

North Lancs & Fylde County Bowls Association – AGM

Canberra Club

Sunday 18th January 2024 at 12:15 pm

Attendees	Mike Fleming (President) Pete Harris (County Secretary) Neil Payne (Finance Officer/Registrar) Steve Clamp (Development Officer/BCGBA Rep) Sue Sinclair (Safeguarding Officer), Andy Fleming (Competition Secretary) Wendy Harris (NL&FLCBA Rep) Brian Swift (Vice President) Peter Jose (Fylde Rep) and forty-five attendees representing thirty-two clubs and leagues.
Item 1	Presidents Welcome & Address- Mike Fleming opened the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance. Mike highlighted the merger with the ladies, the website, BCGBA organisation, county competitions, Simon Coupe being British champion and the number of new members (1200) in the county over the past twelve months.
Item 2	Apologies of Absence – Deborah Watters, Peter Wilson, Cath Cowell, Anne Jones
Item 3	Minutes Silence – Special mention for Robert Walsh, Alec Collins, Mel Byron, and members who had passed away in the last year.
Item 4	Minutes of Previous AGM Sunday 29th January 2023 & Matters Arising A – Minutes: Proposed by Peter Jose, seconded by Elsie Jones and accepted B- Matters Arising: None
Item 5	Chairman’s Report – Steve Clamp – Welcomed the Ladies to NL&FCBA and thanked the committee for their hard work.
Item 6	Secretary’s Report and Communications– Pete Harris – Explained about the website, 347 subscribers and 20,000 views, info also posted on Facebook. There are 234 clubs, 57 leagues, over 1300 teams and approx. 4000 bowlers across all five districts. Forty clubs lost in past six years. BCGBA Open Contest Certificate now being fully administered by the county. Not enough interest from Juniors to run a merit comp or take part in County or Federation comps last year. Twenty-nine Juniors under eighteen currently registered. New Junior Secretary appointed, Mr Andrew Lucas of Galgate Bowling Club.
Item 7	Financial Officer’s Report – Neil Payne – Opening Bank Balance @ 31.10.2022 £11,254.56 Income @31.10.2023 £23,962.90 Expenditure @ 31.10.2023 £24,045.75 Closing balance @ 31.10.2023 £11,171.71 Neil spoke about the summary sheet. John Hanson asked about BCGBA affiliation fees. What do they do with the money? He would like counties to keep more of the money. Bill Hannigan asked about the development fund, he wants money to go directly to clubs that actively promote juniors and ladies. Steve Clamp explained £1,600 NLFCBA development fund is ring-fenced and clubs can borrow equipment purchased by this fund free of charge. Auditor’s Report - Accounts were audited by Mr Mark Howarth and confirmed as correct.
Item 8	BCGBA Representatives Report - Steve Clamp- Spoke about the AGM held in January and two notices of motion which NL&FCBA voted on. There is a new management committee and structure, with five board members representing all the counties. John Hanson asked how voting would take place and that influence would be reduced if one board member was representing four or five counties plus Federation and Juniors?
Item 9	Development Officers Report – Steve Clamp – Spoke about the website, funding presentations, supplying clubs with county equipment, Academies, coaching courses, Disability and Inclusion, First Aid courses for clubs, Playing Pitch Strategies to protect facilities. Schools involved in Active Lancashire. Fairhaven Academy Active Lancashire award. Bowls big weekend tailored for Crown Green. Prior to the AGM Steve held a <i>Developing your club presentation</i> , which had lots of ideas for raising revenue and growing club membership.
Item 10	Safeguarding Report – Sue Sinclair – Spoke about the year being quiet until the last two months when issues arose, and thirty-two clubs had problems. Visited forty-five clubs in the year. Members advised to fill out next of kin and medication form, so the club committee and team captains are aware. A Code of Conduct should be signed every twelve months. Members advised to complete a First Aid course. Every club must have a Safeguarding Officer.
Item 11	Senior County Report – Mike Fleming – Spoke about the three men’s county matches against Derbyshire, Wales, and Merseyside. Thanked Andy Cairns for his efforts as Chair of Selectors. Vacancy for this position as Andy Cairns has stepped down. Congratulated Simon Coupe and Michael Leach on reaching one hundred caps.

Item 12	Registrars Report – Neil Payne – Neil explained that he took over the role from Geoff Foy part way through the year. Geoff was County registrar for twenty-five years and was presented with a gift and thanked for his services. There were 1089 new registration between February and August 2023.
Item 13	Competitions Secretary Report- Andy Fleming- Spoke about the county comps that had taken place in 2023. <i>Champion of League Champions</i> – Winner: Darren James, Runner-Up: Andy Cairns. <i>Jack & Jean Isherwood Veterans Championship</i> - Winner: Steve Johnson, Runner-up: Mike Fleming. <i>Hugh Hornby Merit</i> - Winner: Simon Coupe, Runner up: Scott Taylor. <i>Centenary Mixed Pairs</i> – Winner: Darren and Emily James, Runner-up: Robert and Maggie Swift. <i>North Lancs & Fylde CBA Team Competition</i> - Winner Parkfield, Runner-Up Hoghton. <i>County Pairs</i> - Winner: Simon Coupe & Matt Nelson, Runner-Up: Steve Clamp & Nic Dawson. Andy also runs the vets team. 2024 Champion of champions will be held at Lune Road, Lancaster, and the Hugh Hornby Merit final at Fleetwood Cricket Club.
Item 14	Contractual Pay & Honoraria – Steve asked Pete Harris, Neil Payne, Sue Sinclair, Andy Fleming, and Sarah Edmondson to leave the room while honoraria was discussed and voted on. All pay to remain the same apart from Sarah Edmondson, Ladies Competitions Secretary £200 and Kath Watkinson, Ladies County Team administrator £80.
Item 15	Notices of Motion – No motion.
Item 16	2024 Affiliation Fees – Neil spoke about League and club affiliation fees. League: BCGBA £10, C of C £10, NL&FCBA Affiliation Fee £10 Total £30 Clubs: BCGBA £40, NL&FCBA Affiliation Fee £45, Development £5, Total £90. Steve explained fees have been increased because of the introduction of the ladies. Voted and carried.
Item 17	Election of Vice President – Mike introduced Steve Edwards of Frenchwood as the Vice President for 2024.
Item 18	Election of Officers – All officers are standing again. Voted and carried.
Item 19	Election of Regional Committee – East Lancashire – Chair: Steve Clamp. Blackburn – Vacancy, Preston – Chair: Mike Fleming. Fylde – Chair: Peter Jose, Rep: Nigel Pollard. Lancaster – Chair: Graham Brandwood. Voted and carried.
Item 20	New NL&FCBA President – Mike Fleming presented Brian Swift with his chain of office as the new County President for 2024.
Item 21	Close – The meeting closed at 13:52.

Date of next AGM: TBC