



BRITISH CROWN GREEN BOWLING ASSOCIATION

18th September 2026.

To All Counties and Associations

Response to Governance communications from various Counties.

Dear Colleagues,

Thank you for your Governance Statement & Recommendations received from a number of County Associations.

We take the concerns raised seriously and welcome the opportunity to clarify the position, correct what we consider to be mischaracterisations, and respond to the substantive points raised.

1. The nature and purpose of the meeting

The meeting held at Owley Wood on 22nd August 2026 was an emergency financial meeting convened to address serious and immediate concerns regarding the financial position of the BCGBA.

The meeting was called urgently because the Financial Officer had raised concerns about approximately £40,000 of expenditure above budget. Concerns were also raised that the BCGBA was in, or rapidly approaching, an insolvency position, with insufficient funds to meet August salary commitments and other liabilities, including payment due to the BDA.

These were financial concerns and warnings reported to the membership, not a formal legal conclusion regarding insolvency unless and until established through the appropriate financial or legal process.

The financial concerns arose alongside a serious governance situation. The Board had been reduced to three of its original twelve members, the National Safeguarding Officer position had remained vacant since Easter, and there were ongoing concerns regarding the Association's governance, management and finances.

Safeguarding arrangements in Wales and the Isle of Man also required consideration. Those areas are not covered by the BDA because of their geographical location, and their safeguarding responsibilities and procedures therefore need to be addressed separately from those applying to Associations covered by the BDA.

Taken together, these circumstances created an immediate need for the membership to be informed and for decisions to be considered. In our view, waiting for the ordinary notice period for a Special General Meeting risked further financial and operational damage.

The meeting was therefore convened urgently to consider the financial position of the BCGBA and the steps required to protect the Association's operations and members.

All County Associations were notified and given the opportunity to attend and express their views.

2. Correcting the position regarding membership

Your statement refers to "the threat of bowler expulsion from end of season competitions and future membership of the BCGBA".

That characterisation is incorrect.

No individual bowler, County Association or other member was threatened with expulsion, and no one was instructed or required to leave the Association.

Our Open Letter asked County Associations to confirm within seven days whether they wished to continue as members of the BCGBA (Unincorporated Association). This was intended to establish which Associations wished to continue participating during a period of significant governance uncertainty.

The request was not a notice of expulsion, termination or compulsory withdrawal. Any decision to suspend, terminate or otherwise affect membership would have to comply with the applicable provisions of the current Byelaws, including requirements concerning notice, reasons, procedure and the right to be heard.

At no point did the Executive Committee threaten to exclude individual bowlers from end-of-season competitions, terminate individual memberships, or compel any County Association to leave the BCGBA.

We ask that any suggestion to the contrary be corrected in future circulation of, or reference to, your statement.

3. Attendance, voting rights and resolutions

You note that 36 votes were cast, compared with a possible 60 had all 25 Counties, British Parks been represented.

Every County Association was notified and given the opportunity to attend. Those unable to attend remain invited to contact the Executive Committee for further information.

The resolutions were carried by clear majorities of those present and entitled to vote. The resolutions concerning the governance review and appointment of a safeguarding officer each received 34 votes in favour and two abstentions. No votes against were recorded on any resolution.

Subject to the applicable constitutional requirements concerning notice, quorum and voting entitlement, we do not accept that the absence of Counties which chose not to attend, or were unable to do so, invalidates the resolutions passed by members present and entitled to vote.

4a the state of the Board.

Of the original twelve Board positions, only three remained, all of whom have, since the meeting at Owley Wood, resigned. The Region 5 Board position has remained vacant for approximately twelve months. In addition, the Financial Officer and National Administrator were due to be made redundant by 31 August 2026, with no contingency plan in place to ensure continuity of those key functions.

The Chairperson role has also not been substantively reviewed or resolved. An Interim Chair has been in place since May 2025, without the permanent Chairperson position having been regularized, advertised or sought.

There also remain outstanding disciplinary matters, together with concerns regarding communication, transparency, governance and leadership. These issues have contributed to continuing uncertainty over accountability and the effective functioning of the Board.

Against that background, the membership passed a vote of no confidence by 32 votes in favour, none against and four abstentions.

4b Executive Committee

The current BCGBA Byelaws provide for the Executive Committee to be responsible for the day-to-day running and administration of the Association. The Executive Committee is therefore carrying out an existing constitutional function, according to the byelaws

The resolution passed at Owley Wood supported the continuation of that day-to-day administration in the circumstances then prevailing. It did not create the Executive Committee or confer upon it powers beyond those provided by the current Byelaws.

That resolution received 31 votes in favour, with five abstentions and none against.

5. Safeguarding arrangements

The meeting considered the need to ensure that appropriate safeguarding arrangements were in place across all areas of the BCGBA.

The Executive Committee recognises that safeguarding responsibilities and reporting arrangements may differ between England, Wales and the Isle of Man. The arrangements applicable to Wales and the Isle of Man must therefore be identified, properly communicated and maintained separately from those applying to Associations covered by the BDA.

The appointment of a safeguarding officer was approved by 34 votes in favour, with two abstentions and no votes against. This was intended to ensure that safeguarding responsibilities were properly addressed across the BCGBA, including appropriate liaison with the separate arrangements applicable in Wales and the Isle of Man.

6. Employment matter

Your statement refers to the employment status of the BCGBA Chief Executive, Mr Dan Newton, and recommends steps towards terminating his employment.

This is a personnel matter and is not appropriate for determination through open correspondence between the Executive Committee and County Associations.

Any employment-related matter will be dealt with, if appropriate, through the proper employment, legal and governance processes.

7. A further Special General Meeting

We note your recommendation that a Special General Meeting be convened after the conclusion of the 2026 season to consider BCGBA governance, staffing, budget and immediate priorities for 2027.

We support, in principle, the opportunity for the full membership to consider these matters before the January 2027 Annual General Meeting.

Any such meeting must be convened in accordance with the current Byelaws, including provisions concerning who may requisition or call it, notice, the form and content of the notice, the business to be considered, quorum and voting entitlement.

We will bring forward proposals regarding how and when such a meeting may appropriately be convened.

8. Conclusion

We share your wish to see all member Counties working together and to ensure that the January 2027 Annual General Meeting is transparent, financially responsible and democratic.

We do not accept that the actions taken at Owley Wood were unconstitutional. The meeting was an emergency financial meeting called against a background of immediate and serious financial concern, including reported expenditure approximately £40,000 above budget and concerns that the BCGBA lacked sufficient funds to meet imminent liabilities, including August salaries and payment due to the BDA.

The Executive Committee is carrying out the day-to-day function assigned to it under the current Byelaws. The meeting of 22nd August did not create the Executive Committee or confer upon it powers beyond those already provided for in the Association's constitutional arrangements.

No individual bowler, County Association or other member was threatened with expulsion, exclusion from competitions or removal from the Association. No such threat was made.

We remain committed to constructive engagement with all County Associations, including those which did not attend the meeting on the 22nd August, as we prepare for the January 2027 Annual General Meeting.

We would welcome further dialogue at the earliest appropriate opportunity.

Should you wish to discuss any of the above, please contact us at admin@bcgba.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,

The BCGBA Executive Committee.