



Bowling Federation of Spain

(Lawn Bowls Directorate)

THE WAY FORWARD

The body responsible for the control of all sport in Spain is the National Sports Council (Consejo Superior de Deporte) and this is done through the Sporting Federations, all of which are quasi governmental organizations, funded by Central and or Regional Governments.

The Federations are the governing bodies for all sport, some dealing with one specific activity and others comprising many different activities that have something in common such as the Bowling Federations.

Lawn bowling from its inception and for reasons which we do not need to address here, has been a totally English speaking sport. However, when we decided to get involved in International tournaments, in order to be recognised as a country, we were required by World Bowls to affiliate to a National body. . Due to lack of numbers, both in clubs and membership we were not able to go it alone and thus ended up in the Federacion Española de Bolos and its regional offspring, with a long term objective of establishing an organisation solely for lawn bowls..

Over the years we have developed a reasonable relationship with them but throughout there have been and still are many stumbling blocks. These can be summarised as follows:

1. Language. Obviously the business of the Federations is conducted in Spanish but very few of our members are proficient or confident enough in the language to engage with officers.
2. Pecking order – The Federation is dominated by two games, Bolos Palma which is the national sport in the north of Spain and Ten-pin bowling. These receive the bulk of the Central government's assistance...
3. Funding. The three Federations in 2007 provided 14,000 Euros. A serious problem with all of them is that we do not always receive the money when it is required, generally because the authorities are erratic in the timing of their subventions. This is very stressful for your Treasurer.
4. International events. Funding these is the responsibility of the FEB but they are hampered by the fact that Spanish law requires the members of any team representing Spain internationally to be Spanish nationals. Therefore the National Sports Council is not officially made aware of these activities so that any help we receive is given under the headings of National or Regional tournaments.

It has always been our intention to go it alone as and when circumstances permitted and I feel that the time has come for us to seriously consider our options. Theoretically these are:

- a) Our own Federation. This is a non-starter as the existing Federations have to give their consent to the segregation and they are bound to oppose it as evidenced by the FBCV's recent veto to the establishment of SABA. It should be noted that this was taken by the authorities as an attempt to establish a new Federation as there is no provision in Valencia Sports law for associations.
- b) Establishing a Lawn Bowling Federation in Murcia. According to the FEB, currently there is no bowling federation in the Province of Murcia where sport is under the control of the Town hall. This is a grey area that requires further investigation as the Town Hall does list a Federacion de

Bolos. The requirement for the establishment of a Federation in Murcia is that there should be five clubs playing the sport. .

- c) An Association. Each regional government has its own rules governing the matter, e.g.
 - i) In Andalucia the requirement is that there should be at least one bowling club in each of the regions eight provinces. These rules out lawn bowling as we only bowl in Almeria and Malaga.
 - ii) In Valencia, as mentioned above, there is no provision for Associations as in a group of Clubs. Associations are interpreted as clubs and registered as such as is the CBBA.

The statutes for Federations, Clubs and Associations (where they exist) are similar. I am also advised by the FEB that in the absence of a body in a particular region, members of a club can be registered with the body of an adjacent region...

I would therefore have no hesitation in suggesting that the CBBA can be the nucleus of a National Association for Lawn Bowling in Spain. We would require the approval of World bowls to the change. To avoid any raised eyebrows in the Federations I would also suggest that the Association continues to be known by its abbreviated CBBA in lieu of Costa Blanca Bowls Association... A footnote on any headed notepaper would say "CBBA is the registered name for the Lawn Bowling Association of Spain

Future funding of the CBBA must be considered carefully if we are to replace the assistance currently received from the Federations. We should also bear in mind the increasing difficulty in finding sponsorship for major events which perhaps should also become the responsibility of the governing body.

A scheme based on current practice in the UK would appear most appropriate with clubs paying a Capitation Fee for every member. This would have an element for the main committee which would take over our commitment to World bowls and a small addition for regional committees in Almeria, North and South Alicante and Malaga. A further element is the accident insurance currently provided by the Federations. I have requested a quotation.

Needless to say that whatever level of fees is agreed we shall get use of 100% of the money as we will not have to bear the cost of the Federation's overheads.

Tony Winterton.
Treasurer N.E.C.
7TH. April 2008