



BowlsCymru
BowlsWales

ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23



BowlsCymru
BowlsWales

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BOWLSWALES BOARD 2021/22

Chair Richard Palmer

Vice-Chair Chris Emsley

Appointed Director (Finance & Risk) Tom Hancock

Elected Director (Equality) Zoe Thacker

Elected Director (IT) Simon Colwill

Appointed Director (Development) Chris Emsley

Appointed Director (Safeguarding) Hannah Bevan

Appointed Director (HR) Richard Palmer

Independent Director (Performance Support) Anneli MacDonald

STAFF

General Manager Sophie Hancocks

Development Manager Claire Biddle

National Safeguarding Officer Keeley Spriggs



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FOREWORD



In preparing this foreword it has been pleasing to reflect on a busy year of bowls rather than the trials of the previous COVID year! Generally, we have seen play return to normal across all our codes and it's been good to read of the success of our bowlers at all levels in their respective competitions.

I had the pleasure of attending the Commonwealth Games for a few days to support our bowlers who performed incredibly well – congratulations to all who represented our country with such passion, and to the Welsh fans who were always easily seen and heard supporting our players at every opportunity. It was also great to chat to supporters and players from the rest of the world about their experience within the sport. One highlight for me was seeing the bowlers from the Falkland Islands who, despite a total lack of facilities, took part with no expectation of success yet with smiles on their faces – their joy simply came from being there!

On a personal note, I joined Llandeilo Bowls Club and spent the summer enjoying my first outdoor season. I thank them for their extremely warm welcome and look forward to the next season with anticipation.

Our performance and development and communications groups have continued to work hard to help promote, develop and support our sport from grass roots to elite performance levels. I thank each and every member of these groups for their valuable time and experience that they so willingly give to the sport in Wales.

The Blazing Bowls project successfully introduced the sport to around 1500 school children in Caerphilly and has since attracted funding to support its roll out in other parts of Wales. Our partnership with the Stroke Association continues to support Stroke Survivors in the sport across multiple codes.

2022 saw the introduction of performance analysis software for our indoor bowlers. This will be rolled out to other codes in 2023. Exciting work is also underway to establish a Junior Bowling Academy across the indoor and outdoor codes.

Our communications group have overseen a significant growth in our presence on the various social media channels. Raising awareness of our sport and the opportunities it presents remains a challenge, so it is pleasing to see the growth in reach achieved through their efforts.

This growth is particularly pleasing as we already understand that 'communication' is one of the emerging themes from the independent review of the sport of bowls in Wales which we commissioned along with our NGB partners last year. The review represents a significant milestone in the further development of the sport, and we thank all of those who took the opportunity to share their views with the consultants. The final report from the review process along with an initial action plan to address its recommendations is due to be published shortly, and we at BowlsWales look forward to working alongside the NGBs to implement the changes as necessary.

Another emerging theme unsurprisingly focuses on safeguarding. The need to ensure that bowls remains a sport where all can participate safely is of ultimate importance. To this end, we were pleased to introduce the role of National Safeguarding Officer earlier this year, and to welcome Keeley Spriggs as part of our core team. In welcoming Keely, I would also thank Peter Brill for his tireless safeguarding work in Wales over many years. Peter had long called for the introduction of this new post, and we are pleased to be able to establish it with his support.

I must also thank Sophie and Claire for their continued work – their enthusiasm and passion for the work is obvious to anyone who has the pleasure of working with them.

In closing, can I thank my fellow Board members. They, like many others across Wales, give their time, knowledge and energy freely in support of the game in Wales and we must recognise the value gained from their work. Can I also thank colleagues from Sport Wales for their continued support for Bowls, their input and encouragement to our Board and their personal support to me in my role.

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all well for 2023-24.

Richard Palmer
Chair, BowlsWales



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DEVELOPMENT



DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS GROUP

The development and Communication group continue to meet and work collaboratively to develop projects and initiatives that benefit bowls in Wales. We would like to thank all group members that have supported the group and continue to give up their time to attend and contribute.

Group Members include:

Chair-Simon Walker (WCGBA), Vice Chair-Mike Doody (WIBA), Anwen Batten (WWBA), Sara Nicholls (WWBA), Cath Harvey (WLIBA), Kath Blaney (WLIBA), Alun Rees (WBUA), Peter Williams (WBA), Wyn Jones (WSMBA), Claire Biddle (National Development Manager), Sophie Hancocks (General Manager), Chris Emsley (Director of BowlsWales with the portfolio of Development).

BLAZING BOWLS

Welsh Government funding was available to be allocated to provide a package of wellbeing support for children and young people aged 0 – 25 years. BowlsWales was successful in securing £9366 for the Winter of Wellbeing through an initiative targeted at Primary School children from Year 5 & 6, giving them opportunity to learn and try the sport.

The Blazing Bowls Project was piloted within the Caerphilly Local Authority, working in partnership with Sport Caerphilly. The project involved developing a children's activity booklet, a teacher training resource with various video tutorials and supplying a bowls equipment package to every school. The Development and Communications group work together on the project to determine key content to be included. The group worked together in producing a logo for the project and attended a summer sport camp in Caerphilly, for Children to choose their favourite logo which was selected as the final version. An online teacher training workshop was held to support teachers in delivering fun bowls activities in their school as part of PE lessons or extracurricular activities. The Project in Caerphilly engaged with 26 schools, with over 1500 children across the local authority trying bowls for the first time.



Following the successful pilot of the Blazing Bowls Project, an opportunity from Sport Wales following their submission for a proposal for the Summer of Fun Programme 2022 to be provided. They targeted partners who successfully delivered and completed Winter of Well Being Activities, to extend and evolve these into Summer 2022. The Summer of fun followed a similar criterion in providing all children and young people in Wales with the opportunity to access free activities aimed at supporting their development and wellbeing.





BowlsWales was again very fortunate and was able to secure £39,094 in funding to roll the Blazing Project out further across Wales. Due to the success of the pilot in Caerphilly, we reached out the Active Gwent group that includes Torfaen, Blaenau Gwent, Monmouthshire, Newport Local authorities, as well as Caerphilly. The project will be run across these local authorities, working with 22 schools from each authority and across 4 leisure facilities and outdoor education group's specifically in Monmouthshire. You can watch the project in action on the BowlsWales YouTube channel here - [Blazing Bowls](#)

Partnerships

STROKE ASSOCIATION

The partnership with the Stroke Association started back in 2019, where we started a session at Cynon Valley bowls club. The session unfortunately had to stop in February 2020 due to the pandemic. However, we took this opportunity to create something new and with the support of the National Governing Bodies, Dai Prosser and the Stroke Association we created a Virtual Bowls programme. We hoped following the project members may even have the confidence to join a club. I am pleased to say that some members have continued to play bowls and join local bowls clubs. One member was featured in Sport Wales 'back in the game' campaign. Read more here:

<https://www.sport.wales/media-centre/latest-news/stroke-survivor-back-in-the-game-with-bowls/>

This member then went on to share his love of bowls with his local Stroke group and with the use of BowlsWales equipment they got to play bowls every month.



Several members now attend the Indoor Bowls in Bridgend Indoor.

Continuing our partnership with the Stroke Association and the support of the Welsh Short Mat Bowling Association, we set up a project based in Milford Haven for Stroke Survivors in October 2021. The sessions have had a fantastic turnout and continue to gain new members on a weekly basis. The project was originally funded for several weeks by BowlsWales but due to the success and popularity, the group has now become self-sufficient and recently celebrated their 1st year anniversary in October 2022

We are looking to run more Stroke Survivors sessions in Swansea and Gwent area in 2023.

Wales Council of the Blind

We have worked closely with the Wales Council of the Blind and the Welsh Visually Impaired Bowls Association to target areas across south East and south West Wales for VI sessions and clubs.

We first held a session at Torfaen Indoor Bowls Club. We had over 20 people, with a variety of experience of playing bowls. Through the partnership with Wales Council of the Blind who support the recruitment of the participants through their various groups and the Welsh Visually Impaired Bowls Association who delivered and



sources additional coaches to support the session. Torfaen Indoor Bowls Club were exceptionally accommodating with food and refreshments served for all participants and volunteers.

Following the success of the Torfaen sessions, an additional sessions was held in Carmarthen at Bro Myrddin Indoor Bowls Club.

Ospreys Rugby in the Community

Through the Ospreys rugby in Community organisation, we established a partnership to support their work on their Sporting Memories programme. Sporting Memories are a charity and social enterprise that uses the power of remembering and talking about sport, along with physical exercise to tackle dementia, depression, and loneliness in older people.

We were invited to attend their sporting memories sessions in Ynystawe Cricket Club, Swansea. We supported the session by providing equipment to run fun bowls games and activities. This included the scoring wedge and the numbered target mat and as you can imagine, it got very competitive with keeping score!

We had great feedback from the Ospreys community and plans for further work with each other in the future.



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COMMUNICATION

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media continues to be an area of growth for BowlsWales. It provides us with the platform to display good practice, good news stories, funding opportunities and engage with bowls clubs and Members on a regular basis.

Platform	December 2020	December 2021	December 2022	Growth
BowlsWales Twitter	841 followers	961 followers	1236 followers	11%
BowlsWales Facebook	1449 followers	1703 followers	1921 followers	
BowlsWales Instagram	Account not created	Account not created	239 followers	n/a
BowlsWales Twitter analytics				
Total tweets (2022)		396		
Tweet Impressions (2022)		447,910		
Profile visits (2022)		68,998		
BowlsWales Facebook analytics				
Total posts		403		
Facebook page reaches		124,364 – 239% increase compared to 2021		
Page visits		10,902 – 165% increase compared to 2021		
New likes		190 – 38% increase compared to 2021		

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

- Commonwealth Games Visuals and promotional videos prior, during and post games
- Get to know players and management videos

- Promotional videos for Welsh Indoor bowls and Welsh Crown Green Bowling Association
- Mother's Day and St David's Day videos
- Queen's Baton Relay images
- WCGBA photo's and write ups



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FUNDING



SPORT WALES- BE ACTIVE FUND

The Be Active Wales Fund offers grants from £300 to £50,000 for projects in Wales that intend to do at least one of the following:

- reduce inequality
- create long-term sustainability
- introduce new or different ways of operating


BowlsWales is delighted that 36 Bowls clubs have benefitted from the funding and have received a total of £80,876 from January 2022 to present date).

This grant remains open and in association with the National Governing bodies we continue to sport clubs through the grant application process.

SPORT WALES- CROWDFUNDER - A PLACE FOR SPORT

Crowdfunder is a way of raising money for good causes and ideas, while also helping a club or project to connect with the community.

The following bowls clubs have been successful in using Crowdfunder:

-  Friends of Coed Gwilym Bowls Club: Sport Wales Contribution - £9,600.00 - Overall total - £24,266.00. They had over 132 unique supporters.

For more information and how to apply: <https://www.sport.wales/grants-and-funding/crowdfunder/>

WELSH GOVERNMENT- SUMMER OF FUN AND WINTER WELLBEING FUND

Welsh Government funding was available to be allocated to provide a package of wellbeing support for children and young people aged 0 – 25 years. The Winter of Wellbeing funding was to support activities that focused on the physical, emotional and mental wellbeing of our children and young people by providing relevant and age-appropriate activities. BowlsWales was successful in securing £9366 for the Winter of Wellbeing through an initiative targeted at Primary School children from Year 5 & 6, giving them opportunity to learn and try the sport.

The Blazing Bowls Project was piloted within the Caerphilly Local Authority, working in partnership with Sport Caerphilly, working with 26 schools. Following the successful pilot of the Blazing Bowls Project, an opportunity from Sport Wales following their submission for a proposal for the Summer of Fun Programme 2022 to be provided. They targeted partners who successfully delivered and completed Winter of Well Being Activities, to extend and evolve these into Summer 2022. The Summer of fun followed a similar criterion in providing all children and young people in Wales with the opportunity to access free activities aimed at supporting their development and wellbeing.

BowlsWales was again very fortunate and was able to secure £39,094 in funding to roll the Blazing Project out further across Wales.

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Equality Monitoring Survey

BowlsWales in partnership with the National Governing Bodies (WBA, WWBA, WIBA, WLIBA, WSMBA, WCGBA, WBUA) developed an Equality Monitoring Survey.

As a sport, bowls has the potential to be one of the most inclusive sports, allowing people of ages and abilities to engage with bowls. At present, there is a limited amount of data that exists in order to evidence the current makeup of the Welsh bowling community. BowlsWales and the National Governing Bodies are committed to making bowls accessible to all. To help with this data gap, we wanted to ask the bowling community questions to have a better understand of the current representation of those involved in the game at all levels.

The survey was conducted online using Microsoft forms and was for anyone in the bowling community over 18 years old across all codes of the game. There was a total of 608 responses, 17 of which from U18's. You find final report to the survey including all key findings and data trends on the BowlsWales website.





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PERFORMANCE GROUP UPDATE



The 2021/22 season saw performance bowls being resumed following the global pandemic. Welsh Bowls across all codes of the games saw their squads play in various competitions across the year including the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, the Junior Internationals in Belfast, the British Isle Championships, Champions of Champions in New Zealand, International tests series and.

The Performance Group have been meeting monthly across the year, working on existing and new projects to support performance bowls. These projects include performance analysis for each code of the game, supporting the data collection of trials, team selection and video analysis across competitions and events. The performance analysis software is working with Nacsport who support us through our annual agreement. The software is currently being utilised for Indoor and will be spread cross codes in the new year.

The performance Group have continued their work on a project to establish a Junior Bowls Academy which encompasses both outdoor and indoor. The subcommittee have scoped the project and develop a detailed project plan with a phased tier approach from pre, during and post implementation. Currently the group are working through phase 1 of the plan, working closely with the Coaching Association and reaching out to secure resources to support eth project, such as the existing performance analysis software, sport psychology and a KPI framework.

Finally, with ongoing conversations with the group and a performance player pathway plan has been established to identify key priorities for the group and aligning them to the player pathway for each code of the game. This plan provides a clear direction to the group in order to support the performance of bowls across Wales.



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SAFEGUARDING



Safeguarding has been a key priority of work this year for the sport and BowlsWales. A positive step in this work has been the appointment of a National Safeguarding officer and we welcome Keeley Spriggs to the role. There has already been a significant amount of work happening after the appointment, with a development of a safeguarding training plan for staff, volunteers, NGB's and clubs and undergoing the Safeguarding Standard assessment where we achieved level 2 standard on behalf of the sport.

BowlsWales would also like to thank Peter Brill for his contribution over the years to safeguarding bowls in Wales. Peter has always gone above and beyond in his role and still continues to lead for Indoor and support Keeley in her National role. Thank you Peter!

BowlsWales would like to give a big thank you to all NGB's for their collaborative and supportive approach to safeguarding within the last 12 months and BowlsWales will continue to support and safeguard their members.

If there are any safeguarding related questions or concerns, you can raise this with the National Safeguarding officer, Keeley Spriggs.

Keeley.spriggs@bowlswales.com

NATIONAL GOVERNING BODIES

REPORTS



WELSH INDOOR BOWLS

July 2022 marked an historic step for indoor bowls in Wales, after many long years of negotiation Unification of the Welsh Indoor Bowls Association and Welsh Ladies Indoor Bowls Association finally became a reality and the new organisation Welsh Indoor Bowls was born.

The inaugural meeting of the unified body was held at Merthyr Tydfil Indoor Bowls Stadium and Barrie Broad from the Merthyr Club was elected as the first President of WIB, also at the meeting and following competitive interviews Cath Harvey and John Phillips were appointed to the secretariate with Kath Blayney taking up the position of treasurer.

At a well-attended meeting WIB also set about appointing grass roots members to it sub-committees with the emphasis on experience and gender balance.

On the green both Ladies and men's teams returned to international action after a break of almost two years.

First into the firing line were our under 25s teams, the ladies playing their series at West Denton in their first match they beat Ireland 100 shots to 68 shots their second game against Scotland was a much tougher game which Wales eventually lost 80 shots to 62 shots. Wales went on to play England in their third game and sprung a surprise by running out winners by 71shots to 65 shots.

With three counties on 4pts Wales were unlucky to finish third on shot difference a fantastic achievement for the team/

On the same weekend the men were playing their series at the North Wales Indoor Bowls Stadium in Ffrith, the men faced Scotland in their opening game and slumped to a heavy defeat losing 102 shots to 51 shots, the afternoon saw the team picking themselves up to face a strong England team and in a much improved performance went down 77shots to 61 shots.

Sunday saw the final round of matches with Wales facing Ireland in the wooden spoon match, in a closely run game that went to the last bowl Wales

ran out narrow winners 77shots to 73 shots, the pleasing thing about the weekend was the steady progress made by the team over the three games.

In what was a nonstop month for international indoor bowls the following weekend the focus moved to Ireland with the Under 18s Series taking place at the Ballybrakes club two mixed teams of five young bowlers took part in a full range of events over 3 days. Wales returned with one silver and two bronze medals and finished third in the overall competition again an impressive performance from our young bowlers that bodes well for the future of our sport.

Sunday afternoon saw the party decamp from Ballybrakes with the juniors returning home and the officers making their way to the Belfast International Bowls Stadium for six more days of competition that included the Ladies International Series, BIIBC Championships and the Men's International Series.

Both the Ladies and the men's teams struggled with the ladies finishing third with one victory over Ireland and the men despite improved performances finishing fourth and winless.

The championships were affected by some late withdrawals from the men's team, and they returned without any winners, the ladies fared a lot better finishing runners up in the pairs and winning the ladies blue riband event we Amy Williams became the first Welsh Ladies singles winner for 20 years, our congratulation go to Amy.

WIB the National Governing Body for Indoor Bowls in Wales would like to put on record its thanks to Bowls Wales for the support and financial assistance during a very tricky year, its role as a co-ordinating body is recognised by all parties.

WELSH WOMEN'S BOWLING ASSOCIATION

We were fortunate to host the British Isle Championship at Llandrindod Wells this year with overall winners in the Ladies Under 25's Pairs Lawie Powell and Laureen Gowen, Mel Thomas finalist in the four wood singles, Ladies fours finalist, Eileen Williams, Sophie and Emma Gittens and Kathy Pearce and Over 55 fours finalists Ann Williams Milwen Lewis, Jean Davies and Hewlen Morgan. Congratulations to those. A good display by all who took part and a successful championship, again thanks to Llandod for hosting. I am also pleased to say that the British Isles Championships and the Internationals will be happening next year, 2023. The BI and the Senior Internationals will be held in Ayr Scotland – dates and venues tbc. Under 25 and under 18 dates and venues tbc.

Congratulations to those that went to Ayr and Belfast with a special thanks to Wendy Price who stepped in for Kathy to travel with the Under 25's to Ayr for the European championships. The Under 25's travelled to Belfast in Ireland for the Home Internationals and the Ladies finished 3rd, only losing the second slot on shot difference. In the Mixed games Wales finished 2nd another good show by all involved.

The Under 18 travelled to Ayr for the Youth Championships and all the girls returned with individual silver medals, again a very good performance by all. Some travelling and playing at this level for the first time.

Commonwealth Games – These were held in Leamington in July/August and although the ladies did not return with any medals they gave a good account of themselves against some very stiff opponent. Congratulations to Anwen Button for being selected at the Team Captain for Team Wales.

Bowls Wales – We have been working closely with Bowls Wales over the last year and overall, everything has been positive. However, we were disappointed with the level of funding that we received for this last year and due to the limited amount of funding received it has meant that we have not been able to do as much as we would like in support our teams. We are hoping that there will be an increase in funding next year which will enable us to support our teams more.

Unification – this is moving along steadily, and we hope that we will run side by side with the WBA next season, working towards unification at the end of the 2023 season. There will be a structured step by step plan to move this forward.

World Champion of Champions

These championships have just been held in New Zealand and we send Mel Thomas out there to represent the WWBA and a big congratulations to Mel

who returned with a bronze medal, only losing two games, both were to the eventual finalist. A great achievement and well-done Mel.

WELSH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Following the ravages of the pandemic, the 2022 season saw Crown Green Bowls in Wales return to something close to normality with all of our affiliated leagues running virtually normally. Participant rates were, thankfully, not considerably down from pre-pandemic levels albeit that experience was mixed across our Clubs with some seeing a sharp upturn in membership and some reporting reduced numbers with a small minority withdrawing from League Bowling to just play socially. Overall however the situation is possibly considerably better than could have been envisaged at the height of the pandemic.

Nationally, all of our Welsh Teams entered the UK wide competitions and whilst the Senior men, after an encouraging start, failed to progress some encouraging signs were seen. The Senior Ladies reached the semi-finals until losing to a very strong Yorkshire side who went on to win the final. The Juniors had a satisfactory return to the national stage.

Our traditional merit competitions were held as normal in 2022 for Seniors, Ladies, Juniors and Veterans together with the Mixed Pairs, Ladies Pairs and the new 18-25 competition. National competitions were duly entered and the Wales qualifiers attended in the usual way.

It is very pleasing to report that both of the National Junior Competitions were won by Welsh Bowlers with Ryan P Williams of Penmaenmawr BC winning the BCGBA Junior Merit and Cerys Parry of Llanfair PG BC winning the BCGBA Junior Ladies Merit. This outstanding achievement has been helped considerably by the establishment of Junior Academies in Wrexham and Gwynedd and with the assistance of Bowls Wales there are to be extended to other areas in 2023. Ryan and Cerys are pictured below with their respective trophies:



In addition, it was very pleasing that the BCGBA Ladies Dorothy Pearce Memorial Pairs was won by Linda Williams and Belinda Lloyd, a first for Wales. Belinda and Linda are pictured below with their trophies:



Overall, therefore a very satisfying year for Welsh Crown Green Bowls and we aim to continue this success in 2023.

WELSH BOWLS UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

With the resumption of bowls following the covid pandemic umpires from Wales were very much in demand in 2022. For John Phillips, Huw Jones, and Paul Watkins the pinnacle of their year was undoubtedly officiating at the Commonwealth Games in July. It really is an honour and privilege to be selected to umpire at such a prestigious event. The bowls events were held at Leamington Spa's Victoria Park and all of our umpires played their part in ensuring that everything went well and that the laws of the sport of bowls were followed to the letter.

On the domestic front the extremely hot weather in July and August gave the umpires a good excuse to look for any relief from the baking sun and to partake in copious amounts of liquids (non-alcoholic of course). It was certainly a relief to be called onto the green to undertake a measure just to try and get any breeze that there might have been.

With covid uncertainties still an issue some umpires took the decision to give officiating a miss this year and some even decided to call time on their umpiring career altogether. This resulted in the list of active umpires falling once more putting more pressure on the others to perhaps volunteer more often than usual. However, the umpire practicals scheduled for October & November created a lot of interest from candidates wanting to become umpires resulting in the vast majority being invited to Merthyr Tydfil IBC. Experienced umpires demonstrated the correct measuring methods and candidates could then put into practice what they had been shown. After the practical assessments it was great that nine candidates had been successful in achieving the required pass mark to become a Level 1 umpire. I have no doubts that they will go on to become invaluable members of the umpiring community. Interest is already filtering through from candidates for our next course planned for March/April 2023.

One of the biggest challenges facing umpires is the introduction of the World Bowls Laws of the Sport of Bowls Fourth Edition. There are some interesting law changes and new laws which look somewhat controversial to say the least. In view of this the 4th edition will not come into use until the spring of 2023 when we have had time to fully digest and understand their meanings.

Therefore 2023 looks likely to be a challenging year for umpires and will inevitably lead to some confrontations with the players. However, I am confident that we will overcome this and go on to enjoy another year on the bowling green.

WELSH SHORT MAT BOWLS ASSOCIATION

The season started very slowly with a few clubs slow to start due to the fact that Short Mat is played in Village Halls etc. Many in the elder section reluctant to register.

The British Isles Championships were held by ESMBA in Scarborough, in January. Our Teams performed very well.

In the Premier Section Jac Edwards won the Singles Trophy, In Pairs Jonathan Gladstone and Andrew Hudson came in First place. Our Triples Aled Humphreys, Chris McWinne, Andrew Jones were 3rd. Fours were Henry John, Rhydian Rees, Jamie Stiles and Mike John came Second.



Wales won The McDermott Bowl for best performance in the Premier Section.

In The A section Arwel Morgan came 2nd in Singles. Pairs of Chris Holder & Anthony Poole came 3rd. Triples of Debbs Mathews, Richard Arran, Dorian Hudson Came 2nd. Fours of Mark Beynon-Evans, Liz Evans, Liam Farrington and Skip Allan Slattery were 2nd.



Our National Championships were held at Llandrindod Wells with a mix of very good players winning in the four categories.

The 2020 World Bowls were finally held in Herentals Belgium following the pandemic. The team consisted of 20 players split into A + B sections.

In Singles, Pairs were (A) Jonathan Gladstone & Andrew Hudson were winners versus our (B) Pair Aled Edwards & Dafydd Howells, it was won in the last end. Triples were group (B) Mark Thorpe, Allan Evans & Andrew Evans, who won 11-4 against a strong Irish Team. Fours Cennydd Howell, James John-Davies, Jamie Stiles & Mike John, came Third winning 12-5 V England. Wales Won the Nations Cup as The Best Results with 60 Points with England on 56 points.



Our Youth Team had an excellent game V England at Bro Myrddin and was a good challenge for the Juniors and provided great experience for them. This Seasons challenge will in Solihull.

November 2021 British Isles were held in Belfast Indoor Bowls Stadium, a tough challenge against the Irish on their home ground. Premier Team Singles Arwel Morgan was third position. Premier Team Pairs of Mark Thorpe & Andrew Evans were R/up. Our (A) Team fours of Will Sproule, John Mathews, Dorian Hudson and skip Richard Arran managed First position.

The British Isles Championships will be in Wales in November 2023.

WELSH BOWLS ASSOCIATION

2022 has been a season of highs and lows for bowls in Wales.

May saw the full return of outdoor bowls following two seasons of restrictions resulting from the Covid Pandemic.

The season got off to a busy start with trials for the Commonwealth Games Squad taking place at Llandrindod Wells Bowls Club, these trials were held over two weekends where the numbers were reduced to a group of ten players and following several squad games, Team Manager Robert Weale and his selectors settled on their squad to represent Wales in Birmingham. The players selected were Jonathon Tomlinson, Owain Dando, Daniel Salmon, Jarred Breen and Ross Owen with Chris Klefenz acting as reserve.

June saw the return of International Bowls to Wales with the first ever unified British Isles Championships being held at Llandrindod Wells Bowls Club

Over two days Wales performed well in all competitions but were only able to win one title with Jordan Driscoll winning the Junior Singles Championship.

In a very busy season attention then turned to the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham with the bowls event taking place at Leamington Spa, The Team performed exceptionally well with a bronze medal in the triples and an outstanding gold medal in the pairs event. Our congratulations go to the players and officials that represent Wales at the event.

Following on from the Commonwealth Games Wales set a completely different team to the European Championships held in Ayr. The team managed by Nigel Williams put in some good performances on very testing greens and were unlucky to return home empty handed.

At the beginning of August focus once again returned to Llandrindod Wells Bowling Club for the first fully Unified National Championship Finals held over twelve extremely hot and demanding days on fast greens, we congratulate everyone who took part in the event especially the winners who will represent Wales at the British Isles Championships next year.

As the season began to wind down our under eighteens mixed team took part in the mixed internationals again held in Ayr, a young team did Wales proud and Academy facilitator Terry Leighton congratulated the team for their efforts.

Our under twenty-fives team took part in the British Isles Championships in Belfast, this was the first time that the men's and ladies' event had taken place side by side, with the Welsh Men lifting the title much to the delight of Team Manager Robert Weale and President Wayne Letman.

A season that had borne such promise putting Wales in the spotlight of British and World Bowls ended on an exceptionally low note for everyone involved in bowls in Wales.

In October our National Secretary Mr Terry Hopkins sadly passed away following a lengthy battle with ill health, Terry had been a good servant of bowls over a number of years and was one of life's gentlemen, his experience will be missed.

Soon after this Welsh Bowls was dealt another blow with the sudden resignation of Team Manager Robert Weale, Robert had been promoted at work and did not feel he could continue to devote the time needed to fulfil the team managers role and did not want to hold back the progress of the team.

Our thanks as an association go to Robert who has set a very high bar for his successor.

The year closed with our AGM, David James from Aberystwyth was elected President for 2023 and the WBA decided that as unification was due to take place next year the secretary's post would be left vacant with the two assistant secretary's carry out the additional duties between them, the meeting also elect Chris Ashman as the new Team Manager.

The Welsh Bowling Association would like to thank Bowls Wales as the facilitating body for Bowls in Wales for the financial assistance they have provided this year and look forward to continuing our partnership in 2023.

WELSH BOWLS COACHING ASSOCIATION

Hopefully 2022 has finally seen the relaxation of all the Covid restrictions.

- 1.** Sadly, not a single month has passed by without receiving a request to send letters of condolence to the families of fellow coaches who passed away. Two in particular have left a huge void on our Management committee - namely Gordon Davies, our West Glam Co-ordinator, and Bernard John, our Carmarthenshire Co-ordinator and former Secretary.
- 2.** Add the vacancies at both the South and Vale of Glamorgan to the above 2, and we are 4 Co-ordinators short, which puts enormous extra pressure on the rest. Although our Officers have tried and tried to fill the voids, can I make a special request for people to come forward in those areas and offer their assistance. It would be greatly appreciated.
- 3.** Our Membership sadly continues to dwindle as experienced Club Coaches post Covid have decided to call it a day.
- 4.** On the brighter side, our remaining Co-ordinators have been busy qualifying new Club Coaches and some Intermediate ones - we thank Ivor Morris, Eddie Williams, Noel Tippett, Anita Williams, Mike Beloe and our Chairman Lyn for their outstanding efforts during a difficult time.
- 5.** More good news! .An Advanced Course, with 3 candidates was finally held recently at Radnor I.B.C. (after several cancellations), and another is in the pipeline in Monmouthshire, perhaps before the end of the year.
- 6.** Safeguarding issues are always high on our agendas, and we have met with Keeley Spriggs, the new Bowls Wales Safeguarding Officer, to ensure that everything is in place within our Association.
- 7.** January 27th 2022 was a significant date for our Association. That's when we sought membership of BOWLS WALES. Although the partnership is still in its infancy both sides are keen to develop and enhance our working together.
- 8.** The 5 year rolling programme, led by Noel Tippett is high on our agenda in every meeting.
- 9.** We have contacted Bowls Wales and all the NGBs, seeking to re-instate our successful JUNIOR DEVELOPMENT PLAN. Many present Internationals and successful Commonwealth games medallists this year were part of the Junior development scheme a few years ago.
- 10.** As an Association, we are disappointed at the lack of requests from the various NGBs (WBA,WIBA,WWBA and WLIBA) for our Coaching services.

11. BOB HARDING - Our hardworking Membership Secretary has finally stood down, since he is moving away. Can I, on behalf of myself especially and all the Committee Members and Officers, thank Bob for his outstanding work over several years. His advice and support will forever remain with me. At the same time we welcome **KAREN DAVIES** on board as his replacement, and wish her well in this important role.

To conclude I would like to thank all my fellow officers and Management committee members for their continued support and valuable advice during the year.

In addition, the Chair of the WBCA added the following.

Against such a backdrop it has been truly humbling to see fellow coaches, and bowlers in general, still seeking to put their best foot forward, and in so doing achieve great success. Not least in this regard, I must pay tribute to my fellow officers and management committee.

Our Hon. Secretary **John Jones** has been his usual stalwart self. He has not only again risen to the challenges of his office, but recently most commendably achieved Advanced Coach level, all whilst still running his farm.

Our Vice-Chairman **Noel Tippett** has likewise been a staunch support. I am grateful for his valued advice, and for all his hard work on behalf of the Association.

Our Treasurer, **Jean de Souza** needs no introduction, having served the Association so devoutly for so long, especially again this past year when our Bank's procedures and their inefficiency proved particularly trying. We owe Jean both our thanks and admiration for how she handled these problems, and we are truly well served by her.

My thanks also extend to our outstanding management committee and Regional Co-ordinators who remain unstinting in their support of me and this Association. Despite their other commitments, they ...

- 1) Attended the many meetings we have held (via Zoom)
- 2) Continued to hold Courses at different levels in various Regions, and venues, and ...
- 3) Coached at National Junior Academies, which remain available to all NGBs.

Last year we rightly paid tribute to **Bob Harding**, our outgoing Membership Secretary. I am sure members will again also wish to thank Bob for continuing to discharge the duties for some time after the above meeting, and until we might have found a new Membership Secretary.

I am delighted to be able to advise members that we recently welcomed **Karen Davies** as our new **Membership Secretary**. A professional person, Karen is obviously well qualified to discharge the role. As a qualified Club Coach Karen comes with a sound knowledge of the game of bowls, together with an obvious infectious enthusiasm. I am sure members will wholeheartedly welcome her.

Our meetings are always informative and forward looking, with focus on what we may be able to provide for our members, and the coaching of bowlers in general. This process continues in the coming months, and members will be kept informed of any new developments.

The Handbooks, Training Packs, and various documents available from the Association remain under discussion, as do possible new methods of improving our ability to coach.

One such consideration is our wish to possibly improve our capability in coaching players with various disabilities. To this end, we have recently been working with Bowls Wales and Sport Wales in the framing and production of instructional documents for the **“Coaching of Bowlers with Disabilities”** – these documents should be available very soon.

Latest News – Sport Wales **“Be Active Wales Fund”** now assists clubs with Coach Qualifying Costs up to Level 2 (See Sport Wales Website, or contact WBCA officers for further details).

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BowlsWales would like to thank our partners for their support over the last year...

- Sport Wales
- Welsh Government
- Welsh Sports Association
- National Governing Bodies
- Stroke Association
- Sport Caerphilly
- UPS Print



Welsh Bowling Association



Welsh Women's
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