THE BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION - Unincorporated Association

NOTICE OF SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that a Special General Meeting of the British Crown Green Bowling Association (Unincorporated Association) will be held as follows:

Date: Saturday 14 November 2026

Time: 10:00am

Venue: TBC – We have taken on board the feedback received, changing the venue from Cleckheaton Sports Club. We will confirm the venue as soon as possible.

This Special General Meeting has been convened in accordance with the Bye Laws of the British Crown Green Bowling Association (Unincorporated Association).

Purpose of the meeting

The meeting has been convened following written requests received from representatives of Member Associations.

The purpose of the Special General Meeting is to provide Member Associations with the opportunity to consider and determine the current constitutional and governance position of BCGBA, to address the competing governance arrangements that have emerged, and to establish a clear and stable basis for the Association's governance, staffing, finances and future operation.

Agenda

1. Welcome, attendance and confirmation of quorum

The Chair will formally open the meeting, confirm attendance and quorum, and explain the procedure to be followed, including the arrangements for discussion and voting.

2. Current constitutional and governance position of BCGBA

The meeting will consider the current constitutional position of the British Crown Green Bowling Association (Unincorporated Association), including the competing governance arrangements that have emerged and the implications for the effective governance and operation of the Association.

3. Member Association consideration and determination of the way forward

Member Associations will be invited to consider and determine the steps required to establish a clear and stable basis for BCGBA's governance, staffing, finances and future operation.

4. Declaration of decisions and close of meeting

The outcome of any votes and decisions taken by the Member Associations will be confirmed and recorded, following which the Chair will formally close the Special General Meeting.

1 - Who is responsible for running BCGBA?

2 - Keeping BCGBA running

3 - Deciding BCGBA’s future

Background and current position

BCGBA continues to operate as an Unincorporated Association (UA), subject to its existing Bye-Laws. A separate Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG) exists, but the proposed move to that company has not been completed or formally approved as a replacement for the UA's operating arrangements.

Following events in August 2026, two groups have expressed competing views about who has authority to act for BCGBA. The group describing itself as the BCGBA Executive Committee relies on decisions taken at a separate meeting on 22 August; the Temporary Board disputes that those decisions established authority under the existing Bye-Laws.

The Temporary Board was established after a number of Board resignations to support continuity and preparations for a membership meeting. The basis and extent of those temporary appointments have themselves been challenged.

The Association has ongoing responsibilities in banking, staffing, safeguarding, disciplinary matters, communications and competitions. Difficulties with access to some systems and records make it particularly important to establish a workable and accountable route forward.

What is agreed, and what is disputed

- Common starting point - BCGBA remains a UA governed by its Bye-Laws; the CLG transition has not been completed.
- Disputed - The effect of the 22 August meeting, the authority claimed by different groups, and the status of interim appointments.

1 - Who is responsible for running BCGBA?

This resolution aims to clarify which rules currently govern BCGBA and establish a clear and agreed way forward for determining who has the authority to make decisions on behalf of the Association, addressing the uncertainty created by competing governance arrangements.

2. Keeping BCGBA running

This resolution seeks to establish suitable temporary arrangements to ensure BCGBA can continue to meet its essential responsibilities, including staffing, finance, safeguarding, competitions and membership services, while longer-term governance arrangements are put in place.

3. Deciding BCGBA's future

This resolution aims to establish a clear process through which Member Associations can help shape BCGBA's future, including how the Association is governed, how its Board is appointed and how any proposed changes to its structure will be considered and agreed.

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

We have sought advice on the voting thresholds. The preliminary view is that ordinary business would generally require a simple majority, while fundamental constitutional or governance changes would generally warrant a two-thirds majority. Given the reference to two-thirds in the byelaws, the advice that we have at the moment is to adopt the more cautious approach for resolutions involving fundamental changes. This remains subject to their review of the byelaws and proposed resolutions. The threshold for each resolution will be clearly stated in the meeting papers before the SGM and will not be changed on the day.

Chairing the meeting

Lisa Graham, Managing Director of the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA), will support the running and facilitation of the Special General Meeting. The BDA is a partnership organisation established by the sport's National Governing Bodies to support the sustainable growth and development of bowls, promote collaborative working across the sport, and share good practice.

Venue selection

We have considered the location of the meeting and appreciate that for the reasons selected Cleckheaton Sports Club should not be the venue for the 14 November. We have approached a couple of venues that are located more centrally, represent a neutral position and have suitable capacity and accessibility for Member Associations. The temporary board are reviewing the location and will confirm final details as soon as possible, during the week commencing the 2 November.

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.

Yours sincerely,

S Cochrane

Steve Cochrane

Interim Chair

British Crown Green Bowling Association

All correspondence should be sent to dan.newton@bcgba.org.uk

Authority for the notice: This notice is issued by order of the Temporary Board of the British Crown Green Bowling Association (Unincorporated Association), Steve Cochrane, Interim Chair, for and on behalf of the Temporary Board.

Updated meeting information: 31 October 2026