

Welsh Crown Green Bowling Association Referees Society



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SEASON REPORT FOR 2019

We started the season with the annual Referees Stan Higham Trophy played at Rhos Park on 14th April and was won for the first time by Alan Davies beating Peter Hayes in the final. He qualified for the Referees Patrons Day with D.T. Evans current holder of the trophy, unfortunately neither succeeded this year but D.T. Evans lost to this year's winner. Both must be congratulated for keeping Welsh bowling to the forefront.

The season started with eleven active referees but with three not being available the Placement Secretary had only eight referees to call on regularly for the eighty-five appointments requested. Fulfilling 84, unfortunately we could not accommodate the BLGLBA Veterans County Championship. Again, we are looking for more volunteers to join us and put something back into the game we love. At present we have 2 more qualified for the start of next season.

During our end of season meeting a few points were raised the most prominent being the new APPROVED Bowline String Measures. Following 100+ tests by David Williams (BCGRS) with no problem and my own meeting with the company is that the measure are fit for purpose The Bowline Measures are JUST another approved set of measures and it is up to the individuals measuring which approved measure they use and use correctly.

Also, during our meeting, it was reported that a referee from Merseyside Referees Society had been invited and refereed Cheshire County League Matches within the Welsh Area. A letter was written to Mrs Lesley Williams pointing out that in the future when the Cheshire League come over to Wales to play their competitions, they have a Welsh Referee appointed. A letter of acceptance has now been received.

There have been 3 rule clarifications made by the WCGRS this year as follows;

The following were received during the season;

BCGBA BYE LAW 19-1 Suitable footwear must be worn. Hard or block-heeled footwear must not be worn whilst on the green in any match played under the Associations jurisdiction.

After much correspondence between the WCGBA & the BCGRS the following statement was received;

The byelaw re footwear applies to all matches played under the auspices of BCGBA, this means that all league, county, open and national competitions are covered by this byelaw. In practice for BCGBA run competitions this means that the Green Manager will prevent any player not abiding by the dress code byelaws, including the footwear byelaw, from starting their match. In competitions other than those run by BGCBA directly the organiser/ official in charge is responsible for applying the footwear byelaw to stop players starting their match. At club level this is usually the home team captain. Any Player not abiding by this byelaw would forfeit that match unless a substitute player is allowed by the competition/league rules.

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The byelaw is not a Law of the Game, therefore if a player not abiding by the byelaw is allowed to start a match then no punishment can be applied after the match has started. So, a player cannot claim the match once started, as is the case of a player smoking or using a mobile phone, if their opponent is not abiding by the footwear byelaw.

Carrying their bowl to the head to check who's on.

There is nothing in the laws of the Game which prevents a player going to the head carrying their bowl. This happens on a regular basis with players walking a little way towards the head if not all the way.

The next question that gets asked is what happens if the player drops their bowl either on the way to or on the way back from the head? Answer- it depends on the response of their opponent or that of the referee. If no one comments/objects, then the player can go back to the footer and play their bowl. If there is an objection or the referee decides to take the view that the player has played their bowl without their foot on the footer. If this is the case, then the player can return to the footer and play their bowl under Law 5.5.

Rule 5.6.

Does the Referee have be advised when a player is about to strike even though the referee is not in the immediate area?

Some referees will ask the players to inform them if they are going to strike even if the referee is on the other side of the green. Some referees will just tell the players to make sure that anyone in danger is informed, but not necessary to inform referee if they are on other side of green.

Finally, may I remind all leagues and clubs that it is up to them to request a referee and not for the WCGRS to come to you asking if you require one.

Any person interested in becoming a referee please contact me. my details are on the Welsh web site.

Arthur Peake

Secretary