



# **BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION**

## **BCGBA Appointments.**

### **BCGBA Chief Executive Officer**

Paul Ashmore has officially from the 1st April taken over as BCGBA Chief Executive Officer. Any queries for Paul should be directed to [ceo@bcgba.org.uk](mailto:ceo@bcgba.org.uk)

### **BCGBA National Safeguarding Officer**

Taking over from Paul Ashmore, Denise Noble has been appointed BCGBA National Safeguarding Officer. Denise also officially taking up her new post from the 1st April. Please note that there is no change to the email address for the National Safeguarding Officer, any concerns should be directed to Denise at [safeguarding@bcgba.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@bcgba.org.uk)

### **BCGBA National Administration Officer**

Jim McGurk has been appointed BCGBA National Administrator, Jim has been in an interim role from October and was officially appointed in March. Any administration queries should be sent to Jim at [admin@bcgba.org.uk](mailto:admin@bcgba.org.uk)

We would like to wish our new Officers every success in their new roles.

## **BCGBA President - Frank James (Staffordshire)**



What an honour to be elected President of the British Crown Green Bowling Association for 2024.

I would like to thank both my nomination county and my club.

Bowling became part of my life from 1973 onwards since I first joined Stafford Bowling Club and have played in various teams since then.

I am now a life member and also Chairman of the club, after having been part of the committee for 30 years.

My greatest pleasure was working alongside Mark Bircumshaw as President of Staffordshire County bowls and also as Chairman. Mark and I have achieved a lot for club and nationally across the country.

Many thanks to the BCGBA and all the officers for their support, health permitting I hope to visit as many events as possible during the coming year.

**Frank D J James**  
BCGBA President 2024



## **BCGBA BOARD**

At the 2022 BCGBA Annual General Meeting the green light was given to the Governance Review.

This was completed on Thursday 7th March 2024 by the formation of the BCGBA Board following receipt of the Five Regional Representatives from the National Council.

The structure of the board, which has the right to operate with full authority in the Governance of the Association is as follows;

- Chairman - Alan Stephenson.
- Chief Executive Officer - Paul Ashmore.
- Financial Officer - Graeme Underhill.
- National Safeguarding Officer - Denise Noble.
- National Administrator - Jim McGurk.
- Competitions Officer - Yvette Gregory.
- Disciplinary Chair - Sue Todd.
- Region 1 - Steve Clamp.
- Region 2 - Pat Crowther.
- Region 3 - Steve Cochrane.
- Region 4 - Calvin Jackson.
- Region 5 - Phil Scott.
- Independent - Graham Pickavance.
- Independent - Dan Peach.

There will be further updates in the future to explain the functionality of the Board on how we support our members going forward.

# Bowls Buddies



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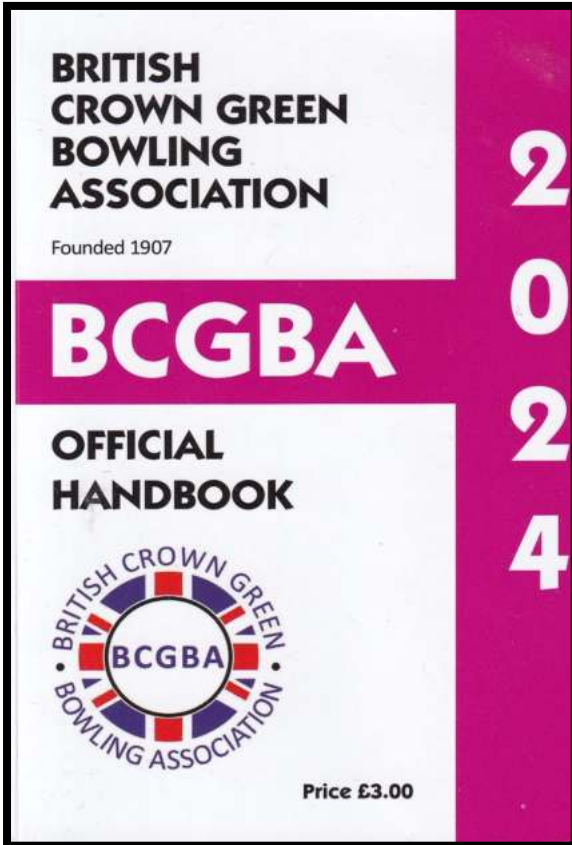


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Or contact us at  
[bowlsbuddies@gmail.com](mailto:bowlsbuddies@gmail.com)  
07967 328841 or 07500 918081

## 2024 BCGBA HANDBOOK



The 2024 BCGBA Handbook is now available for purchase.

This year's handbook contains all the results from the Men's and Ladies competitions played during the 2023 season and the calendar of events for the 2024 season.

The fixtures for the County Championships are also included.

All clubs should receive a copy via the County Secretary but if you would like to have your own personal copy, please contact the National Administrator at [admin@bcgba.org.uk](mailto:admin@bcgba.org.uk) on how to obtain this year's handbook.

The cost including Postage & Packing will be £6.

## BARRY GRIFFITHS - RIP



We are saddened to announce the passing of BCGBA Life Member Mr Barry Griffiths of Shropshire.

Barry served with the BCGBA from 1985 to 1997.

Our sincere condolences to Barry's Family and Friends at this difficult time.

Barry was elected assistant secretary of the BCGBA, serving alongside his good friend Ron Holt.

Always a source of wise counsel, Barry was made an honorary life member of the British association for his efforts and, to date, he is the only Shropshire man to have achieved such a reward.

His efforts on the bowling green weren't bad either, being part of many St Georges teams to pick up titles and trophies.

***His funeral will take place at 1.30.p.m. on Tuesday 7th May 2024 at St. Georges Church, Church Street, St. Georges, Telford TF2 9LT.***



# **BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION**

## **SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP**

### **2024 FIXTURES**

#### **SUNDAY 5th MAY**

- Section 1:** Derbyshire v Greater Manchester                      Cumbria v Lancashire  
**Section 2:** Warwick & Worcester v Potteries & Dist              Shropshire v Wales  
**Section 3:** Staffordshire v Yorkshire                                      Merseyside v North Midlands  
**Section 4:** Cheshire v North Lancs & Fylde                              South Yorkshire (no match)

#### **SUNDAY 2nd JUNE**

- Section 1:** Derbyshire v Cumbria    Greater Manchester v Lancashire  
**Section 2:** Warwick & Worcester v Shropshire                      Potteries & District v Wales  
**Section 3:** Staffordshire v Merseyside                                      Yorkshire v North Midlands  
**Section 4:** South Yorkshire v Losing team from Cheshire v North Lancs & Fylde

#### **SUNDAY 7th JULY**

- Section 1:** Derbyshire v Lancashire    Greater Manchester v Cumbria  
**Section 2:** Warwick & Worcester v Wales                                      Potteries & District v Shropshire  
**Section 3:** Staffordshire v North Midlands                                      Yorkshire v Merseyside  
**Section 4:** South Yorkshire v Winning team from Cheshire v North Lancs & Fylde

#### **SUNDAY 4th AUGUST**

- Semi-Finals:**              Winners of Section 1 v Winners of Section 2  
                                    Winners of Section 3 v Winners of Section 4

#### **SUNDAY 1st SEPTEMBER**

**Final:**



Part of **HOWDEN**



# **BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION**

## **BCGBA LADIES COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP - FIXTURES 2024**

### **SUNDAY 19th MAY**

<b>Section 1:</b>	Burton & District v Wales	North Midlands v South Yorkshire
<b>Section 2:</b>	Dudley & District v Warwick & Worcester	Shropshire v Yorkshire
<b>Section 3:</b>	Greater Manchester v Lancashire	Cumbria v Mid Cheshire
<b>Section 4:</b>	Cheshire v North Lancs & Fylde	Merseyside v North Derbyshire
<b>Presidents:</b>	North Shropshire v Staffordshire	South Staffordshire (no match)

### **SUNDAY 16th JUNE**

<b>Section 1:</b>	South Yorkshire v Wales	Burton & District v North Midlands
<b>Section 2:</b>	Shropshire v Warwick & Worcester	Dudley & District v Yorkshire
<b>Section 3:</b>	Lancashire v Mid Cheshire	Cumbria v Greater Manchester
<b>Section 4:</b>	Cheshire v North Derbyshire	Merseyside v North Lancs & Fylde
<b>Presidents:</b>	South Staffordshire v Losing team from North Shropshire v Staffordshire	

### **SUNDAY 21st JULY**

<b>Section 1:</b>	North Midlands v Wales	Burton & District v South Yorkshire
<b>Section 2:</b>	Warwick & Worcester v Yorkshire	Dudley & District v Shropshire
<b>Section 3:</b>	Cumbria v Lancashire	Greater Manchester v Mid Cheshire
<b>Section 4:</b>	Cheshire v Merseyside	North Derbyshire v North Lancs & Fylde
<b>Presidents:</b>	South Staffordshire v Winning team from North Shropshire v Staffordshire	

### **SUNDAY 18th AUGUST**

#### **SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Semi-Finals:** Winners of Section 1 v Winners of Section 2  
Winners of Section 3 v Winners of Section 4

#### **MAVIS DEARDEN SUPPLEMENTARY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP**

**Semi-Finals:** Runners-up of Section 1 v Runners-up of Section 2  
Runners-up of Section 3 v Runners-up of Section 4

### **SUNDAY 15th SEPTEMBER**

#### **SENIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP - Final**

#### **MAVIS DEARDEN SUPPLEMENTARY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP – Final**

## **2024 JUNIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP**

**SUNDAY 12th MAY**

Yorkshire v Shropshire

Wales (No Match)

**SUNDAY 9th JUNE**

Wales v Losing team from Yorkshire v Shropshire

**SUNDAY 14th JULY**

Wales v Winning team from Yorkshire v Shropshire

## **2024 JUNIOR 6-ASIDE CHAMPIONSHIP**

**SUNDAY 12th MAY**

**Grange Sports (Warrington)**

**52 Grange Ave, Warrington WA4 1QH**

Group 1

Cheshire A

Cheshire B

Cumbria

Greater Manchester

Isle of Man

South Yorkshire

North Lancs & Fylde

**Prees Recreation Club (Shropshire)**

**Brades Rd, Prees SY13 2DX**

Group 2

North Midlands

Derbyshire

Staffordshire

Warwick & Worcester A

Warwick & Worcester B

Warwick & Worcester C

**SUNDAY 14th JULY**

**Venues and entries to be confirmed**

# SUPPORTING

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## MABEL FINNIGAN MBE



Messages of congratulations have flooded in from all over the crown green world after Shropshire's Mabel Finnigan was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to bowls.

The proud pensioner from Madeley in Telford admits to being overwhelmed by the number of phone calls, cards and messages received following the announcement in the King's New Year Honours list.

Widely saluted as the rock of women's bowling in Shropshire, Mabel has devoted much of her adult life to promoting and organising the sport she still loves to this day.

She was the founder and sole secretary of the Telford Ladies Afternoon League for 30 years; treasurer of the Shrewsbury Ladies League for 27 years; and county team captain and official of the Shropshire Ladies association, including the figurehead role of president.

Her daughter, Deena Woodhall, said: "So proud of Mom – 88 and still going strong.

"She is so thankful for all the hard work certain folks have done for her – and so grateful for all the phone calls and messages."

Her nephew and God son, St Georges star Tony Rhodes, added: "To be recognised, at this stage in life for what, at the end of the day, has been a passion of hers, is truly humbling for her."

Shropshire Ladies president and County Development Officer Pauline Wilson led the tributes, saying: "I know many will want to join me in offering our heartfelt congratulations to Mabel for this once in a lifetime award – what a fantastic achievement."

Before taking on such high profile off-green roles, Mabs was a high class bowler in her own right and has treasured memories of her time at Dun Cow Bowling Club in Dawley with her late husband Jim.

She bowled for Madeley Court and, when that green closed, she moved to nearby Madeley Cricket Club BC and also to Broseley – and she is still an active and dedicated member of both those bowls clubs today.

A Mid Shropshire League spokesman Fletcher said: "Mabel was the first female recipient of a life membership from the league in January 2020 – for if anyone deserved such an honour for all she has done for the sport then it was her.

"Her desire to promote the game and all that is good about it is infectious.

"And her determination to do things in the right and proper way is admirable.

"I am sure all the bowls clubs, leagues and bodies she has served over the years would whole heartedly agree."

***Courtesy of Shropshire CGBA Press Relations Officer Mr Malcolm Fletcher.***

# Does your club need funding?

Did you know your club can gain free unrestricted funding from Crown Green Bowling Association fundraising partner easyfundraising. Your members, players and volunteers can earn free cashback on online purchases, helping your club with income!



## What is easyfundraising?

easyfundraising is the UK's biggest charity fundraising platform. It turns everyday online shopping into free cashback you can put towards your club. Free and easy to use, easyfundraising has helped sports clubs raise over £5M and over £44M for other good causes and charities.

## How does easyfundraising work?

easyfundraising partners with over 7,000 brands who will donate part of what you, family, friends members, and even businesses spend towards your club. It won't cost you any extra because the cost is covered by the brands. They pay a commission when anyone shops from the easyfundraising website or app, and that's turned into cashback for you - magic!



## Can How much can we raise?

Most brands pay a % of what you spend with them as cashback whilst some pay a flat amount. For example if you or one of your supporters spend £150 on a hotel via booking.com, they will donate 3% which is £4.50 and if someone buys their car insurance with confused.com via easyfundraising, they will donate £15 regardless of the cost of the policy. Remember, the more people supporting you, the more you will raise for your club!

## How do I get started?

Most Simply visit:  
[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/crown-green-bowls](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/crown-green-bowls)

Or open your camera app on your phone and scan the QR code below.





## 2024 CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

Owley Wood Recreation Club, Barrymore Road, Weaverham, Northwich, Cheshire, CW8 3LS

Saturday 28th September  
**BCGBA MEN**

Sunday 29th September  
**BCGBA LADIES**

**10am Start**

### **Admission**

Two Day ticket (Saturday & Sunday) - £15

Daily ticket (Saturday & Sunday) - £10

**Bar - Refreshments - Raffle**

**O.W.R.C**



# **BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION**

## **2024 BCGBA CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS**

**Saturday 28th September – 10am**

**Owley Wood Recreation Club,**

**Barrymore Road,**

**Weaverham,**

**Northwich**

**CW8 3LS**

### **QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS**

Cheshire Merit	BCGBA Senior Individual Merit
Cumbria Merit	BCGBA Junior Individual Merit
Derbyshire Merit	BCGBA Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Handicap
Greater Manchester Merit	Autumn Waterloo
Isle of Man Merit	Brighthouse Classic
Lancashire Merit	British Parks Merit
Merseyside Merit	George Masters (2023)
North Lancs & Fylde Merit	Hillcrest Classic
North Midlands Merit	Isle of Man June Bowling Festival
Potteries & District Merit	Isle of Man September Bowling Festival
Shropshire Merit	Meole Brace Open
South Yorkshire Merit	Midland Masters Merit
Staffordshire Merit	Pudsey Classic
Warwick & Worcester Merit	Sandal Classic
Welsh Merit	Spen Masters
Yorkshire Merit	Spring Waterloo

### **RESERVE COMPETITIONS (In order)**

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Federation Merit           | 8. Wharton Cons Open           |
| 2. Richmond Classic           | 9. Naz Worthington Memorial    |
| 3. Fleetwood Bowling Festival | 10. Leyton Classic             |
| 4. Ribblesdale Classic        | 11. West Brom Open             |
| 5. Ken Booth Classic          | 12. Woodley Spring Classic     |
| 6. Talbot Trophy              | 13. Gambart Bains Championship |
| 7. Castle Private Classic     |                                |



# **BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION**

## **2024 BCGBA LADIES CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS**

**Sunday 29th September – 10am**

**Owley Wood Recreation Club,**

**Barrymore Road,**

**Weaverham,**

**Northwich**

**CW8 3LS**

### **QUALIFYING COMPETITIONS**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. BCGBA Ladies Senior Individual Merit | 17. South Staffordshire                     |
| 2. BCGBA Ladies Junior Individual Merit | 18. South Yorkshire                         |
| 3. Burton & District                    | 19. Staffordshire                           |
| 4. Cheshire                             | 20. Wales                                   |
| 5. Cumbria                              | 21. Warwick & Worcester                     |
| 6. Dudley & District                    | 22. Yorkshire                               |
| 7. Greater Manchester                   | 23. Blackpool Spring Bowling Festival       |
| 8. Isle of Man                          | 24. British Parks Ladies Merit              |
| 9. Lancashire                           | 25. Cynthia Tonge Memorial                  |
| 10. Merseyside                          | 26. Isle of Man June Bowling Festival       |
| 11. Mid Cheshire                        | 27. Isle of Man September Bowling Festival  |
| 12. North Derbyshire                    | 28. Ladies Autumn Waterloo                  |
| 13. North Lancs & Fylde                 | 29. Ladies Spring Waterloo                  |
| 14. North Midlands                      | 30. Ladies Talbot Trophy                    |
| 15. North Shropshire                    | 31. Norden Open Singles                     |
| 16. Shropshire                          | 32. Enid Blackburn Trophy (Linthwaite Hall) |

### **Reserve Competitions (in order)**

1. Federation Ladies
2. Ladies Fleetwood Festival
3. Marton Institute Ladies Open
4. Isle of Man June Tourism Bowling Festival
5. Isle of Man September Tourism Bowling Festival

# Bagillt Bowling Club - An Inspiration

The popular Bagillt club will be given a new lease of life after months of lying derelict. The Leader reported that Bagillt Bowling Club, on Highfield Road, was in dire need of 'new blood' to keep the green and the committee going after a sharp decline in members.



Since its launch in 1989, the club was deemed 'very popular and attractive' in years gone by. However Linda Williams said the club has been closed for several years but after signing a 27-year lease, says it is time to breathe new life into it for the community. She said: "It was closed down due to ill health but I've now started to get the ball rolling to get it re-opened. "It will be a Bagillt community bowling club. I've had the keys from the council and everything is moving forward.

"I've been bowling all my life, I'm a Welsh and British champion and I just thought what better than to get the community hub back up and running. We will take it over as a community. "It was such a shame to see it shut but hopefully we will see the re-opening in about six months.

"It is in really bad condition and needs a lot of work." Linda said she hopes to hold entertainment nights and re-engage the youth into the sport. She added:

"There's nothing to do in Bagillt. I bowl everywhere but there was nowhere in my community that could be used. "Even if you don't play, we want people to come down and watch and have a chat and a cake. It's about getting the community together as a social gathering, that's what bowls is.

"I want to boost the community spirit. I did it in Ruthin a couple of years ago, that was derelict and I asked for a chance and now they have a team up and running and a gardening club. We can do that in Bagillt."



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