



WELSH INDOOR BOWLS

NEWSLETTER

Edition No 1 July 2021

UNIFIED

A new chapter has opened for Welsh Indoor Bowls with the Welsh Indoor Bowls Association (WIBA) founded in 1934 and the Welsh Ladies Indoor Bowls Association (WLIBA) founded in 1950 agreeing to unify and will now be known simply as Welsh Indoor Bowls (WIB).

Negotiations on unification started as far back as October 2015 and after a couple of preliminary meetings were placed on hold until they were reconvened in September 2019. Following a series of meetings by a dedicated working group prior to and during lockdown a new draft Constitution and a plethora of policies and procedures were drawn up for acceptance by the members of the WIBA & WLIBA at their respective Annual General Meetings. During the negotiations at the forefront of the working group was to ensure gender balance where possible when appointing or electing Officers and Committees, therefore the Presidential Rota will alternate between male and female and the new organisation will have a joint Secretariat, one female and one male.

The forthcoming 2021—2022 season will be a transitional year while Officers and Committees are put in place in readiness for full unification in the 2022—2023 season. During the transitional year each Association will organise their own calendar of events and Ken Henderson of Islwyn IBC will be President and will officiate at both ladies and men's events and a joint handbook will be published for the first time.

Cath Harvey Secretary of the Welsh Ladies Indoor Bowls Association (WLIBA) issued the following statement

“The WLIBA and the WIBA are delighted to announce that they have agreed to merge together and unify under the same Association. This exciting development has been agreed by both organisations and work is being done to guarantee a smooth start to the 2022—2023 season”

While John Phillips Secretary of the Welsh Indoor Bowls Association (WIBA) said the following:

“The WIBA at its Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 27th May voted unanimously in favour of unifying with the WLIBA, this decision was also confirmed by the WLIBA at their Special General Meeting held on Saturday 19th June. This historic agreement will move the indoor game forward presenting new opportunities for all indoor bowlers, however at the forefront will be assisting Clubs with their return to play strategy following the pandemic.

Over the next year Officers of both Associations will be working together to interview candidates and put in place Officers to take on the running of the new organisation from the start of the 2022—2023 season. This is a good time for indoor bowls, we need to grasp the opportunity presented to us with both hands and move the indoor game in Wales forward”.

WIBA Appoint New Director of Bowls.

Following the resignation of Stephen Rees after the British Isles International Series held at Llanelli I.B.C. in March 2020 the WIBA have appointed 58 year old Steve Jackson from Cardiff I.B.C. as his successor. Steve has been appointed for a 3 year term which will be reviewed after 12 months, he will be responsible for the development of Welsh bowls and the selection of all male teams that represent Wales at International level. I recently caught up with Steve and asked him about his background and what he hopes to bring to Welsh Bowls.

Tell us about your background.

I have over 40 years bowling experience at club , county and international level, having played my indoor bowls at Cardiff Indoor Bowling Club since 1992. I am a career Civil Servant with the Welsh Government (please, don't hold that against me!) where I am a Programme and Project Manager. I live in Cardiff with my partner Lesley and have two daughters, Chloe and Olivia, both of whom play bowls and have represented Wales at international level. Many, many years ago (or at least that's how it seems now!) I played rugby for Caerphilly and Newport and represented Wales at Youth level.

How excited are you about your new role?

I am very excited about my new role as Director of Bowls, I am a passionate Welshman and like all of us involved in the sport here in Wales, I want to see us compete and succeed at the highest level.

The team management aspect of the role is clearly important but being given the opportunity to develop the talent we undoubtedly have in Wales and drive improvement across all our age groups is what really excites me.

There is no doubt that the Director of Bowls role is a challenging and sometimes thankless one, however, I am ready for that challenge, I have the bowls experience, management and communication skills and the drive and enthusiasm necessary to continue the good work that's been started and improve our performance at international and World level over the next few years.

What are your aspirations for your new role?

I think it's important to be realistic here, there is no single quick fix solution available that will make us world beaters overnight—it is going to take a long term commitment from all of us involved in Welsh Indoor Bowls, that's the WIBA, Clubs and players all working together. What I want to see is a year on year improvement in our performance levels and for us to be competitive. To achieve this I believe we need to adopt a “professional” approach to planning and preparation both on and off the green and so my main aspiration is to create an environment where our elite and developing players are able to develop and improve their skills and as a result, improve our performances on the international stage.

Please Note: In the lead up to taking up his post at the start of the 2021—2022 season, Steve is keen to engage with our key stakeholders, i.e. Official, players (both present and recent past) and Clubs and have some open and honest discussions about what they feel we do well and perhaps more importantly, identify the things that we might be able to do better. If you have anything you would like to discuss please feel free to contact Steve on: stevejackson.wiba@icloud.com



WLIBA & WIBA Officers for the 2021-2022 Season.

The following Officers were elected at the WLIBA Annual General Meeting

Secretary	Cath Harvey	Delegates	Christine Fletcher
Treasurer	Kath Blayney		Barbara Griffiths
Minute Secretary	Barbara Griffiths		Betty Morgan MBE
D.J. Jones Trophy Organiser	Viv Jones		Anne Pike
Life Members	Betty Morgan MBE		Jane Type BIIBC President
	Gloria Watkins		
	Hilary King MBE	Selectors	Christine Fletcher
	Roslyn James		Jane Type MBE
Senior Team Manager	Wayne Letman	Junior Team Manager	Roger Harvey

The following Officers were elected at the WIBA Annual General Meeting

President	Ken Henderson	Secretary	John Phillips
Senior Vice President	Barrie Broad	Assistant Secretary	Ashley Reese
Junior Vice President	Vacant	Treasurer	David Phillips
Competition Secretary	Nigel Williams	League Secretary	Neil Jones
Safeguarding Officer	Peter Brill		

Junior Bowls Co-ordinator Appointed



Allyson Lawrence has been appointed as the new Welsh Junior Bowls Co-ordinator succeeding John Phillips.

Allyson is 47 years old and has been married to Daryll for 21 years, they have 2 daughters Anna and Emily who both play their bowls at Merthyr Tydfil. Allyson works as a Legal Secretary for a firm of Solicitors in Pontypridd.

She first became involved in bowls when her eldest daughter was introduced to the sport through a schools programme in October 2009 and has been involved ever since. During this time she has helped raise much needed funds for the junior section and has also organised the junior tournaments. She enjoys travelling to watch both daughters play whether it be at Club or International level.

Allyson said she is looking forward to the challenge and being involved at Welsh level with all the junior bowlers and will do all in her power to increase participation at club level throughout Wales.

Bowls Wales News

Bowls Wales have announced the following funding for the 2021—2022 financial year.

Total amount of funding provided to Bowls Wales by Sport Wales for 2021—2022 to date is **£61.500K**

Funding allocated to the Performance Group is **£94.398K** which includes the 2020—2021 underspend)

Funding allocated to the Communication and Development Group is **£35.677K** (which includes the 2020—2021 underspend)

Funding retained as operating costs by Bowls Wales is **£68.744K** , we have asked Bowls Wales to explain why their funding has been increased from £41K to £68.744K while other budgets have been reduced but have not yet had a full explanation. The Bowls Wales Finance Director has been invited to attend the next Performance Group meeting to explain.

We continue to work with Bowls Wales and have representation on both the Performance Group and the Communication and Development Group. These groups meet at regular intervals ,the Performance Group is working on the formation of a National Junior Bowls Academy incorporating both indoor and outdoor bowls and they are also looking at computer/video analysis software to enable Performance Analysis to take place. The Communication and Development Group have recently completed a Bowls Awareness Campaign for outdoor bowls.

Independent Review of Bowls

Bowls Wales are in the process of commissioning an independent review of the structure of bowls in Wales, we along with other National Governing Bodies have agreed to work with Bowls Wales to enable this review to take place. While we question the cost which at the moment has not been disclosed and the need of such a review, the review would still happen even if we did not contribute. If you require any further information please contact your National Secretary.



Ref: WIBA

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World & International News

IIBC World Junior Championships

The International Indoor Bowls Council (IIBC) are planning to hold the World Junior Championships at County Antrim IBC, Northern Ireland between 6th—10th December 2021, the championships were postponed last year due to the Covid 19 pandemic.

The following Countries have entered the championships, however many will be dependent on Covid 19 travel and quarantine restriction applicable at the time.

Australia, Botswana, England, France, Guernsey, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Jersey, Malaysia, Namibia, Norfolk Islands, Scotland, Switzerland & Wales.

The IIBC and its partner World Bowls are in liaison with all Member National Authorities regarding Covid 19 restrictions applicable in each Country and the holding of the event is being reviewed at regular intervals.

Updates can be found on the IIBC website: iibc.org.

BIIBC Calendar of Events 2021-2022 Season.

The British Isles Indoor Bowls Council have published their calendar of events for the forthcoming indoor season, all events were postponed last season due to Covid 19 so the full calendar has been rolled over into the 2021—2022 season.

Ladies Under 26's Internationals Newport IBC, Wales 12th & 13th February 2022

Men's Under 26's Internationals Ffrith IBC, Wales 19th & 20th February 2022

Please note :the age limit has been increased from Under 25 to Under 26 for one year only to allow those players who may have missed out on representing their Country due to last years cancellation.

Mixed Under 19 Internationals Ballybrakes IBC. N. Ireland 4th—6th March 2022

Please note: this age limit has also been increased from Under 18 to Under 19 for the same reason.

Ladies International Series Belfast IBC, N. Ireland 11th—13th March 2022

Championships Belfast IBC, N. Ireland 14th—16th March 2022

Men's International Belfast IBC, N. Ireland 17th—19th March 2022

Due to the withdrawal of the sponsor there will be no Over 50 International Series this season.

Contact Details

If you have any news, views, opinions or comments on Welsh Indoor Bowls please do not hesitate to contact me and if possible we will include them in future newsletters. Please send any news items, photographs etc to the Newsletter Co-ordinator:

Newsletter Co-ordinator : David Phillips—Email: davidphillips.bowls@ntlworld.com

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