

Gentlemen,

I have great pleasure and some sadness in submitting to you my report covering the affairs of our Association for the year 2009. This will, of course, be my last report for the BCBA as we will be unifying on the 1st January 2010. I am very grateful to the County Officials for all their help, support and assistance over the last 12 years and again to Ron Gauld for proof reading many of my documents, for which I am very grateful.

Obituary: It is with deep regret that I have to report the following deaths that occurred during the past year. Those I am aware of are: J Bowler (Long Crendon), D East (Flackwell Heath), E Enever (Bletchley St Martins), W Griffen (Marlow), M Kempster (BCBA Past President), G King (Cheddington), L New (Bletchley Town), V Old (Wolverton Town), K Orchard (Waddesdon), J Pearson (Wolverton Park), T Rush (Bradwell), B Sharp (Flackwell Heath), W Wharton (Aston Clinton), T Wiseman (Wendover), B Woods (Bletchley St Martins). There may have been others I am not aware of but our deepest sympathy goes out to all who have lost loved ones.

Membership: We had a total membership of 2113; a decrease of 39 on 2008.

Internationals: Congratulations go to John McGuinness on being selected again this year for International Duty.

Middleton Cup: Well, we finished second again, mainly due to a good win over the Isle of Wight! The final league positions were:

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Points
Kent	3	3	0	0	375	293	56
Bucks	3	1	2	0	333	354	30
Sussex	3	1	2	0	314	340	24
Isle of Wight	3	1	2	0	326	361	22

Middleton Cup flashes were presented to: J Richardson (Princes Risborough), A Pines and K Delaney (Iver Heath)

Home Counties League: The table speaks for itself. Back to the situation where there is very little commitment from a lot of players – up to 15 withdrawing in at least two of the matches! We must move the Kent fixture away from the National Championships week at least, but if there is not the commitment from all players, I see no point in entering the League. Final league positions were:

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Points
Middlesex	6	5	1	0	708	634	100
Surrey	6	4	2	0	717	619	83
Kent	6	4	2	0	611	566	81
Oxfordshire	6	3	3	0	727	681	66
Berkshire	6	3	3	0	585	545	61
Sussex	6	2	4	0	645	741	49
Buckinghamshire	6	0	6	0	525	626	22

Home Counties League flashes were presented to: D Coles, Snr, (Chesham), R Doddington (Iver Heath) & C Kirk (Bletchley Town).

Sponsorship: 'The Friends of Bucks Bowling' was formed last year to provide sponsorship for the Middleton Cup, Home Counties League and the Under 25s. We are grateful for the work done by Brian Richardson in setting this fund up and anyone can join, individual or a Club, by making a contribution – please send any cheques made payable to the BBA to Brian.

Under 25s: It is encouraging to see that the U25s won two of their matches this year. Final positions in the U25 HCL:

	P	W	L	D	F	A	Points
Middlesex	6	5	1	0	504	438	62
Kent	6	4	2	0	458	440	54
Oxfordshire	6	3	3	0	393	374	46
Sussex	6	3	3	0	412	391	41
Surrey	6	2	4	0	467	495	34

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Berkshire	6	2	4	0	463	473	32
Buckinghamshire	6	2	4	0	432	517	25

Under 25 Badges: Presented to: Frankie Bell and Luke Tibby (Iver Heath BC), Chris Bunce and Cameron Halsey (Chesham BC), Andrew Litchfield and Philip Gregory (Aylesbury Town BC), David West (Winslow BC) and Michael Gomme (Gerrards Cross BC).

Under 25 Flashes: Presented to: Jamie Richardson (Princes Risborough) and David West (Winslow).

County Competitions: This resulted in a number of excellent finals at Olney BC with some close finishes and congratulations go to all who reached this stage. County Badges were presented to G Ambler and D Goodin of Wendover BC, D Harvey and M Robbins of Slough BC, M McStay of Long Crendon BC and J Elliott of Chesham BC representing the County in the Under 25 Singles at the National Championships and D Pounds of Marlow BC on winning the Un-Badged Singles competition. A collection for the Benevolent Fund was made by the JVP, Alan Anderson raising £60.00. The total numbers of entries for the main competitions were down for the ninth year running.

Singles 152 (+8) Junior Singles 17 (-3)
 Pairs 191 (-1) Triples 120 (-4).
 Fours 75 (-4) Un-Badged Singles 82 (-6)
 Secretaries Cup 31 (+4) Benevolent Triples 94 (-4)
 Two Wood Singles 44 (+1)

The finals results were as follows:

	WINNERS		FINALISTS
SINGLES	John McGuinness <i>(Gerrards Cross)</i>	21-6	Richard Reid <i>(Gerrards Cross)</i>
PAIRS	Edward Pilgrim Ray Gaskins <i>(Princes Risborough)</i>	26-18	Reg Miles Mick McStay <i>(Long Crendon)</i>
TRIPLES	John McAndrew Paul Seymour Don Savage <i>(Chandos Park)</i>	17-15	David Ross Peter Gosling Kirk Smith <i>(Gerrards Cross)</i>
FOURS	David Dickson Danny Harvey Mark Robbins Breton Long <i>(Slough)</i>	17-16	Gerald Ambler Doug Nash Doug Goodin Mark Nash <i>(Wendover)</i>
UNDER 25's SINGLES	Charlie Bell <i>(Iver Heath)</i>	21-18	Jack Elliott <i>(Chesham)</i>
UN-BADGED SINGLES	Douglas Pounds <i>(Marlow)</i>	21-14	Chris Hopkins <i>(Bletchley St Martins)</i>
SECRETARIES CUP	Mike Cavill <i>(Bradwell)</i>	21-12	Ray Keen <i>(Chesham)</i>

National Championships: Our best endeavour was in the Triples competition when the triple from Gerrards Cross skipped by Kirk Smith reached the semi-finals.

National Competitions: Congratulations to Bob Doddington on reaching the quarter-final of the Over 55 Singles competition.

Home Counties Bowling Association Finals: Well done to Edward Pilgrim and Ray Gaskins of Princes Risborough BC on reaching the final of the Pairs but losing 24-16 to Oxfordshire..

Bucks County Cup/Plate: The finals were played at Denham BC between Bletchley Town and Stony Stratford Bowls Clubs for the Cup and resulted in a win for Bletchley Town BC by 76 shots to 62 and for the Plate between Slough and Woburn Sands and resulted in a win for Woburn Sands by 70 shots to 49. The Plate competition has again proved very popular with many of the smaller clubs. In the semi-finals of the Cup, Bletchley Town beat Gerrards Cross by 73 shots to 61 and Stony Stratford beat Princes Risborough by 65 shots to 58 and in the Plate, Slough beat Wolverton Park by 69 shots to 59

and Woburn Sands beat Amersham by 86 shots to 51. The competition was well organised by the Divisional Secretaries and the final stages by the Competition Secretary, David Throup. Our thanks go to all those Clubs who made their greens and facilities available for the semi-final stages of the competitions, and to Denham Bowls Club for staging the Final.

Two-Wood Singles: The final was played in conjunction with the Bucks Cup between Kirk Smith (Gerrards Cross) and Ian Harvey (Marlow) and resulted in a win for Kirk Smith by 13 shots to 10.

Benevolent Fund Cup: The final was played in conjunction with the Bucks Cup and was won by Woburn Sands BC, represented by Jim Holtom, Barry Wilson and Russell Tucker who defeated Howard Cave, Ray Keen and Keith Patrick of Chesham BC by 17 shots to 13. A collection made for the Benevolent Fund raised £95.80.

League Bowls: Congratulations to the following teams on winning their divisions – Chandos Chokers (Division 1, Northern League), Chandos Park Bouncers (Division 2, Northern League), Stony Scarlets (Division 3, Northern League), Wendover Woods (Division 1, Central League), Aylesbury Ducks (Division 2, Central League), Risboro (Division 3, Central League), Iver Heath (Division 1, Southern League), Denham Dynamos (Division 2, Southern League), Gerrards Cross Rasers (Division 3, Southern League), Burnham (Division 4 Southern League) and Burnham Outcats (Division 5 Southern League). Framed Certificates were presented to all the winners.

Inter County and Association Matches: Bucks played a total of 20 matches, winning only 7, losing 13 – a poor year with 2200 shots for and 2417 shots against. Results:

County	For	Against	County	For	Against
Leicestershire	112	119	Wiltshire	103	129
Middlesex	114	130	Somerset	101	110
Berkshire	90	126	London & SC	109	121
Huntingdonshire	142	109	Norfolk	91	157
Nottinghamshire	103	132	Hertfordshire	123	106
Gloucestershire	96	121	Oxfordshire	111	95
Bedfordshire	119	128	Northamptonshire	119	114
Surrey	122	112	Essex	83	145
Hampshire	121	122	Cambridge	128	112
Warwickshire	105	126	BCWBA	108	103

It is, again, still very disappointing to see members putting their names down for matches and then pulling out after being selected, often at very late notice and placing a lot of work on the Match Secretary. Our thanks go to all those Clubs that allowed the County the use of their greens and facilities during the season and for providing some excellent meals.

County Badges: Blazer badges, in addition to those presented at the County Finals, were awarded to: G Clay (Bletchley Town), C Kirk (Bletchley Town), A Hollis (Newport Pagnell), J Lonergan (Stony Stratford), L Ward (Winslow), L Pearce (Woburn Sands) and R Tucker (Woburn Sands).

Colts Badges: The following members were awarded their Colts Badges having played in their first game against another County Association during the season: M Newman (Aylesbury Town), D Webster (Bassetsbury manor), P West (Broadway), C Kellett (Burnham), C Jeffs (Denham), E Smith (Denham), R Merry (Gerrards Cross), H Russell (Gerrards Cross), B Simmonds (High Wycombe), R Hills (Iver Heath), C Brooks (Marlow), B Russell (Olney), A Atkinson (Princes Risborough), J Cook (Princes Risborough), P Stainforth (Wolverton Town) and K Waller (Wolverton Town).

President's Matches: The President took a team to a total of 12 Clubs during the season winning eleven and losing one with 1445 shots for and 1128 shots against. Again – and I repeat it every year, having been selected, many players still drop out in great numbers and again making a lot more work for the Match Secretary. Nonetheless, our thanks go to all the Clubs visited and their members for the hospitality given to the president and his teams. Special thanks must also be given to all the tea ladies and some men who provided the meals for us. The tea ladies were presented with County pens at all the matches.

Partially Sighted Bowlers: A very enjoyable game was held at Bradwell BC and £201.00 was handed over to the BAB Association. Many thanks for all who contributed prizes to the raffle and to Bradwell BC for hosting the match.

County Tour 2009: This was to Sandown, Isle of Wight with the Headquarters at the Royal Pier Hotel. The tour was a great success, the hotel was excellent and the meals superb. Games were played against the Isle of Wight CBA at Ventnor BC, Bembridge BC, Plessey BC, Ryde Marina BC, Totland Bay BC and Sandown BC with the Tourists winning four matches. The President of the Isle of Wight CBA, Clive Milford together with his Partner, the Treasurer of the Isle of Wight CBA Alan Bugby and his partner attended the gala dinner on the last night as guests of honour. Fines and a raffle raised £579.82 for the President's charity, the Hospice of St Francis.

Coaching: The County Coach, Rod Harvey, carried out a full programme and the following members were successful in obtaining their Certificates under the new Coaching scheme:

Foundation Coach: F Reynolds (Iver Heath) and B Rogers (Chess Vale).

Club Coach: R East, A Squires & R Warwick (Buckingham West End), A Loakes (Chess Vale), P Bullen (Olney), J Miller & R Munday (Aylesbury Town), M Cavill (Bradwell), R Staniford (Wolverton Park) and A Devereaux-Jones (Stony Stratford).

Coach: None.

County Dinner: This was held at the Spread-Eagle Hotel, Thame on Saturday, 24th October. The invited guests were Chris Smith, Senior Vice President of Bowls England together with his wife Glenis, Jean Williams, President of the Bucks CWBA and her daughter Linda and our Auditor Jim Melrose and his wife Jan. The President, Brian Dawkins presented the Competition winners and finalists Trophies and prizes to those in attendance. A trophy for the most improved U25s player was presented to Jack Elliott of Chesham BC. The President then presented the County Cup Shield to the finalists, Stony Stratford BC, the County Cup to Bletchley Town BC, the finalists Plate to Slough BC and the winner's plate to Woburn Sands BC. The total number in attendance was 101, 16 down on 2008. A very enjoyable evening and the thanks of the County must also be recorded to those members who donated the many raffle prizes. The raffle brought in £415.00.

Appreciation: Our thanks go especially to the ladies, and indeed some men, of the Clubs who gave up their time to provide meals at the County matches and final stages of the Competitions. They also go to the Administration Officer, Gavin Holmes for his help, Match Secretary, Ian Harvey, Competition Secretary, David Throup, League Secretary Ray Keen; and to the four Divisional Secretaries, Steve Goff, David Throup, Ian Harvey and Dave Seymour, who once again ensured that the County Competitions progressed through to the Quarter Final stages on schedule. We are also grateful to the Treasurer, Alan Goss who ensured that the finances of the Association were kept on a sound footing. Thanks also to Jim Melrose of Winslow BC, the Auditor, who ensured the books were kept in good order. I would also like to thank Peter Price for his help in ensuring that Umpires were present at all the venues where they were required and to all those who gave up their time to carry out the duties of Umpires and Markers at the quarter-finals, semi-finals and finals of all the County Competitions. To the MC Team Manager Brian Richardson and lastly, but not least, our thanks to David Oxley, assisted by John Fox and Colin Hanson, for managing the Under 25 squad. Finally, the Treasurer and members of the Benevolent Fund Committee, acknowledge with thanks, the various sources of revenue for the Bucks County Benevolent Fund. Donations totalling £118.00 have been received from 2 of the 48 Clubs in the County and £155.80 from collections making a total of £273.80. Any Club or individual wishing to contribute to the fund can do so by sending their donations to the Association Treasurer making cheques payable to the 'Bucks County Benevolent Fund'.

And finally, I'm sure you, like me, would want to remember and thank all those who volunteered the services over the past 95 years to keep the BCBA going. A sincere debt of gratitude is owed to them all.

BCBA – 1914 to 2009. Aged 95 years. RIP.

JL Applegate

Association Secretary, October 2009