

CYMDEITHAS BOWLIO MAT BYR CYMRU

WELSH SHORT MAT BOWLS ASSOCIATION

The Governing Body for the Sport in Wales

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Minutes of the 35th AGM of WSMBA held at The Radnorshire Bowls Stadium on Sunday 27th July 2025 at 10.00 am

Present: Craig Evans (CE) Chair, Gerald Hands (GH) Vice-Chair, John Matthews (JM) Treasurer, Wyn Jones (WJ) Secretary, Paul Hudson (PH) Pembrokeshire, Jac Edwards (JE) and Chris McWhinnie (CMc) Montgomery, Gethin Edwards (GE) and Richard Palmer (RP) Carmarthen, Moira Griffiths (MG) and Stephen Jones (SJ) Wrexham, Terry Batt (TB), David Williams (DW), William Bowcutt (WB) and Antony Bowcutt (AB) West Glam, Darren Davies (DD) Cardigan, Stephen Williams (SW) Swansea, Mary Jane Rogers (MJR) and Tony Morgan (TM) Brecon & Radnor

In the absence of the President who would normally chair the AGM, the Chairman (CE) stood in as Chair and welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending

- 1. Apologies** Arwel Nicholas, Debs Matthews (re: ladies rep), Peter Kempster
- 2. Minutes of previous AGM (28/07/24)**
GE proposed, DD seconded and the meeting approved the minutes as a true and accurate account of the meeting.
- 3. To receive Chairman's Report**
CE gave a verbal report thanking all association members for contributing to the activities of the WSMBA throughout the year stressing that he was not just referring to the executive committee, noting the contributions of the officers, but many other volunteers as well, e.g, those members laying out and putting away mats at competitions, Sylvia for her fantastic efforts with the raffles and anyone else who has "chipped in" in whichever way, and in whichever competition, they have helped. He noted that Mikey John was very unlucky not to win the British Isles Singles Championship in Scotland and congratulated everyone who had represented Wales throughout the season.
- 4. To receive Secretary's Report**
WJ re-iterated many of CE's remarks regarding all the contributions throughout the season and added his thanks to the catering staff at both Llandrindod and Carmarthen for the food and refreshments at both venues. He especially wanted to thank JM for the excellent way he has carried out the treasurer's role and RP for the way he has "looked after" the WSMBA during all the upheaval there has been at Bowls Wales. He re-affirmed that this will definitely be his last year as Secretary of the organization and he wanted to thank the many people who had given him support over his many years in the position.

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5. To receive Audited Accounts

JM circulated a copy of the accounts to each county which has been **added as Appendix A** below

JM drew attention to the Fixed Assets section which indicates that the Association has:

- 16 mats (with equal joint ownership of two more);
- 38 jacks;
- 24 footmats;
- 16 sets of fenders and blocks

but he was not sure of where these assets were located. WJ confirmed that it was pretty much a 50:50 split between Llandrindod and Carmarthen.

JM explained that there was a slight complication this year because many of the payments due from players/officials/supporters for the 2025/26 season had been received before the end of the financial year 2024/25 (i.e. before 31st May 2025) so these had been deducted from the current assets in the Balance Sheet to reflect a more accurate picture for 2024/25. He also informed the meeting that the current stock was mainly made up of shirts for upcoming competitions so that all teams representing Wales will have the same shirts.

He reported that the Association had recorded a surplus of £4854.34 for 2024/25 and that income for this year was up from last year while the expenditure was significantly down. He also fielded some questions/comments from members regarding payment for trophies, County fees and BI/World annual fees.

There was clarification that the responsibility for collecting membership fees for both club and player registrations would now rest with each county for the 2025/26 season, with each club paying the into the county bank account and the County remitting one payment (the total amount) to WSMBA, with the registration forms being sent to the new Membership Secretary. New registration forms containing the details will be sent to clubs/counties in due course and payment can be made as soon as forms are received but the absolute final deadline for payment will be 31st October as per the WSMBA Constitution. JM asked that counties let him know the membership contact, with appropriate contact details, asap please.

On behalf of the Association, CE thanked JM for his report and his outstanding work as Treasurer and this was unanimously endorsed by all members present.

6. Election of Officers

There being only one nomination for each position, the following were duly elected:

President	Wyn Jones (Carmarthen)
Chairman	Gerald Hands (Cardigan)
Vice Chairman	Peter Kempster (Wrexham)
Secretary	Richard Palmer (Carmarthen)
Treasurer	John Matthews (Carmarthen)
Minute Secretary	Paul Hudson (Pembrokeshire)
Membership Secretary	Samantha Davies (Cardigan)

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Competition Secretary	Jac Edwards (Montgomery)
Junior Team Co-ordinator	Nick Evans (Swansea)
Ladies Team Co-ordinators	Liz Evans (Swansea), Debs Matthews (Carmarthen), Natalie Evans (Swansea), Kate Morgan (West Glam)
Umpire Co-ordinator	Gerald Hands (Cardigan)
Bowls Wales Rep	Richard Palmer (Carmarthen)
Safeguarding Officer	Liz Evans (Swansea) – to include juniors and vulnerable adults*

*Could County Secretaries let Richard Palmer (richardpalmer999@hotmail.co.uk) know name(s) and contact details for your safeguarding officer(s) please to retain a central list and he will pass on to Liz Evans..

7. County Reports

All county rep reports can be seen in **Appendix B** below. There were no reports received from Gwynedd or Monmouth.

8. Report from Umpires Council

GH thanked counties for providing umpires for WSMBA competitions and he is pleased to note that there are several new umpires coming through the assessment process as well. He has been grateful for the help and advice that he has received from WJ over the last couple of years and he has really appreciated the offers he has received from umpires volunteering to officiate at the competitions.

9. Report from Coaching Panel

WJ informed the meeting that the coaching panel is made up of a representative from each county and although there had not been any formal panel meetings this year, he is aware that coaching is happening in most, if not all, counties. He has several coaching manuals at home to be handed out.

10. To ratify fees

JM recommended that fees remain the same as 2024/25 season. He also informed the meeting that, while our insurance company has not yet finalized the quote, he expected the cost of insurance to be very similar (hopefully the same) to last year. He mentioned that the insurance company had queried whether we should arrange public liability insurance for umpires as “employees” of the WSMBA, however members clarified that umpires are given nominal expenses for travelling and are not employees and JM to inform the insurance company accordingly.

GH queried whether there is a requirement for a £5.00 registration fee for umpires which, apparently there used to be several years ago in addition to them having to pay £10.00 for an umpire badge when they pass the assessment. Many members did not realise that this requirement, i.e. £5.00 registration, still existed and it was unanimously agreed that it be scrapped.

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The meeting resolved that fees for 2025/26 should remain at the current level as follows:

Club fee	£20.00
Adult member	£5.00
Junior member	£2.00
County Competition	£100.00
National Competitions	£40.00 per competition
Pub Liability Ins	£50.00 per club (but subject to change)
Mat Insurance	£12.00 per mat

11. Proposals

Ditching the jack and coming to rest in the ditch.

There were two proposals regarding ditching the jack with either just the first bowl or with the first two bowls of each lead or singles player on each end. The meeting agreed that it would vote first on the proposal specifying two woods as follows:

In singles, pairs, triples and fours, if any of the first two bowls on any end delivered by the lead shall touch the jack and come to rest completely in the ditch, they shall be declared dead and removed from the mat. If either bowl so delivered comes to rest intersecting the ditch line it shall be marked as a toucher. If the first bowl is a toucher and remains in the live area, the second bowl can push the toucher into the ditch and that toucher will not be removed.

This proposal was passed: For 5 Against 2

As this proposal was passed, there was no need to vote on the second proposal re: 1 wood.

This will now be submitted as a proposal to the British Isles Council for their meeting in November.

Following the wood up the mat

GH, on behalf of the umpires had submitted the following:

To delete rule 7.14 (b)

No Player will follow their bowl up to the head on the rink mat or at the sides of the rink mat. Players must be warned on the first occurrence as they cross the nearest dead line and on the second offence the bowl will be declared dead.

This proposal was passed: For 6 Against 1

Both successful proposals will be **effective immediately** and the rule book will be updated on the next reprint.

There being no further business, the AGM concluded at 11.25 am.

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Appendix A

WELSH SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION
STATEMENT OF ACCOUNT
FOR THE
YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

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WELSH SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 MAY 2025

LAST YEAR	FIXED ASSETS	COST	DEPRECIATION	WRITTEN DOWN VALUE
23.00	Presidents Chain of Office	378.00	357.00	21.00
501.00	8 Bowling Mats & Equipment	5,104.00	4,653.00	451.00
84.00	Storage Boxes	760.00	684.00	76.00
13.00	2 Heavyweight Jacks & 4 Foot Mats	97.00	85.00	12.00
55.00	½ Share in 2 Mats	600.00	551.00	49.00
60.00	8 Sets of Fenders & Blocks	320.00	266.00	54.00
61.00	New Welsh Flag	295.00	240.00	55.00
1,393.00	4 Mats, 20 Jacks, 20 Foot Mats	4,440.00	3,186.00	1,254.00
456.00	Chairman's Chain of Office	1,060.00	650.00	410.00
2,296.00	4 Mats, 16 Jacks	4,320.00	2,254.00	2,066.00
-----		-----	-----	-----
4,942.00		£17,374.00	12,926.00	4,448.00
		=====	=====	
	CURRENT ASSETS			
3,146.30	Stock in Hand		4,745.80	
19,603.62	Cash at Bank – Current Account		19,499.99	
5,577.93	Cash at Bank – Team Account		17,841.40	
0.00	Petty cash		0.00	
-----			-----	
28,327.85			42,087.19	
0.00	INCOME IN ADVANCE – B.I Solihull room prepayments		8,411.00	
-----			-----	
28,327.85				33,676.19
-----				-----
£33,269.85				£38,124.19
-----				=====
	REPRESENTED BY:-			
	ACCUMULATED FUND			
34,061.96	Balance Brought Forward			33,269.85
-792.11	Surplus / Deficit of Income over Expenditure			4,854.34
-----				-----
£33,269.85				£38,124.19
-----				=====

ACCOUNTANTS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

We have examined the Accounts for the year ended 31 May 2025 which have been prepared from the accounting records and from information and explanations given to us and we certify they are in accordance therewith.

Llewelyn Davies
Chartered Accountants
Yelverton House
St. John Street
Whitland
SA34 0AW

Date: -----

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INCOME & EXPENSE AS AT 31 MAY 2025

LAST YEAR	<u>INCOME</u>	
820.00	Registration Fees	1,615.00
1,960.00	County Fees	2,420.00
2,561.70	Sale of Merchandise & clothing	1,359.50
6,795.00	Players subs	6,907.50
1,946.40	Raffles	2,637.00
13,545.69	Bowls Wales	12,042.80
5,262.00	Club Public Liability & Mat Insurances	5,427.00
18,348.00	Hotel Accommodation & Transport £ 29,898 – 8,411 prepaid)	21,487.00
188.00	Rulebook	40.00
0.00	Payment in error (refunded)	48.00
168.79	Interest Received	220.67
1,079.05	World Bowls repayments	0.00
550.00	Donation – Under 21 (Emma Bevan Trust)	0.00
600.00	B.I. Programme County Donations	0.00
474.00	B.I. Programme sales	242.00
700.00	B.I. Trophy contribution	0.00
100.00	B.I. adverts	500.00
200.00	Shirt sponsorship	0.00
136.00	Natwest compensation	0.00
30.50	Sundries	28.00
3,146.30	Closing Stock	4,745.80
-----		-----
58,611.43	BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD	59,720.27

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WELSH SHORT MAT BOWLING ASSOCIATION

INCOME & EXPENSE AS AT 31 MAY 2025

LAST YEAR		
58,611.43	BALANCE BROUGHT FORWARD	59,720.27
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
2,708.00	Opening Stock	3,146.30
5,335.00	Rink and Venue Hire	5,551.50
300.00	Rent of Storage Boxes/Lockers	300.00
424.59	Purchase of Badges, Stickers,	63.00
3,620.00	Polo Shirts, Ties etc.	3,287.00
3,379.21	Trophies, Medals & Salvers	1,432.76
33,839.14	Hotel accommodation & Transport	32,104.99
200.00	Raffles	100.00
500.00	Top Team Grant	500.00
968.00	Programmes – B.I and Ladies	0.00
3,136.95	Insurances	3,463.99
0.00	Presentation Gifts	143.00
685.00	Selectors expenses	900.00
450.00	Annual Officers payments	450.00
1,880.00	Umpire Expenses	1,330.00
550.00	Depreciation (10%)	494.00
396.00	Accountancy	402.00
700.00	Annual fees (B.I and World)	550.00
50.00	Donation – Barry Sambrook	0.00
0.00	Computer monitor	25.00
0.00	Refunds	53.00
283.65	Stationery & Postage	568.39
0.00	Exchange difference	1.00
59,403.54		54,865.93
-£ 792.12	SURPLUS/DEFICIT OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	£ 4,854.34

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Appendix B – County Rep Reports (in alphabetical order)

Brecon & Radnor (MJR)

There was concern at the start of the playing season as to whether Brecon & Radnor S M B A would continue but it was decided in the end that we keep Brecon and Radnor going as best we can.

As it turned out all the nationals were well played with players reaching the quarter & semi-final stages, triples just missing out on final. Played in Montgomery friendly league – 4th from 8, County Competition, Border Challenge Cup, Charity competitions in Leominster, Carmarthen & Llansamlet, plus the league.

Well done to the 5 members who had been invited to trials for Wales, for main team, 'A' Series, and for the Ladies squad.

As a result of some B & R Players leaving for pastures new we find ourselves in a similar situation in terms of trying to continue with the County for this season, and with this in mind we have put together a new committee, and are trying to attract new members, it is our intention to enter all the competitions and run a league.

So watch this space and wish us lots of luck.

Our New Committee for info

Chair - Mary Jane Rogers

Vice-Chair – Tony Morgan

Secretary – Jan Maynard

Treasurer – Roy Price agreed to remain Treasurer.

Welsh SMBA Rep will be Mary Jane Rogers or Tony Morgan if MJ can't make it to a meeting.

Welfare Officer will be Tracey McAdam.

Red Card Co-Ordinator for Brecon & Radnor will be Tony Morgan

Carmarthen (GE)

The 2024 / 2025 bowls season was again a packed season in Carmarthenshire. The First and Second Divisions contained twelve teams each with the possibility at the start of the season that a newly formed team would also be joining, but decided to defer to next season. Pontargothi were again Champions of the First Division retaining their title while Bro Myrddin were Champions of the Second Division.

We also held our annual Knockout Cup competition which was won by Salem as well as a random pairs competition to kick start the season.

The red card competitions again had bumper entries with 64 in the singles, 40 pairs, 30 triples and 22 rinks. All those that qualified represented the county well in the National Finals in

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Llandrindod with the triple of Aled Edwards, Dafydd Howell and Cennydd Howell becoming the first National Champions from Carmarthenshire in any discipline since 2016.

We entered the County Competition in Llandrindod again this season where a squad of 20 were selected with 4 new caps among them. A narrow loss to both West Glam and Montgomery by a couple of shots saw us finish in a very strong third, with a convincing win over eventual champions Pembrokeshire. Pontargothi also represented the county at the League Winners Competition where they finished third.

On an international level, in October we hosted the Ladies British Isles where 9 ladies were selected for the squad. Deb Matthews, Catrin Williams & Elin Palmer came second in the triples.

The county had high representation in the British Isles Championships in Auchinleck in November with 10 players selected and all received trophies by coming second in their respective disciplines.

Also, in the U21 match against England there were a number of Carmarthenshire youth players included. Thank you to Nick and Liz for their hard work with the U21 team.

Carmarthenshire also held its annual Charity Triples this year in aid of the RNLI Lifeboat Station in Burry Port. 48 triples took part, with 'The Davies Divas' Wyn, Gethin and Darren from Cardigan taking top spot. A total of over £1,800 was raised during the course of the day between entry fees, the target bowls competition, donations, sponsorship and some players returning their prize money.

Finally at the Carmarthenshire County Council – Sports Personality Awards, Aled Edwards was shortlisted and finished as a runner-up in the main Sports Personality category, being beaten by an Olympic gold medallist a similar feat achieved by Jamie Stiles the season prior. A great advertisement for our sport.

Cardigan (DD)

2024/25 was a successful season with a full league resuming of seven teams in our league.

Rhydlewis once again took the title with Manordeifi second & LLndygwydd 3rd. Rhydlewis also won our Knockout Cup competition.

It was nice to see new members joining clubs which is positive for the future of bowls in Cardiganshire with the possibility of 1 more team joining the league for the 2025/ 26 season.

All red cards were once again played in Cardigan Indoor Bowls Club.

Numbers entering had been dwindling but entries were up on the previous year which is encouraging.

All players that represented the County in the Nationals did well with a few progressing to the latter stages of the Competitions.

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We were overjoyed as a County to congratulate Samantha Davies & Darren Davies who won the National Welsh Pairs Championships at Llandrindod & will now represent Wales at the British Championships in Solihull in November.

Cardiganshire sent a County team to the County Finals in February.

We struggled as a County with many of our normal faces unable to attend but we fought well over the weekend with many new faces experiencing the event which is a plus factor for our County.

The County only had 1 player represent the Welsh squad that travelled to Ayr for the British Isles Championships at Auchinleck representing the premier team. We also had 4 players representing Wales at the Youth Championships against England in Solihull and 3 Ladies were selected in the Ladies British Championships at Carmarthen.

During the year many from the County have been invited to trials for both the British & Ladies Championships and as a County we are happy that 5 players have been selected for the British Championships in Solihull and 4 Ladies for the Ladies Championships in Belfast in January.

Our open charity 3 wood event was a huge success once again with a full house of entrants and was won by the Cardiganshire Pair of Samantha and Darren Davies. Many thanks to all who travelled to Cardigan from all other Counties.

We also had a few entries head to Carmarthen for their annual Charity Competition and as a County were overjoyed with Wyn Davies, Gethin Davies and Darren Davies picking up the silverware.

Gerald Hands helped with the umpiring at the British Championships at Auchinleck, and also at the finals in Llandrindod with others from the County.

We also as a County congratulate Gerald on his position over the year as the umpiring Co-Ordinator for the WSMBA

We as a County would like to thank all Officials, Organisers, Umpires, Raffle sellers and all those who help behind the scenes for their hard work throughout the year. Thankyou/ Diolch.

Montgomery (JE)

Montgomeryshire had another stellar year in the 2024/2025 season.

Officers for the season were:

Dave Griffiths - Chairman

Lisa Rees - treasurer and secretary

Peter Rees & Jac Edwards - competition and league secretary

Jac, Chris & Liam - County Selectors

Jac & Chris - County Reps

Overall a successful season with a multitude of new events added into the packed bowling calendar.

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8 teams competed in the league this season with Brecon & Radnorshire's Whitton joining for another season. Castle Caereinion once again won the league alongside their challenge cup (League Cup) Win.

Multiple players were included at an international level for Montgomeryshire. With players in the Main, A series, Ladies & U21 events. With players reaching the latter stages of Welsh nationals once again.

We had a busy tail end of the season with a meeting held to discuss the upcoming season, it was agreed that we would move our hub/ base to Welshpool to allow us to play our county competitions in the indoor rink in the Flash. We believe this will give our county players the best possible chance to play on the same conditions as is seen in the national finals and county weekend.

As a county this season we have made a profit of £750, this has come from the multiple new events we have added to the calendar:

- Challenge Cup
- Montgomeryshire singles
- Shropshire Friendly
- Border County Shield
- Barry Sambrook Pairs
- County practices and events

This upcoming season we are aiming to run a super league for the top 16 players from last season ranking battle it out in Singles. This will be live streamed in order to grow our audience within Powys.

Recently we have obtained 3 new international level bowlers to the county which in turn will improve the level of competition in the county which is always a plus.

We are awaiting final numbers for teams for the season ahead. But early reports suggest we will gain at least one additional team

This season saw the start of our new website, which works alongside our social media pages - we have had several positive comments around this new system as players can keep track of there team and personal performances throughout the season.

It was announced that Lisa Rees would step down from her secretary role for the upcoming season - we are awaiting a nomination for a new secretary.

Finally we would like to thank Craig Evans for representing Montgomeryshire as Welsh chairman. He has done a great job and carried the legacy on for the late Barry Sambrook.

Pembrokeshire (PH)

The main league was decided on the last game of the season with Hook coming out as winners, who then went on to be runners up in the League Winners Competition. The newly

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introduced Gerry Laugharne Memorial League, again went to the last game, and it was The Meads that came out victorious there. There were 2 cups played for over the course of the season and the Tavernspite Double Rink cup was won by Tavernspite and the Pauline Thomas Cup was won by Hook. Congratulations to those clubs.

In the first half of the season, the county squad travelled to Solihull to play in the Top Team Championship. After a good weekend of bowls, Pembrokeshire finished the weekend as runners-up. In February in the Welsh County Championship, after a long weekend of bowls and getting pushed all the way to the final game, we were delighted to successfully defend our title once again.

Just like in previous years, Pembrokeshire were well represented on the international scene with 11 of our players being chosen to represent Wales in the British Isles, the A-Series and the Ladies British Isles. It really is an honour to represent Wales so congratulations to those players selected. Success was had at the National Singles finals which was won by Andrew Hudson and there was also a runners-up spot for Pembrokeshire in the National Rinks final. Congratulations to all the players that managed to win the Pembrokeshire competitions throughout the season and a special mention to Samuel from The Meads for winning the triples, becoming one of, if not the youngest Pembrokeshire player to win one of the competitions.

It has been great this season to see more new players playing our sport and this includes an increase in junior players too. Fingers crossed that this continues over the next season and beyond.

As always, thanks are due to all the officers and volunteers who give up their time in organising, arranging, umpiring and doing all the dogsbody stuff which makes our sport happen and enjoyable for everyone.

Swansea (SW)

Swansea ended the 2024 - 2025 season with 75 registered players, 6 of whom were junior members.

Four teams competed for the league with Cefn Hengoed again taking the title.

Cefn Hengoed then represented the county at the league winners competition, winning the event and becoming Welsh Club Champions.

Swansea again did well at the Welsh Championships, winning the fours and reaching the final of the singles, pairs and triples.

Thirteen Swansea members have been selected to the Welsh squad for the British Isles and a series championships in November and seven have been selected to the ladies squad for their British Isles championships in January.

2024 - 2025 was a challenging season for the county with officer changes and a trial of a new fixture format. As with anything new, mistakes were made and will be learnt from in the hope that the upcoming season will run more smoothly.

It looks like one of our clubs will be entering two teams into our league which will increase the participating number from four to five.

West Glam (WB)

The 2024 – 2025 season was a very successful season for West Glamorgan. As a county, we have been going from strength to strength.

New teams:

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We had a team returning to the league (Hirwaun) after only playing friendlies for numerous years, it was fantastic to see them competing well after finishing middle of the table (6th place). It was also good getting to know the new players and welcoming them to the league as well as having a good catch up with old friends from the club who have been with them for many years. It was also good seeing them have a player (Paul Williams) being successful and securing a spot in the county side.

We have also had a new team join who will be playing out of Birchgrove and another new team who will be playing out of Skewen memorial hall ready for the 2025 – 2026 season. We are looking forward to welcoming them and we wish them the best of luck for the upcoming season.

Umpires:

We have had two players who have passed the umpires course this year:

- Arwel Morgan
- Kate Morgan

It has been good seeing them umpiring games throughout the season getting practice ready for events such as the county red card events.

Special congratulations to Kate Morgan for Passing her course with Garald Hands which enables her to umpire at Welsh Short Mat Bowls events.

I would like to thank all of the umpires who have assisted at the various red card events this year.

I am hoping that this year, we will be able to get some umpires to represent West Glamorgan at some of the Welsh Competitions. Unfortunately, last year all of our available umpires were playing in these tournaments and unable to umpire them.

County championship:

This year saw great success for the county side with us finishing in second place, losing very narrowly to a strong Pembrokeshire County side. This was a massive improvement for the team improving on last years performance where we finished in 5th position. It was fantastic having so many new players in the team this year with a lot of younger players joining the team and showing good potential.

League Winners Competition:

This season, we had Skewen representing the county in the league winners competition. They finished in 5th place, unfortunately this was lower than last year but was good considering that they lost some good players who left to help make some other teams stronger.

A special shout out to Luke Haddon who managed to secure 2nd place in the singles portion of the competition.

Red card events:

This year saw a good turnout to the county red card events, with players from numerous teams competing and having success. There was some very strong competitors this year with some fierce competition from all players and some extremely close games.

Well done to Robert Evans who managed to make it to quarter finals of the Welsh singles competition in Llandrindod Wells, he won all of his games in the group stages but unfortunately lost to Andrew Hudson of Pembrokeshire in the quarter finals.

2024 – 2025 Season:

This year we had an extremely competitive league, there was only 16 points separating the top three teams. Skewen won the league, beating Cwmllynfell by only 6 points. It came down to

CYMDEITHAS BOWLIO MAT BYR CYMRU

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the final game of the season which saw Skewen beat Cwmllynfell 70 shots to 49 shots (8 – 2 to Skewen).

Resolven Rhinos finished only 9 points behind Cwmllynfell which is the difference of one winning game.

Well done to Skewen having finished the season with a shot difference of +1038.

2025 – 2026 Season:

This upcoming season, we will be trialling a new format for our league.

The season will be split into two halves. During the first half of the season, all teams will be playing each other once home and once away to determine the standings of the league. At this point, the league will then split into two halves. The top half of the table will then play each other once again home and away and will be playing for the championship and the chance to represent the county in the league winners competition.

The bottom half of the table will also play each other home and away again and be competing for the plate, we are hoping that this makes the league more interesting and enjoyable for all teams.

We still have a few details to iron out as this is a new concept for us and we are trialling it out but we are hoping that this will become a successful new format for the future of the league.

I would like to thank all of the committee members of both West Glamorgan S.M.B.A and the Welsh S.M.B.A who without the time and effort that they pour into the game, we wouldn't be able to keep the association going. Their commitment to the sport is greatly appreciated.

I would also like to give thanks to all of the umpires who give their time and effort throughout the year to help keep the competitions running smoothly.

Wrexham (MG – on behalf of Peter Kempster)

I was proud of the way that the season started with all teams bowling extremely well.

Our Tuesday pairs league saw last year's winners, Johnstown, retaining the title as clear winners with St Margaret's Saints in second place.

We have members who have achieved some awards: Robin Jones on passing his Umpires exam and Peter Kempster on qualifying as a coach.

Our Monday night singles/pairs/triples league at Ruabon is really starting to pick up with more bowlers wanting to join making the league very competitive.

We also have bowlers who haven't bowled short mat bowls for a number of years, coming back to bowl, which is excellent.

Our National heats resulted in new players qualifying and we have held a few open competitions, which have been successful with players coming from out of county. We went to Llandrindod in January to play a friendly against five other counties, in the Border Challenge. Our newer bowlers found this to be a very exciting and interesting experience, one they are looking forward to again next year.

Since March we have been continuing in Trevor, holding practice sessions and a few new bowlers have found this to be quite productive. During the school holidays we are holding a Thursday afternoon league at Ruabon and currently have 20 players entered.

On Sunday 2nd November we will be holding a 60+ team of ten competition which will be open to all Welsh Counties. (More details to follow).

Wrexham S.M.B.A. are really proud that Moira Griffiths has been selected to play in the Ladies Welsh Squad at Belfast in January 2026.

We wish Moira and the team all the very best.