



2018 BTBA Annual General Meeting Minutes

Saturday 26th May 2018 2pm

1. Roll Call. See appendix 1**

2. To approve minutes of the 2017 AGM

Proposed A. James. Seconded: L Squib

Minutes accepted for 25 against 0 abstain 0

3. To receive and approve financial statements and balance sheet

Proposed L. Buckland. Seconded: E. Ashton

Minutes accepted for 25 against 0 abstain 0

R. Griffin explain the reason for the move to a new calendar year accounting schedule, and how the monthly membership accruals worked

K. Iredale should we not change the membership year to the same?

New members can now join for a full year from any date.

4. To review the appointment of the chairman

Mr. Ron Griffin confirm he would be ending his term at the end of the meeting and the National Council had unanimously approved the executive choice of Mr. Martin Webster to be the new Chairman for the 2 Year term

***S Herbert** enquired as a point of order why the members were not given an opportunity to see the CV of the proposed new chairman, Mr Griffin explained the process of the official AGM and it was also explained by K. Parslow that the selection had come from the officers of the BTBA and they made their decisions on behalf of the members. S. Herbert withdrew his objection

Proposed P LeManquis. Seconded: D. Steiner

Minutes accepted for 25 against 0 abstain 0.

D. Steiner has resigned as Vice Chairman, he has also stood down as Head of Governance and Legal. All due to personal reasons.

L. John was Proposed as Vice Chairman to the National Council and this was accepted.



5. To receive the 2018 Annual Report

Membership price:

Junior Under 22	£15.00
Standard	£22.50
Gold Card	£42.50

Within the new membership fees is a funding amount going to the NAYBC from every member under 22 years of age.

Junior Under 22	£5.00
Standard	£6.00
Gold Card	£7.50

Contributions to Local Association would be reviewed

L. John. Membership is currently c 6150, but approximately 1500 are showing as lapsed.

Proposed M. Smith. Seconded: C Bruton

Minutes accepted for 25 against 0 abstain 0

6. To review/Accept proposals for the change and amendments to the articles of association. None proposed.

7. To provide responses to members questions received in writing at Head Office on or before 18th May 2018

Lancashire

1. Can the BTBA confirm as to whether pins on strings centres can be sanctioned as it seems new bowling centres are going this way?

The National Council has agreed that we will not be treating string pin centres any differently to free fall centres but will continue to monitor scoring patterns on an ongoing basis.

We will sanction string centres. This will only be on full size lanes complying with the World standards. This will require, as in standard free fall pin centres, that the owner/manager requests a lane inspection.

2. BTBA members bowl on sanctioned lanes but not in a sanctioned league. Why can they not qualify for any awards?

High Scores Awards are only issued during BTBA Sanctioned Play, where bowlers are playing under the rules of the BTBA. When playing in unsanctioned leagues, they are not covered by our rules and therefore cannot qualify for our awards.



<p>3. Will the BTBA be adopting the changes that the USBC are implementing?</p> <p>Yes, the BTBA will be adopting the changes that the USBC are implementing. Balance holes will not be allowed during sanctioned play from 1st August 2020. We are also aware of some discussions going on in the industry about these changes, but we are all agreed that we will adopt the rules.</p> <p>Full details of the changes to these rulings will be available on the website.</p>

Kent

<p>4. Why is the tournament sanction a download and not an online form that would be quicker and easier to complete?</p> <p>At the time of answering, we are in the process of updating the website to an online form for tournament sanctioning.</p>
<p>5. Why does centre sanction matter for tournament sanctions? It's in the process to check for one and the level, but not on the sanction form. Why are events sanctioned in non-sanctioned centres (ones that do not appear on the list)?</p> <p>The centre grading is checked by Jerry Moll as part of the tournament sanction process. The reason it matters is to give bowlers who do not play in that centre some assurance of the standards being achieved. Local bowlers will already be well aware of their centre's condition.</p> <p>Non-sanctioned centres can apply for a 'moral' sanction.</p>
<p>6. Why are centres with wood lanes given Gold status, the description against these says "Potential for International sanctioned tournaments" but international tournaments are never played on wood?</p> <p>The centre grading is based 95% on measurement taken and fed into a spreadsheet. This has and continues to be, reviewed by the BTBA technical Committee. It is the only way to assure like for like conformity. Whilst we accept that it is highly unlikely for any international to be played on wood that does not mean to say the centre does not meet the international measurements standard to a high 'gold' level.</p>
<p>7. Are you going to follow the Australian association and create a new division for string pins? These machines are not the same as normal bowling (no matter what the manufacturers say), but they are coming (a Kent centre is moving to these soon) the Australian approach would allow current members to remain as members instead of losing them. This approach would also keep the integrity of the sport by recognising it as different.</p> <p>http://www.tenpin.org.au/index.php?id=760&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=1925&cHash=d4ffad647a</p>
<p>Answered in question 1. We are not treating them differently</p>



<p>8. Why does the NAYBC still exist and why do Youth Bowling Clubs not sit under BTBA Club bowling? What do the NAYBC actually do for grassroots clubs?</p>
<p>The NAYBC is the National Association of Youth Bowling Clubs of the BTBA and has been for over 50 years. The main purpose is the provision of grassroots clubs (Youth Bowling Clubs), National Tournament circuits, the Junior Triple Crown and the Junior Nationals (still one of the biggest events in Europe), and this provides much needed fundraising for the youth.</p> <p>Recent years has seen the expansion of the age group to include any player under 22, and this brings us in line with ETBF and Sport England.</p> <p>BTBA club bowling will support and gain resources from the NAYBC when available, it will then feed members into the YBC's.</p> <p>The BTBA needs a youth division, showing UK sport and other parties that it has primacy over the youth division on this sport.</p>
<p>9. Why is my year of birth shown with my name in the online search? I didn't give permission for this.</p>
<p>Your year of birth is shown on the online search to allow tournament managers to identify you. For example, if you have entered a senior tournament, the tournament manager can verify that you are eligible to participate. It also helps us to identify individuals when members may have the same name.</p>
<p>10. The rules give 100% handicap as the preferred model, I noticed this on a BTBA tour event recently. What impact did this have on entry numbers and the results? Should this be adopted everywhere?</p>
<p>The use of handicap levels are 'recommended' by the BTBA, many leagues and tournaments set their own levels for handicap, this is set out in their league constitution and entry forms. In terms of entry levels, we wanted to use 100% handicaps as it fits in with the ethos of the BTBA Tour being one where bowlers of all abilities can compete equally. We trialled it at the first event of the year to gauge opinion. We received no negative responses so have rolled it out for every BTBA Tour tournament in 2018. Until 2018 is completed we cannot run a comparison on entry numbers or results.</p>

London

<p>11. We have noticed that over the years the BTBA have had the habit of announcing things at the BTBA AGM. While some announcements are welcomed some are questionable, but members and county representatives are unable to ask questions due to questions having to be submitted in advance. Please can the BTBA either make announcements prior to the AGM or allow questions on the day to deal with this very one sided way of dealing with members?</p>
<p>Where actions are being taken that require approval from delegates etc we do provide advance information in the form of detailed proposals that list the details of the proposal</p>



and explain why the action is required. Plus, a recommendation from the National Council about which should be accepted, and which denied. Items where information is being distributed are left to the day of the AGM so that everyone has the opportunity to hear the information at the same time. If time permits on the day we do allow additional questions to be asked.

Members have the opportunity to communicate with the National Council at all times through their Local Association and Regional Officer and do not necessarily need to wait until the AGM to ask questions.

12. There is also a concern about tournament scheduling. Why are the senior nationals clashing with the supposed area championships?

We do try not to clash wherever we can but we have a limited number of weekends and a limited number of centres where we are able to run events so it's unfortunate but inevitable that some will clash.

There is no longer a set date for area championships.

13. Please can we ask that the BTBA ensure that ICC fees are discussed and consulted with counties before being implemented? We understand that fees and costs increase but this needs to be done with the counties in an open and transparent way rather than just a fee increase.

For county rounds and finals we are unable to find bowling centres that give out 'cheap' rates anymore. In fact, trying to find a venue that will hold the counties and is up to scratch is becoming increasingly difficult. Increases to fees are mainly to do with lineage. Inter County secretaries are always happy to share with counties the lineage fees that are charged. It is not always possible to share this before the letters are sent.

14. It would be nice to see something back for our membership fees. There was a newsletter, will there be another? What are the plans for the BTBA to give something tangible back to members? Each member was able to apply for high score and achievement awards which came free with the membership, at least this was something, but this has now transferred to the NAYBC and now costs each member £1 for each badge.

We have been undergoing major changes with our website and communications streams this year. With the new GDPR rules that will now be in place, we have had to review our communications to members. We are going to increase communications with our members through the opt in email program launched this week.

By give something back we assume that you don't mean:

- Provide support and guidance to league secretaries and tournament managers to ensure fair play
- Provide insurance cover so that your league prize fund is protected and that all coaches and officials have personal indemnity and public liability insurance
- Provide a licensing program to ensure that YBC's are a safe place for junior bowling to be developed



- Provide coaching and technical support to allow people to progress and develop their skills to the best of their ability
- Oversee and manage more than 100 local tournament and over 50 National tournaments a year
- Support 100 plus volunteers who are providing services to the sport so that every member can continue to participate.
- Provide a grant scheme to help Local associations develop bowling in their community

In addition to all the work that we do on behalf of the members we are constantly striving to create partnerships with outside companies to be able to give something back to our members, but this is not a quick process, and is constantly ongoing. We have asked members on many occasions what they would like for their membership, but thus far have had no sensible or achievable responses.

High score award certificates are available for all members through the BTBA, and additional awards are currently under review by the Director of Membership Services. High score badges are available through the NAYBC.

15. Can we have the web analytic stats for the BTBA and membership websites? How much are these sites used?

The BTBA website moved hosts earlier this year so web stats are only available from March 2018 until now. The website receives approximately 13,000 visits a month, of which approximately 7,950 are unique. It is our intention to install Google Analytics for more accurate tracking, but this is not an immediate priority.

We are unable to obtain the web stats for the membership website, however this is frequently used to renew memberships, join the organisation and to check memberships.

16. Given a number of proprietors are now installing pins on strings, what are the BTBA plans for sanctioning of these centres/venues? Will there be a requirement for lane conditioning?

See Q1. Lane conditioning is a matter for the centre. That said if they are not conditioned or able to be then this would be reported at the lane inspection as this would accelerate damage to the lane surface.

17. What is the situation with the MFA partnership? MFA have not exactly been helpful in their upkeep of lanes and centres with some falling into dire repair. Will the BTBA be looking for another partnership with MFA or another proprietor? While there has been some benefit to bowlers in cheap bowling or locker hire it sends a poor sign of endorsement by the BTBA of MFA's behaviour and centre up keep.

We are in negotiations with MFA to continue the partnership agreement for another two years whereby BTBA members receive discounts at MFA Centres, and are talking to them regarding the upkeep of their centres and also to have their lanes certified and centres sanctioned.



Other proprietors are also offering discounts to members and we are continuing to formalise these relationships and details will be released as soon as these discussions have been finalised.

Berkshire

18. The BTBA are giving exemptions to YBCs to allow them to run in unsanctioned centres. However, this then prevents the members from accessing BTBA services such as high score recognition. Where YBCs are already struggling to recruit and retain members, this is just another disincentive for youth bowlers to continue engaging with the sport. What can the BTBA do to help offer the same membership services to BTBA members whose only option is to play in a YBC in an unsanctioned centre?

This is constantly under review by the National Council. At present we are permitting YBC's to continue within uncertified centres in order for them to be able to maintain their BTBA sanctioning. As the lanes are not certified, our high score awards are not available to members. However, members/YBC's can still purchase high score award badges through the NAYBC which is the same as those YBC's in certified centres.

We are not aware of any other services not available to members in unsanctioned centres.

19. Berkshire struggles with recruiting youth bowlers having only one YBC. The sport is male dominated across the board, and our numbers of female bowlers are not enough to form a female county team in any of the age divisions, yet NAYBC rules require youth bowlers to "Make themselves available for their County in the relevant age group" to qualify for JTE. What can the BTBA/NAYBC do to help those who want to compete at county & national level, but are restricted by factors outside of their control? Would there be a chance of allowing mixed teams to compete in county events?

The rules state that "a player must make themselves available for their relevant County", if that county does not have a team then that criteria cannot be used against any player.

The Women's National Council (WNC) has been reformed, but the response to our adverts for anyone to be involved was disappointing, we all agree we need to promote girls and women events by showcasing the sport and social benefits available, and anyone wishing to get involved please contact our WNC chair, Helen Tamblyn.

Dorset

20. What is the role of a Regional Officer?



The Regional Officer is primarily a communication stream between the Local Associations and the National Council, allowing LA's the opportunity to promote ideas and suggestions to the Council and filtering information back to LA's from the Council.

21. Membership - What is the BTBA doing to increase numbers?

The BTBA has been working and investing in a school's programme for the last 18 months. We suffered a setback when our bid writer fell very ill, but we are again moving forward, with a target to launch in 2019.

We have successful trials running in a few independent centres and are in talks with a major national chain.

Once we have got this underway our next target is the senior community, there are already potential sponsors for this.

We are developing a Youth National Council, and planning for Youth Regional Councils, the BTBA will be promoting this with Sport England and supporting it with governance assistance and regional events.

22. Publicity - What is being done nationally to publicise Bowling?

As always, publicising bowling on a national scale is an uphill battle. We routinely send out press releases of our successes to the press and media and some connections are being made, for example BBC Breakfast, The Guardian and The Georgey Show on BBC Radio. We're also trying to engage more with national bodies, such as UK Anti-Doping and this week we supported their second national Clean Sport Week.

We are continuing to build a relationship with Matchroom Multisport, the team behind the Weber Cup. As the only televised event in the UK, we are keen to promote the event on our channels and use it as an opportunity to showcase our sport.

Finally, we need your help! We are really keen to hear from our members with any stories they have about their time in the sport, whether this is flying the flag for England, celebrating 60 years on the lanes, or about how bowling has changed your life. These are all things that we would like to publish not only on our own website, but also turn into press releases to generate some media interest.

Middlesex

23. Can you renew your membership BEFORE it expires?

Yes, memberships can be applied for 30 days in advance of your renewal date.

24. Will there be an auto-reminder email sent out when renewal is due?



There is already an auto-reminder email sent out one month prior to renewal dates, and a second email when the renewal date has been reached. If a member has not received this reminder it is because we do not have their email address registered on the database and they will need to email admin@btba.org.uk

25. Where are the Minutes of National Council meetings published?

A page has been added to the BTBA website on the "About" menu. Minutes from National Council meetings will be published here. The minutes from the last meeting in April are now live.

Buckinghamshire

26. Membership - there were database changeover issues which resulted in quite a number of lapsed members - that this issue now been resolved? and have any other issues been identified?

There were a few teething problems during the changeover of databases, but these have now been resolved. We are not aware of any other issues at this time.

As mentioned in the Annual Review, League Secretaries are now able to take a much more proactive role in administering their leagues and it is very important that they check their members on a regular basis to ensure they are still current. This alone will help iron out some issues that members may face.

27. Membership - we have a few bowlers in Bucks with no email addresses - how will the BTBA keep in touch with them regarding any news / updates / membership queries?

We will continue to post news articles on our Website/Facebook/Twitter and rely on the Local Associations to keep members up to date.

Sussex

28. Do Hall of Famers receive a free life membership? If not, why?

Life membership is in the power of the council for services to the association and not necessary linked to the Hall of Fame.

The Director of Membership services will review the process for Life Memberships in due course.

Hampshire

29. Will centres with, or being converted to, string pin be sanctioned?



There is no reason why they cannot be sanctioned, providing they meet specification.

Answered in question 1.

30. What happens to leagues if the centre converts and they want to stay?

Nothing will change, leagues would continue be sanctioned.

8. A.O.B.

Do we have a list of non-sanctioned leagues and non-members?

LJ: we do not have any lists of non-sanctioned leagues or non-members

HT: then presented **Educare** (copy of presentation available on BTBA website), the BTBA has invested in this online training to ensure we meet our Safeguarding, and other legal requirements together with a list of other courses that will help all licence holders.

All National Council and Executive members must qualify with Educare, an Educare licence will be made available to all YBC's and Coaching Council.

Other training licences are available via BTBA at minimal cost, and all coaches should use the opportunity to update their Personal Development Profile.

Discussion followed on allocation of licences.

G Taylor said £8.00 for 4 modules is not a minimal cost, RG explained that that covers 3 years.

BTBA thanks Karen Costello for her work in securing, administrating and promoting the Educare Safeguarding project, and congratulate her on the birth of a healthy son.

15:15 Meeting Closed

Appendix 1 ** Attendees from Roll Call

Executive: Ron Griffin (RG) Chairman, Terry Searle (TS) Minute Taker, Martin Webster (MW), Lisa John (LJ), Jo Cundy (JC), Dave Steiner (DS)

National Council: **Neville Nock** (NN), Andy Penny (AP), **Helen Tamblyn** (HT), **Paul LeManquis** (PM) **Daniel Bonfield** (DB), **Will Line** (WL), Mark Stoner (MS)

Apologies Karen Costello



2018 BTBA AGM Delegates

Local Association	Delegate 1	Delegate 2	Delegate 3
Bedfordshire	Tina Spence	Neil Hunter	
Berkshire	Sarah Hood	Chelsea Piggot	
Buckinghamshire	Karen Parslow	Kat Allen	
Dorset	Lynn Squibb		
Essex	Alan Smith	Ruth Molineaux	Malcolm Glover
Gloucestershire	Sandy Church		
Hampshire	Emma Ashton		
Hertfordshire	Linda Buckland		
Kent	Simon Herbert		
Lancashire	Ruth Rathbone	Trevor Lamprell	
London	Matt Smith	Gemma Taylor	
Middlesex	Tracy Lofty	Andy James	
Norfolk	Steph Tilson		
Northamptonshire	Craig Ellis		
Oxfordshire	Peter Fyles	Ken Iredale	
Shropshire	Walter Taylor	Paul Williams	
Staffordshire	Megan Scott		
Surrey	Chloe Bruton	Lee Crosby	
Sussex	Will Line		
Warwickshire	Steve Bose		
Yorkshire	Mike Cunnings	Eddie Rowe	Mark Stoner
Life Members	Brian Molineaux		

Key

* **Voting Delegates** * **did not attend**



Open Question Session

GDPR

Following a discussion on the impact of GDPR **HT** responded, The BTBA will be doing an audit of what data is held by the officers and membership, then offer support and advice on GDPR, the Information Commissioners Office has suggested it would not be seeking prosecutions to organisations that working towards full GDPR compliance.

K. Iredale How much did the BTBA lose from its dealings with Marcus Buckley Bennion?

RG / MW: The total exposure was £11K, we have had no success in recovering the debt.

KI What is being done to recover the debt? **MW** we informed the police of the issue, and when we found his whereabouts the police arrested him at the airport, following investigations we were informed that there is not enough evidence for the DPP to proceed, and we were not the only company owed monies.

Megan Scott: What is the BTBA policy on Do Not Resuscitate requests, and what should we be doing?

TS: the BTBA has no policy on DNR, it is outside our scope

Craig Ellis: what is the size restriction for sponsorship on county shirts, as he would like to sell as much sponsorship as possible

JC: the only restriction we apply is that the county name must be the predominant thing on the back of the shirt, but we have no restrictions on the front or the sleeves.

The **MFA tournament** did not take place this year, as the BTBA did not feel it is the right time to implement it.

MW: Explained that the deal with MFA was to ensure the discount passed to members exceeded to cost of membership. It was also conceived as a way to ensure all MFA centre leagues were sanctioned.

RG: said how proud he was to have served as your Chairman for the last 4 years, that along with numerous other roles over the years has brought him much pride in the BTBA, and the journey he has led us on to financial stability and open structure.

This could not have been done without the hard work of the Executive and support of the National Council, special thanks must go the **TS** and **LJ** for there ongoing hard work and hours of dedication.

A distinct thanks to my Vice Chairman **DS**, for his support over the years.

MW: we all need to thank RG for his years of hard work and dedicated service, especially for bringing the BTBA from where it was 4 years ago to its current forward-looking condition.



MW: My background is marketing and I am a former marketing Director, and that skills base will enable me to lead the BTBA into a growth agenda over the coming years.

15:45 Meeting closed