Chadderton (Greater Manchester)

FEES INCREASED AT DELAYED RULES REVISION MEETING

The 2013 Rules Revision Meeting, delayed from its traditional January date due to the heavy snowfall that covered crown green land, took place on the second Saturday of February with one of the shortest agendas for many a year.

Out of the 17 proposals up for discussion, 8 were carried, 3 were defeated, 5 were withdrawn and 1 received no seconder. Among the successful proposals was a new Bye Law defining a Club, a new format for the Veterans County Championship which will see the qualifying rounds played in regional groups and a county must have a minimum of eight pairs to gain a qualifier for the Centenary Mixed Pairs. This will bring the rule in line with other competitions that required a minimum entry.

There were two major changes to the Junior County Championship, both of which will come into force in 2014. The first will see a change of age limit. Currently, and what will remain this season, is that a player must be under 18 years on the 1st January of the year of the competition. From next year that date will change to the 30th September ensuring all players playing in the event are under 18 years of age. The second will see the competition follow the format of the Veterans County Championship with qualifying played in regional groups.

But the ones that will probably hit the headlines are the increase in fees. The fee for Clubs is now £15 per Club with the fee for new bowlers now £10 per player, both with immediate effect.

VOTING RESULTS

At the start of the meeting there were 77 persons present with voting rights

1. Bye Law 5(a)~ Page 36 (CARRIED - 73 For 3 Against 1 Abstention)

On line 5 after 'Junior County fees.' Insert '31st May: Handbooks.'

On line 5 delete 'Handbooks' and insert 'Club fees'.

On Line 7 delete '31st July: Club fees.'

There were now 78 persons present with voting rights

2. Bye Law 5(f)~ Page 38 (CARRIED - 60 For 11 Against 7 Abstentions)

On line 2 delete '£10.00' and replace with '£15.00'.

Bye Law 5(g)~ Page 38

On line 3 delete '£10.00' and replace with '£15.00'.

Amendment (DEFEATED - 23 For 36 Against 19 Abstentions)

Bye Law 5(f)~ Page 38

Replace '£15.00 with 'Annual BCGBA'.

Bye Law 5(g)~ Page 38

After '£15.00' add 'which cannot be reviewed within 3 years of any previous amendment'.

3. Bye Law 5(l)~ Page 40 (CARRIED - 56 For 13 Against 9 Abstentions)

On lines 1 and 2 delete '£6.00' and replace with '£10.00'.

4. New Bye Law (CARRIED - 69 For 3 Against 6 Abstentions)

Definition of a Club

'A Club which may be a separate entity or a section of another body shall be defined as having an individual title. The Club shall have an elected committee and must produce for its members a balance sheet or a financial statement annually.'

COMPETITION RULES

Senior County Championship

5. Rule 2~ Page 66 (DEFEATED - 18 For 52 Against 8 Abstentions)

On line 2 after the first sentence add 'In the event of unforeseen difficulties preventing a 2pm start at one venue, or both venues, games shall commence at both venues at the same time which shall be mutually agreed.'

Senior and Junior Individual Merit

6. Rule 1~ Page 114 (DEFEATED - 19 For 54 Against 5 Abstentions)

On line 8 delete 'on the 1st January of the year of the Competition'.

Junior County Championship

7. Rule 1~ Page 124 (CARRIED - 47 For 16 Against 15 Abstentions)

On line 3 delete '1st January' and replace with '30th September'.

To be deferred until 2014

8. Rule 1~ Page 124 (WITHDRAWN)

On line 3 delete 'on 1st January of the year of the competition'.

9. Rule 1~ Page 124 (NO SECONDER)

On line 10 delete the sentence beginning 'No home team player' and replace with 'Up to two home team players shall be allowed to play in a County Match on a green of any Club of which they are a playing member, no player shall play for more than one County in any one season.'

10. Rule 2~ Page 124 (WITHDRAWN)

On line 3 after the first sentence add 'In the event of unforeseen difficulties preventing a 2pm start at one venue, or both venues, games shall commence at both venues at the same time which shall be mutually agreed.'

11. Rule 3~ Page 125 (CARRIED - 49 For 24 Against 5 Abstentions)

On line 5 after 'formula.' Insert a new sentence to read 'The Junior County Championship qualifying rounds shall be played on a regional basis with a rota operating in the two designated regional areas. The respective regions will form the basis for the group stages/section stages of the competition. The designated regions composition will be decided by the BCGBA. Two sections will be allocated to each regional area, this to formulate the four sections.'

To be operational from 2014

Veterans County Championship

12. New Rules (CARRIED - 70 For 6 Against 2 Abstentions)

Delete the existing rules and replace with the following:

1~ The Veterans County Championship shall be held annually. The qualifying rounds will be on a regional basis on a date decided by the Management Committee. The finals will be held on a date and at a venue decided by the Management Committee, the venue being decided after the qualifying counties are known.

2~ Each County Association in membership shall be entitled to enter a team in the event.

3~ The counties in each region to be decided by the Management Committee and each region will remain so for 4 years. Within each region each county will host the qualifying round once in a 4 year cycle. An exception to this being a region containing the Isle of Man (should they wish to enter)4~ Teams to consist of 8 players who were 60 years of age or more on the 1st January of the year of the competition. Each county to submit a squad of up to 12 qualifying players on the day of the competition, all teams selected must be from the submitted list. (Note; for the regional qualifiers), a fresh squad of up to 12 players may be submitted for the final stages.

5~ The entry fee per team will be decided annually by the Management Committee, the latest date for entry to be 1st April (**once entered teams to fulfil 4 year cycle**). All players must be bona fide members of a club affiliated to their County Association and must not have played in the Senior County Championship for another county during the season, nor played in the Veterans or Senior IMC in another county the season concerned.

6~ No player will be allowed to play on a green of a club where they are a playing member.

7~ All games to be 21 up off 3.

8~ Competing teams in each region will play on a round robin basis to provide a regional winner to compete in the final.

9~ The 4 regional winners will play on the final date on a neutral venue selected by the Management Committee again on a round robin basis to determine the Championship Winners

10~ i) Prior to each match, counties must submit their team in playing order to the official in charge. If a nominated player is then not available at the start of the appropriate game they can be replaced by a reserve from the squad list.

ii) In every match the toss of a coin will determine the cast of jacks.

iii) No practice will be allowed on selected greens for 7 days prior to the match.

iv) In each match, the team with the highest aggregate shall determine the winner and awarded 2 points, in the case of a tie on aggregate the teams to be awarded 1 point each.

v) After completion of the round robin matches, the team with the most points to be declared the winner. In the event of a tie, the following order of elimination will apply.

a) The team with the best aggregate (total shots for minus total shots against)

b) Tie on aggregate, team with the most individual winners

c) If still a tie, the team with the best winner

d) If still a tie, team with the 2nd 3rd 4th best winners

vi) The County Association staging the regional event to provide the person in charge (to run the event) and sufficient referees.

vii) In the event that insufficient counties enter to make 4 regions of 4 counties then consideration will be given to inviting British Parks Veterans County Champions.

Following this, consideration would be given for a county to enter a second team in the regional stages.

Amendment

New Rules (CARRIED - 58 For 17 Against 3 Abstentions)

Rule 4, line 1 insert 'male' between '8' and 'players'.

13. Rule 2~ Page 156 (WITHDRAWN)

On line 3 after 'male' add 'or female'.

On line 11 after 'and' add 'male players'.

14. Rule 2~ Page 156 (WITHDRAWN)

On line 3 delete 'on January 1st in the year of competition'.

Veterans Competition

15. Rule 1~ Page 160 (WITHDRAWN)

On line 3 delete 'on the 1st January of that year'.

Centenary Mixed Pairs

16. Rule 3~ Page 176 (CARRIED - 52 For 14 Against 12 Abstentions)

On line 3 after 'qualifying pair' add ', provided there are a minimum of 8 entries'.

There were now 76 persons present with voting rights

New Competition

17. BCGBA Alliance/Intermediate County Championship (DEFEATED - 17 For 49 Against 10 Abstentions)

Basis for Rules

1~ A competition for teams of 8 players home and away on the same day as the Junior Inter County matches, and at the same venues as the Junior County matches in the group/section stages of the competition.

2~ The match start time to be 45 minutes after the end of the Junior County match.

3~ Players must be bona fide members of a Club affiliated to their respective County Association. They must not have played for the Senior County team in the current season.

4~ All games shall be 21up.

5~ Referees to be appointed by the home County.

6~ Counties shall submit their teams in playing order 21 days before the respective matches for exchange.

7~ Practice will be allowed on the day 15minutes for the home team and 15 minutes for the away team.

8~ The draw should be made to mirror the Junior County match schedule, possibly geographically regional and zonal. Should not all Counties decide not to enter the competition the draw will be as above regional and zonal. The home venue shall be the same venue as the respective home venue for the Junior match being played on the day if they do not mirror the junior entries.

9~ The competition entry fee shall be decided by the BCGBA.

10~ The group/section stages will be played under the same rules as the Junior and Senior County Championships, with the exception of the age limit in the juniors. Namely, overall total aggregate score at both venues will decide the winner and the winner receive 2 points etc and the section winner decided by the most points etc. The four section winners to go forward to semi-final knockout stages then onto final. The semi-finals and final will be on greens of the home Counties choice. Start time to be 5.45pm for semi-finals and final.

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website of the

BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION