BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

Response from the Temporary Board

Dear Member Associations,

We are responding to the letter dated 22 October 2026 about the Special General Meeting (SGM) planned for 14 November 2026. We know there are different views about who currently has authority to act for BCGBA. We also understand that this uncertainty is difficult for counties, clubs and bowlers. This letter explains the Temporary Board's position and sets out what will happen next.

1. Who is currently acting for BCGBA?

Dan Newton has resigned as Chief Executive Officer but is working his contractual notice period. During that period, he remains employed by BCGBA and continues to carry out the duties of the role, subject to BCGBA's governing arrangements.

The Temporary Board members are Steve Cochrane, Jim Drain, Chris Lambert, Michelle Jones and Dominic Condello. Their role is temporary. They are helping to maintain the organisation and arrange a proper process for Member Associations to decide the way forward.

The notice of the SGM was authorised by Steve Cochrane on 2 October 2026, this was recorded as a written decision.

The four temporary members were appointed by Dan Newton / Steve Cochrane between 30 September and 20 October. At the time, Dan Newton and Steve Cochrane were the only two remaining members of the BCGBA Board. The Bye-Laws do not specifically explain what should happen when the Board is reduced to this position. To restore sufficient capacity for the Association to continue operating, they took steps to appoint temporary independent members. In doing so, they relied on the residual authority in Bye-Law 3(h), which allows the Board to deal with matters not otherwise provided for in the Bye-Laws. The Temporary Board recognises that the basis and validity of these appointments are disputed. The relevant appointment and decision records will therefore be provided with the SGM papers.

2. The request for the SGM and the meeting papers

The SGM follows a request from Derbyshire Crown Green Bowling Association, Burton & District Ladies, North Derbyshire, Ladies, Warwick & Worcester Crown Green Bowling Association and Yorkshire Crown Green Bowling Association

The original request for the SGM was circulated on 2 October 2026 to Secretary / Officer (Men), Secretary / Officer (Ladies) and NAC Representatives. The content of the notice was determined appropriate in light of the necessary discussions that were due to start when the new, temporary board were in place. We plan to share the full meeting papers with Member Associations by 31 October 2026, including the proposed motions, supporting explanations, voting arrangements and details of who may attend and vote. These arrangements are subject to ongoing legal review, and we will provide Member Associations with an update by 31 October on the position and anticipated circulation of the papers.

3. Which governing document currently applies?

The Temporary Board's position is that BCGBA is still operating as an Unincorporated Association. The existing Bye-Laws therefore continue to apply.

A Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) has been created and has its own Articles. However, the proposed move to the CLG has not been completed or formally adopted by the relevant membership as BCGBA's replacement structure.

The website and previous communications will be reviewed so that they clearly explain the difference between the current Unincorporated Association and the separate CLG. Any inaccurate or unclear material will be corrected, clarified or removed where BCGBA has control of it. This review will be completed by the 6 November 2026.

4. Documents about the CLG and any transfer of BCGBA

Questions have been asked about whether the Unincorporated Association, its money, assets, records or powers were transferred to the CLG. The Temporary Board will provide the records that exist and are available to it. It will not suggest that a document exists if it has not been found.

The Board's verified position is:

- **Resolution authorising a transfer:** No such resolution has yet been identified
- **Completed transfer document:** No completed transfer agreement has yet been identified
- **What the 2022 AGM decision authorised:** The minutes are being checked to confirm precisely what the membership authorised.
- **Whether the CLG has a separate bank account:** No, the CLG does not have a separate bank account
- **Whether Unincorporated Association funds were used for CLG costs:** The Temporary Board is not presently aware of any specific costs incurred in relation to the CLG, although this remains subject to verification against the Association's financial records.

The Board was preparing to consult members about transferring to the CLG, with the aim of seeking 2027 AGM approval.

5. 22 August 2026 Meeting

A separate group, who refer to themselves as the 'BCGBA Executive Board', says that decisions made at a meeting on 22 August 2026 gave it authority to act for BCGBA. The Temporary Board does not accept that the meeting was convened in accordance with the BCGBA Bye-Laws, and therefore disputes the authority said to arise from the meeting and the decisions made at it.

In particular, Bye-Law 6(e) requires the contents of a requisition for a Special General Meeting to be circulated to all member Associations at least 28 days before the meeting.

The Temporary Board's concerns are that:

- the contents of the requisition (details of the meeting) were not circulated to all member Associations; and
- the required 28 days' notice was not given.

For these reasons, the validity of the meeting and the decisions said to have been made at it remain disputed.

6. Staff, finance, safeguarding and disciplinary matters

The Temporary Board will not discuss confidential employment, safeguarding or disciplinary cases in a public letter. These matters must be handled through lawful procedures by people with proper authority.

The current factual position is:

- **Recruitment of a Safeguarding Officer:** Following the resignation of the previous National Safeguarding Officer, BCGBA has continued to work with the Bowls Development Alliance to maintain safeguarding oversight and support essential responsibilities, including DBS arrangements. The Temporary Board is reviewing the requirements for future safeguarding provision, and no appointment by the group identifying itself as the Executive Committee has been verified or authorised by the Temporary Board.
- **Any disciplinary proceedings said to have restarted:** The Temporary Board continues to recognise the importance of maintaining appropriate disciplinary procedures, with existing cases subject to the Association's established processes and relevant safeguarding requirements. We cannot verify the claim that proceedings have been restarted by the group identifying itself as the Executive Committee, and any such action would require appropriate constitutional authority.
- **The reported appointment of a fifth trustee:** The Temporary Board is aware of the reported appointment of a fifth trustee but has not received documentation establishing who made the appointment, the authority relied upon or whether the

applicable appointment procedures were followed. The Temporary Board has neither made nor approved this appointment and cannot recognise its validity without appropriate verification.

- **Separation of the finances of the Unincorporated Association and CLG:** The CLG remains dormant and has not assumed responsibility for the assets, finances or operations of the Unincorporated Association, which continues to operate under the existing BCGBA Bye-Laws. The Temporary Board has not verified the claim that any new financial separation arrangements have been implemented by the group identifying itself as the Executive Committee, and no authorised transfer of UA assets to the CLG has been established.

7. Organisational Access, Authority and Continuity

The Temporary Board is aware that individuals operating under the name of the BCGBA Executive Board continue to exercise, or assert, responsibility for aspects of the Association's operations, including staffing, financial administration, safeguarding and communications. These arrangements are not currently coordinated with, or subject to the oversight of, the Temporary Board, creating practical challenges in maintaining effective organisational control and fulfilling its responsibilities.

In particular, individuals whose employment arrangements have been subject to redundancy processes continue to hold access to aspects of the Association's financial administration, while the Temporary Board is working with the relevant banking provider to establish appropriate, independent access and oversight. The Temporary Board is taking steps to clarify responsibilities, secure access to essential systems and records, and maintain continuity of services while the wider governance position is resolved.

8. The role of the Bowls Development Alliance

The Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) was approached to support and facilitate what is expected to be a difficult meeting. It will not decide who has authority to act for BCGBA and it will not vote on any motion.

The decision to invite the BDA was made by Dan Newton / Steve Cochrane on 1 October 2026, following requests from counties who requested the SGM to have someone independent in attendance. Its role at the SGM will be limited to independent facilitation and procedural support. For clarity, the BDA are not exercising any constitutional or decision-making authority within BCGBA. The BDA has agreed to provide this support without any additional charge to BCGBA. Checks found no conflicts of interest or relevant relationships or interests.

9. How the SGM will work

The rules and practical arrangements will be confirmed before the meeting, not decided for the first time on the day.

- **Who may attend -** To promote openness and transparency, the meeting will be open to observers from the wider bowls community. However, only authorised Member Association representatives may vote.
- **Who may vote -** Under Bye-Law 6(d), merged Counties/Associations may appoint two representatives and non-merged Counties/Associations one representative. Each County/Association also receives one additional vote for every 60 Primary Affiliated Clubs represented. Authorised representatives may vote. BCGBA Board members are not counted as County/Association representatives. Voting entitlements and authorised representatives will be confirmed before the SGM.
- **Majority required -** Voting thresholds depend on the nature of the resolution. Resolutions sought at the SGM will be subject to its relevant constitutional requirements, which will be clearly stated in the meeting papers issued before the SGM. Voting thresholds will not be changed on the day.
- **Chairing the meeting -** While the Bye-Laws specify who chairs an AGM, they do not expressly do so for an SGM. Given the current circumstances, the Board intends that Lisa Graham, Managing Director of the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA), will provide independent facilitation and procedural support. The respective roles of the meeting chair and facilitator will be confirmed in advance. The BDA will neither determine constitutional matters nor vote on resolutions.
- **Proposal that Steve Davies should chair -** The Board does not support this proposal, believing that confidence in the process is best served by arrangements that avoid any perception of alignment with either side of the dispute.

- **Venue selection -** Cleckheaton Sports Club was chosen as a practical and relatively neutral venue with suitable capacity and accessibility for Member Associations. The temporary board are reviewing the location and will confirm final details on the 31 October 2026.
- **Remote attendance -** Although the Bye-Laws do not expressly provide for remote attendance or voting, the Temporary Board supports the use of technology where it is constitutionally and securely possible. Final arrangements will be confirmed before the SGM.

These details will be included in the papers sent by 31 October 2026.

10. Declaration of interest

Steve Cochrane is CEO of the Yorkshire Crown Green Bowling Association and also serves as Interim Chair of BCGBA. Yorkshire's decision to support the SGM requisition was made by its Executive Committee, not by Steve acting individually.

The Temporary Board recognises the importance of managing actual and perceived conflicts of interest. Steve's role with Yorkshire will be declared and recorded, and any potential conflicts will be managed through the Board's governance procedures. As a BCGBA Board member, Steve will not exercise a County Association vote at the SGM, and the meeting's voting and procedural arrangements will apply equally to all Member Associations.

11. Moving forward

The Temporary Board does not want to prolong the dispute. It is willing to speak constructively with people who hold different views, without accepting or rejecting disputed claims of authority simply by taking part in those discussions. On 25 October 2026, the Temporary Board, through Dominic Condello, contacted the group referred to as the 'BCGBA Executive Board' to request a meeting about the dispute.

The Temporary Board recognises that this has been a difficult period for BCGBA and that, throughout this process, there may have been occasions when procedures, decisions or communications have not been as clear or effective as they should have been. Whilst we acknowledge that legitimate constitutional and governance matters must be properly addressed, we do not believe that continuing to revisit every historical disagreement or perceived procedural failing is in the best interests of the Association or the sport. Our focus must now be on finding a constructive way forward, ensuring that Member Associations have the opportunity to make informed decisions about the future of BCGBA and allowing everyone involved to concentrate on the development and long-term interests of Crown Green Bowls.

The Temporary Board will not decide the outcome of the SGM in advance. Its aim is to provide clear information and a fair process so that Member Associations can make an informed decision about BCGBA's future.

We ask all Member Associations to read the meeting papers, discuss them within their own organisations and ensure that their representatives are properly informed and authorised when submitting their vote on behalf of their members.

Yours sincerely,

The Temporary Board

British Crown Green Bowling Association
Jim Drain - Temporary Board Member
Chris Lambert - Temporary Board Member
Michelle Jones - Temporary Board Member
Dominic Condello - Temporary Board Member
Steve Cochrane - Interim Chair
Dan Newton - Chief Executive Officer