

FRANCIS ELECTED LADIES PRESIDENT

FRANCIS McLAREN began her year as BCGBA Ladies President at the Annual Presentation Lunch at the beginning of December, taking over from Lynsey Gorman (Merseyside). Her election was made even more special as those present joined in the celebrations of 50 years of Ladies bowls.

Francis was nominated by her Greater Manchester Ladies county. Unusually, she is not even a member of her county committee but her support and dedication to her county made her a deserving candidate.

She has been playing our great game for over forty years and is a member of Garswood Hall and Ashton Recreation Bowling Clubs. For over 34 years she has been a referee and has refereed at all levels and at some top competitions.

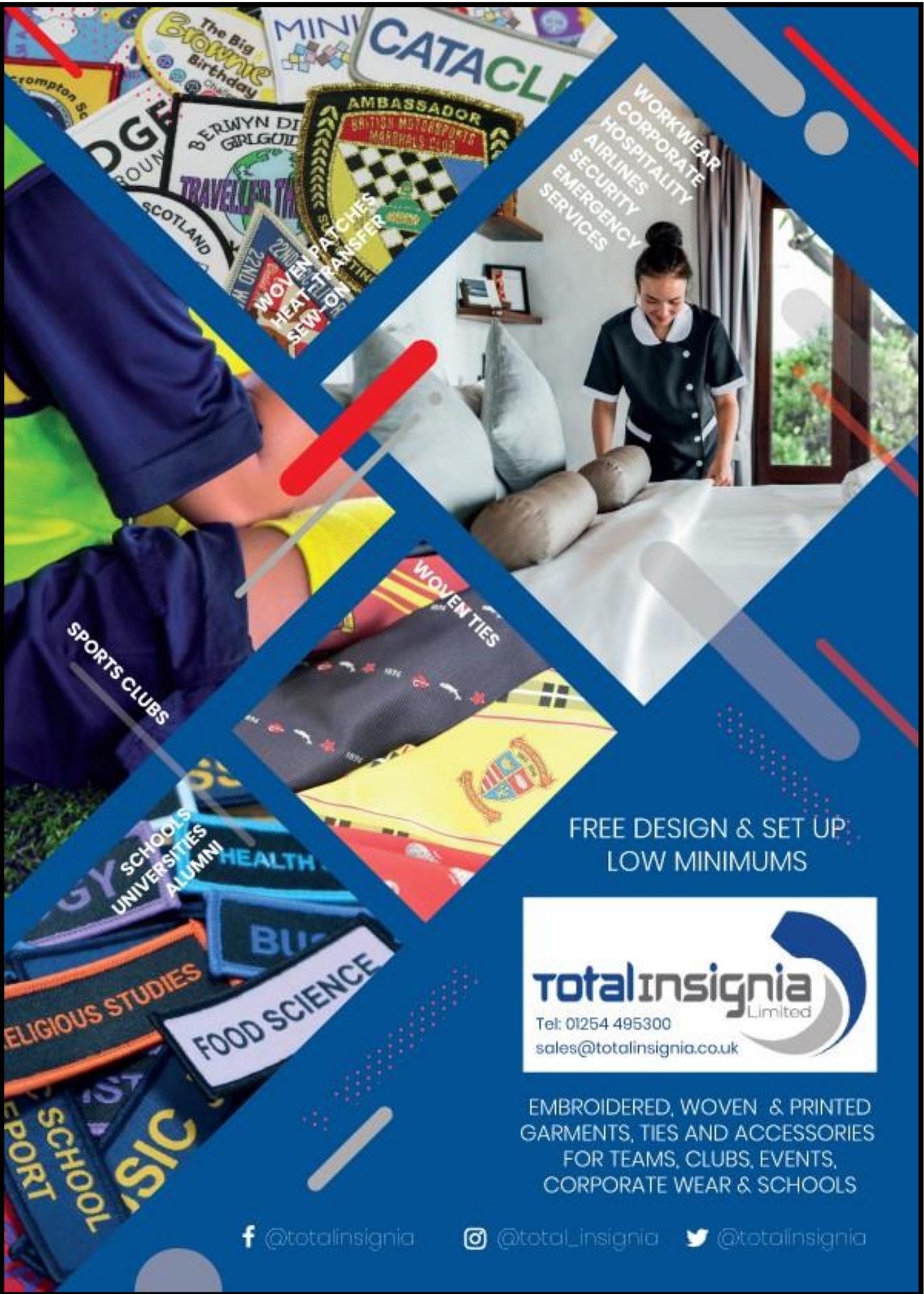
She is now looking forward to hosting the Senior Merit in July and meeting bowlers on her travels.

The Presentation Lunch was well attended and enjoyed by all at Winnington Park Recreation Club. A superb lunch was followed by the presentation of awards to our competition winners from the 2019 season.



Representatives from the founder members of the Ladies Association were invited and presented with bouquets of flowers by the President. Pictured below are (left to right) Shirley James (Shropshire), Cath Pooler (Warwickshire), Joan Lewis (Staffordshire) and Joan Groom (North Shropshire)





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RULES REVISION MEETING

The agenda for the 2020 BCGBA Rules Revision Meeting was circulated to all County Associations in early December ahead of the meeting on Saturday 18th January at Winnington Park Recreation Club, Northwich (11am). There are only eight rule changes up for discussion which will require a two-thirds majority of those voting to see a proposal succeed. An amendment to item 5 has been received from Warwick & Worcester.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Unless specifically indicated, any changes to the Bye Laws and Rules of the Association passed at this meeting will take effect from the end of this meeting.

Wording in *blue* relates to amended / new wording of a rule.

BYE LAWS

1 Page 44 / 7 (Proposed by Keith Turton on behalf of the Management Committee)

Proposal - To allow salaried Officers the power to vote at the General Meeting.

Rationale - To maintain the voting rights of Officers of the Association since they have been put on PAYE to comply with Employment legislation.

Revised Rule would read - Each County Association shall be entitled to send four representatives to any General Meeting in addition to its representative on the Management Committee. *Each shall have the power to vote, together with Officers of the Association, Past Presidents, Honorary Life Members and four representatives of the BCGBA Ladies Competitions Committee.*

2 Page 49 / 19 – 1 (Proposed by David Williams on behalf of the Management Committee)

Proposal - To remove the word 'sandals' from the rule. Slight re-wording of rule.

Rationale - Not all footwear classed as sandals are open-toed

Revised Rule would read - Suitable footwear must be worn. *Hard, block-heeled or open-toed footwear* must not be worn whilst on the green in any match played under the Association's jurisdiction.

SUPPLEMENTARY COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

3 Page 104 / 1 (Proposed by Keith Turton on behalf of the Management Committee)

Proposal - To allow the Isle of Man to play in the competition.

Rationale - With the Isle of Man unlikely to enter the Senior County Championship it is felt that their status should be reinstated in the Senior Supplementary County Championship, as it was before their brief inclusion in the Senior County Championship. They were happy to travel over and support the Supplementary County Championship when others had reservations about playing in it. They enjoyed the opportunity to compete against top sides on the mainland and, although unsuccessful, enjoyed their day on the greens.

Revised Rule would read - The Supplementary Senior County Championship will take place after the preliminary rounds of the *Senior* County Championship have been concluded and will be contested by the County Associations which finish in positions two and three in each of the four Sections, *with the exception that in respect of the County Association finishing bottom of the three team Section shall be replaced by the Isle of Man.* The event will take place on the date nominated for the Semi-final stages of the Senior County Championship at a two green neutral venue, selected as soon as the qualifiers are known, by the Chief Executive and Competitions Officer. The County Associations involved will be notified of the venue as soon as it has been selected.

4 Page 106 / 5 (Proposed by Pat Crowther on behalf of the Management Committee)

Proposal - To further define the playing of the final.

Rationale - To clarify the order of play

Revised Rule would read - In each group the three matches will be played on the same green. In the final, four *games* will be played on two greens. *The second four games of the final will not start until the first four games have finished.* If both teams contesting the final agree, the final can be played on one green. *If a venue has a third suitable unused green, the final will be played on this green.*

JUNIOR COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP RULES

5 Page 130 / 1 – (Proposed by Cheshire CBA)

Proposal - To amend the age limit contained within the third sentence.

Rationale - The current rule means that those in Year 13 of school, i.e. Upper 6th form, the ones that have birthdays before 1st January cannot play but those with later birthdays can but are in the same school year. The proposed rule makes it so that all pupils in Year 13 can play in their final year of school before University.

Revised sentence would read - Players shall not *be over* the age of 18 years on 1st January of the year of the competition.

Amendment – (Proposed by Warwick & Worcester CBA)

Proposal - Only players aged under 18 years on the first Junior County Championship game of the season (Normally May) will be eligible for the coming year.

For example, no player will be eligible to participate in this coming years Junior County Championship if they're 18 years of age before the 1st round of the Junior County Championship, (usually the 2nd Sunday in May).

Rationale - This recognises that there is a large difference between the development of juniors and 11 months can be a big advantage. It seems harsh to then exclude a near 18 year old in the current year, It can be a big disadvantage that a player who would be old enough to start in the county team in May might not able to continue should their 18th birthday fall between the start and end of the Championship.

Discussion - Should this amendment, the original proposal or the status quo be carried this does pose the fact that 18-year-old Adults will be playing in a team intended for juniors. WWCBA recommends in each case that counties adopt the policy of players in the Junior County team acting and behaving as adults, for example no smoking or drinking of Alcohol shall be permitted whilst participating in the event.

6 Page 132 / 4 (Proposed by Mark Bircumshaw on behalf of the Management Committee)

Proposal - To amend the set formula for the fixtures and tidy up of the rule.

Rationale - This is a result of feedback from the County Junior Team Manager/Junior Co-ordinators meeting held at Heaton Park. They feel that in divisions of four teams the matches should be played in May, June and July, thus avoiding the August holiday season.

Revised Rule would read - *Matches* in each league shall be played *on the second Sunday of each month between May and September* using a set formula denoted by each team's seeding at the end of the previous season. Team 1 in each division are the champions/relegated team from *the* upper division and team 5 are *the* lowest placed team/promoted team from *the* lower division.

FOUR TEAM DIVISION

<i>May Fixture</i> 1 v 3	<i>June Fixture</i> 1 v 4	<i>July Fixture</i> 1 v 2
2 v 4	2 v 3	3 v 4

THREE TEAM DIVISION

May Fixture 1 v 2 (3 Bye)

June Fixture 3 v losing team from May fixture

July Fixture 3 v winning team from May fixture

CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS

7 Page 170 / New Rules (Proposed by Brian Hampson on behalf of the Management Committee)

Proposal - To state the criteria for a qualifying competition.

Rationale - It is felt that there should be set criteria contained within our rules as is the case with all our other competitions. Competitions will be considered as a qualifier based on a combination of entries and prize money.

New Rule - Promoters of Open Contests can apply to the National Administrator to be considered as a qualifying competition.

New Rule - Competitions will be considered based on the previous season's total number of entries and total prize money.

New Rule - No competition will be considered unless in receipt of an Open Contest Certificate.

New Rule - No competition will be considered if they include home bowlers, unless receiving total entries in excess of 128, or allow re-entries.

New Rule - There will be an entry fee, determined by the Management Committee, for each qualifying competition.

CENTENARY MIXED PAIRS

8 Page 176 / 7 (Proposed by Brian Hampson on behalf of the Management Committee)

Proposal - To state that a venue must have two greens.

Rationale - With pairs games usually taking longer than single games the competition can go on until early evening. Given that we play the competition in October, the light draws in quite quickly and, as I believed what happened last year when it was played at the Waterloo, in the absence of floodlights the final finished in near darkness. By stating that a venue has two greens the selected venue will not have to have floodlights as by playing the competition over two greens the final should be played in relative daylight.

Revised Rule would read - The Management Committee will decide the venue *which must have two suitable greens*.

LOSS OF FORMER MERIT CHAMPION

The BCGBA are saddened to hear of the passing of former Senior Merit champion, namely, Mr Cliff Littlehales.

The well-known and respected Welsh bowler, from the Wrexham area, passed away on Sunday, 29th December 2019 at the age of 90 years. One of Cliff's 'claims to fame' was that in 1958 he became the first Welsh bowler to win the BCGBA. 'All-England' Senior Merit Competition, having also won the then North Wales Senior Merit Competition in 1955. In the final, Cliff defeated J Wakefield (Staffordshire), 21-12, played at English Electric in Stafford.

JOB VACANCIES

Applications close on Saturday (18th January) for the BCGBA Competitions Officer and BCGBA Ladies Competitions Officer vacancies. Please see the BCGBA website – bcgba.org.uk - for further details.



2020 BCGBA WORLD CLUB CHAMPIONSHIP

to be played at

Spen Victoria Cricket, Bowling & Athletic Club, Spen Lane, Gomersal, Cleckheaton BD19 4PJ

All sessions commence at 11am

Sunday 22nd March

Top Green: George (Warwick & Worcester)	v	Lightwood Road (Potteries & District)
Willenhall Nordley (Staffordshire)	v	Pudsey (Yorkshire)
Bottom Green: St Georges (Shropshire)	v	Norton Central (Potteries & District)
Lower Hopton (Yorkshire)	v	Min-y-Don (Wales)

Sunday 29th March

Top Green: Marown (Isle of Man)	v	West Houghton S & SC (Lancashire)
Holme (Cumbria)	v	Gladstone (Merseyside)
Bottom Green: Ravine (Lancashire)	v	Springbank (Greater Manchester)
Marton Institute (North Lancs & Fylde)	v	Victoria (Derbyshire)

Sunday 5th April

Top Green: Castle Sports & Social Club (Cheshire)	v	Eccleston (Merseyside)
Foulridge (North Lancs & Fylde)	v	M&B Cheslyn Hay (Staffordshire)
Bottom Green: New Street (Greater Manchester)	v	Kings Heath Park (Warwick & Worcester)
Atherstone Cons (North Midlands)	v	Sir John Bayley (Shropshire)

Sunday 12th April

Top Green: Haunchwood (North Midlands)	v	Llay Welfare (Wales)
Bradfield (South Yorkshire)	v	Burbage (Derbyshire)
Bottom Green: Police (Cumbria)	v	Meersbrook (South Yorkshire)
Lloyd Hotel (British Parks)	v	Wharton Cons (Cheshire)

Sunday 19th April Final 8