



AGM 2019

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the ASSOCIATION**

held on Saturday 25th May 2019 at 2:00 pm

at Birmingham Heartlands Hospital Education Centre.  
Bordesley Green E, Birmingham B9 5SS

The meeting started with the Chairman, Martin Webster (MW) welcoming everyone to the 2019 AGM.

Membership Director Lisa John (LJ) introduced the nominations for life memberships;

John Meades

Pam Maberley

Jacqui Cooper

Brian Dudman

Gary Oakley

Dave Steiner

Lisa John

There were many varied and various reasons for the nominations, and we thank them all for their contributions.

We would like to recognise the dedication and hard work from many of our members and this year's awards went to **Mr Dave Steiner** and **Mrs Pam Maberly**, they were thanked for all that they do.

1. **Roll call.** appendix 1
2. **To approve Minutes of the 2018 AGM**

Minutes approved proposed Matt Smith. Seconded Will Line. Voting unanimously accepted as correct **For 19 against 0**

### **3. To receive and approve Financial Statements and Balance Sheet**

Treasurer **Ron Griffin (RG)** set out the highlights, the forecast was to be in the black by the end of the year, but we ended up with an overspend of £20K, there was an extra event added this year, together with many people not renewing due to misunderstanding of the new system and a loss of £5K in the coaching and education explained the variance to budget.

The plan for 2019 has an expected increase in membership and revenue from coaching and education, £5K development cost is included, and expected growth with the school's program.

#### **Questions**

A: **Ken Iredale.** Page 3 of the accounts show a loss of £17,8K can you explain how?

RG. The £15k development cost for the school's program has been left in the books as an expense, and the Triple Crown expenses are now shown in a separate line

B: **Neil Taylor.** The admin costs on page 7 of the AGM document do not add up the same as the accounts.



RG the AGM document shows the plan for 2019.

3: **Dave Steiner.** With the accounts moving to calendar year will that change the date for the AGM. (Discussion followed where a straw poll was held with the majority wanting to move from the bank holiday weekend.)

**RG** the timing is still good as it allows more time to prepare the accounts, and enough time to send the accounts

Accounts accepted as true and correct Proposed. Ken Iredale. Seconded Emma Ashton. Voting unanimously accepted as correct. **For 19 against 0**

#### 4. To receive the 2019 BTBA Annual Report

**LJ** explained that over many years she has heard members asking “What they got” for their money, apart from all the obvious support from the Executive, National council, regional officers, area secretaries, league officers, technical team, insurances and playing rules to name a few she has now secured a new membership benefit.

**LJ** announced the BTBA has signed an agreement with **Tastecard**, this is a discount card for food accepted in many famous restaurants, the full cost of the card is £79.00. the card is available to all standard and gold members, there will be a new supporter’s membership that will also get a Tastecard and will be priced at only £10.00.

Questions **W Taylor**, some people have renewed their membership early and their expiry was the 1<sup>st</sup> June, all memberships starting from the 1<sup>st</sup> June will receive a unique number giving access to one year’s membership for Tastecard.

**John Law.** Why has the junior membership gone up by £5.00, the other has only gone up by £2.50?

**Simon Herbert** Chair of the NAYBC (SH) explained that the NAYBC has restructured its membership fees in response to answers in their recent survey, the new fee is the only one that any junior will pay, there is no longer any fees for joining the NAYBC or requirement for separate membership for tour events. The survey will also bring about many new initiatives that will be part of the NAYBC program for 2019/2020. All clubs were invited to a NAYBC presentation today to review the survey results and proposed initiatives.

**Neil Taylor.** Is the Tastecard valid from when you renew as some people already have card memberships

**LJ.** A code will be sent to members when joining or renewing after the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019, that code is valid for the member to use for a one-year Tastecard and can be entered for up to one year from receipt.

Annual report is accepted Proposed. Eddie Rowe. Seconded Emma Ashton. Voting unanimously accepted the report. **For 19 against 0**



**5. To review/accept proposals for change and amendments to the Memorandum and Articles of Association**

No changes were proposed, but MW said there were a few that would be discussed soon.

**6. To provide responses to Members' questions received in writing at Head Office**

Normally this would be presented by the National Council members but this year it was felt that it would be better if it was presented by one person **Jo Cundy (JC)**

2019 AGM Questions

<b>Middlesex</b>	
1	Can we (associations) see the agenda of Meetings beforehand? For example what subjects are liable to be discussed & voted on at a Think Tank.
	There is a generic agenda for the County Think Tank. JC also asks that counties send in any questions or proposals prior to the meeting. Not all proposals or areas of discussion would be listed on an agenda as they may come through the discussions taking place at the meeting. Each age group has a section on the agenda and matters can arise through discussions. Any subject linked to county bowling may be discussed and voted on if required at the think tank. Every county is invited to send a representative and the last think tank was a very positive meeting. Not all outcomes are welcomed but they are not always set in stone, adjustments can be made if required at the next think tank.
2	Who determines the list of Nominees for "Bowler/Team of the Year" awards? There were some surprises last year in terms of people that were nominated - and people that were not. Is there scope for Counties to make a supplementary nomination?
	Please refer to the 2019 Annual Review section 5.8 for full details.
<b>Yorkshire</b>	
3	A few years ago, the BTBA mentioned it was looking at other avenues to help increase membership including affiliated membership such as through the deaf bowling association, blind bowling association and with a focus to try and work with schools more as part of their PE lessons. How is this progressing and what if any successes have there been which could be mirrored at a local association level.

	<p>We have concentrated on the school's programme but have met with many and varied blockages, the main issue was the funding with both the bid writers and access to government schemes changing over the initial period. There is a regional trial due to launch but again this has been delayed.</p> <p>We have met with a few councils with positive responses, the issue is getting the students to the centres.</p> <p>Affiliated memberships are still an ongoing project.</p>
4	<p>The BTBA through a couple of YBCs some time ago had success with funding gained through Club Mark. Has there been any further success in obtaining funding from the government or local authorities since and is there any guidance and support for local associations who may wish to pursue this avenue for funding?</p>
	<p>The Clubmark scheme is still available as the accreditation part of Club Matters from Sport England. There are several requirements that a club must meet in order to be Clubmark accredited. At the time of writing there are no clubs that meet the Clubmark requirements (although several did achieve accreditation in the past this has now lapsed).</p> <p>As part of the NAYBC modernisation programme we are asking all YBCs to join Club Matters and are providing support with this process via our Club Development Managers. Once a club has signed up, and started a club improvement plan, they will have access to all the tools they need to make themselves fit for funding and will be able to apply to their County Sports Partnership and Local Authority for funding.</p> <p>For example, many County Sports Partnerships will have a coaching bursary and may be able to pay up to half of the cost of sending a coach on a course. Other funding avenues will be supported by the Club Matters modules in Club Finance, Club Management, and Club Marketing.</p> <p>Although we are rolling this out to YBC's, there is no reason why a local association couldn't register as a Sports Club and complete the modules and an improvement plan to open up funding opportunities.</p>
5	<p>What work, if any, is being undertaken to review the various tournament calendars across all age groups, to provide space for local associations to develop their squads.</p>
	<p>We have an unofficial tournament calendar team that spends a considerable amount of time trying to pull together a joint Adult and Senior calendar that takes into account quite a number of UK and European events. It should be noted that the only time that we prohibit other tournaments is on the weekends when we are running the Nationals. We also have fixed dates for the ICC events so they are automatically added to the calendar.</p>

	<p>We then start to gather information about the next year anytime after August and we try to get the first draft up on the website by the beginning of November so that everyone has a chance to plan their own personal calendar. This also gives us time to start to resolve any obvious clashes for dates. Priority for dates is normally given to the major BTBA events and Tours. This is because they need to organise the full tour and not just individual events.</p> <p>People have suggested that the calendar is too full but we are still seeing a huge appetite for even more events.</p> <p>Local Associations are free to hold additional events and have them entered onto the calendar or they contact one of the Tour managers and request that their local centre be considered for a major event. In the central region, local associations are actively encouraged to arrange challenge matches with neighbouring counties. We have seen Cambridgeshire, Northamptonshire, Oxfordshire and Bedfordshire arrange regular challenge matches over the last couple of years. This helps develop their county squads and prove useful in team selection. They also raise much needed funds through raffles and tombola's that are held on the day.</p> <p>In terms of reviewing calendars when scheduling these events. There are many factors to consider. The primary one is the tournament managers own availability to run these events. They are run by volunteers and they must fit the events in around their own personal diaries. You also have to factor in the bowling centres availability, and once you have a list of dates that are open, you can review the calendar and see if there are any notable clashes. Unfortunately, clashes will always happen. But these should not always be seen as a negative, rather as a positive. I think we would always prefer too much choice, rather than too few events on the calendar.</p> <p>We used to include the Junior events on the same calendar, however we stopped doing that 2 years ago because the audience is quite divided and it just made the whole thing very cluttered. The NAYBC has been looking at the youth bowling calendar as part of the ongoing reform and modernisation program announced with the appointment of Simon Herbert as Chair and the subsequent changes to the committee. There will be a number of changes to the NAYBC Tours, including changing the number of tour events and freeing up weekends to allow for local events including training. These changes will be announced, and the new season calendar will be published, as soon as possible.</p>
6	<p>Given that the ICC's at all major levels are 4 or 5 man teams (under 12's as an exception) what focus is the BTBA taking to develop more team events?</p>
	<p>The BTBA tour is a series of 11 events. Of which 3 have a 4 person team element to them, 1 is a trios, and 2 are doubles. So, from the 11 events, 7 of them have a team element to them. The BTBA tour events also empower the local associations to run the tournament that they think works best, whether that be 4's, Trios, Doubles or Singles. We have seen in the numbers that the Trios and 4's tournaments are well supported, and</p>



	<p>we encourage all tournament managers to consider these formats. It is also worth noting that internationally the team event is usually England's strongest with the Junior Girls recently winning gold in the European Championships for a 3rd year in a row, and only a few years ago the Adult Ladies won back to back European titles.</p> <p>Also on the calendar is the popular Bowlrite 6's as well as South East County Challenge, and Southern and Midland Scratch leagues. Team events should not only be promoted at a National level but also at a Local Level and Local Associations are encouraged to drive this themselves by holding county challenge matches.</p>
7	<p>What suggestions does the BTBA have for increasing participation at a grass roots level for local associations, particularly within the female age groups given they seem less supported nationally?</p>
	<p>The Women's National Council has been discussing ways in which we can increase participation of women and girls, especially at the grassroots level. Issues identified as barriers include childcare and cost. An idea discussed is the introduction of a "bring a friend" style tournament to encourage those who haven't considered bowling before to have a try. Work does need to be done to liaise with local associations about how we can support ideas going forward.</p> <p>The current Executive has three women holding positions of the six available.</p> <p>We have promoted the Sport England "Us Girls" initiative and look forward to relaunching the Women's National Championship.</p> <p>There is a requirement for regional promotions for membership that we would like to get started with the regional groups this summer.</p>
<p><b>Cambridgeshire</b></p>	
8	<p>Why is the AGM on a bank holiday weekend every year, it doesn't work for a lot of people?</p>
	<p>There is no real reason for the AGM to be held on a bank holiday weekend. It has traditionally been held at this time of year as it was specifically opted for by the AGM meeting as the best date available without conflicting with the tournament calendar. We could move it if everyone agreed at the meeting that it would be better.</p>
9	<p>What does the BTBA offer its league members? I'm unable to sanction any leagues locally as the league bowlers do not see any benefits. Locally we offer cheap/free practice sessions as well as putting money towards travel for county players. A lot of League bowlers are not interested in this and feel the BTBA funds the elite.</p>



	<p>Please see the membership section of the Annual Review for the latest Membership Benefit. This is in addition to the support already provided by the BTBA to all members.</p> <p>An element of funding does go to the National Team, but this is far less than in previous years while we invest in our grassroots bowlers.</p>
10	<p>String pin sanction, I have had feedback from bowlers saying they don't understand why the BTBA has sanctioned strings in the same way with same rules as free fall. Many people have pointed out that the strings can take out the pins, the strings being part of the machine making this illegal pinfall. Is there any response from the BTBA on these points that have been consistently raised?</p>
	<p>String pin lanes are sanctioned by the BTBA when the lane specifications follow the same as free fall lane specifications. For example length of lane, length of pin deck, pin spotting etc. Amendments to rules for pinfall have been added to the general playing rules, so that free fall and string pin can be found in the same place.</p>
11	<p>What is the BTBA doing to work with proprietors? There was previously a deal with MFA which seemed to be a load of rubbish and a lack of fulfilment let alone closing centres or completely running them down, is there any work in place to get member benefits at other chains or independents? What benefits does a centre get for sanctioned leagues, someone has mentioned a discount on lane sanction fees?</p>
	<p>There has been a lot of discussion at the Proprietors meetings over the last year regarding discounts and deals and we are in the process of setting up Bowling Club deals with Independents and large groups where bowlers can benefit from joining the unique centre bowling club receiving discounts on league bowling, lockers and food &amp; drink. The MFA agreement was a successful 'members' deal in many centres creating sanctioned leagues and new members and the new owners are now members of the TBPA thanks to our involvement, and are starting to invest in their purchased centres which will greatly benefit bowlers throughout the UK. Centres that have sanctioned leagues get a discount for the lane certification which goes back to the proprietor.</p>
12	<p>Why is there little contact with members in terms of pushing information. Information is added to the website and sometimes on social media, why is information not pushed to members by email?</p>
	<p>Information is frequently added to the website and on social media. This is the most effective way of getting the information out to a wider audience and is considered by most organisations and bodies the most efficient way of communicating.</p> <p>Due to GDPR, members need to opt in to receive marketing and news emails. This is why members only receive emails related specifically to their BTBA membership, or of essential information that we are required to relay on. Members can subscribe to the</p>



BTBA website for the latest news articles, and a mailing list powered by Mailchimp has been set up for marketing purposes. These are opt in. We encourage members to get into the habit of regularly checking the website for updates including new entry forms, and to subscribe to receive the latest news articles.

We also ask our local associations to be more vocal with their members and talk to them more. This will then create a good relationship locally, which we can then feedback through the regional officers to the National Council. Our regional officers are the conduit for news and information from the National Council and should be regularly updating the local associations with news and information.

- The change of date from the bank holiday for the AGM was voted upon with 17 for and 1 against in favour of the change
- MW thanked Wayne Lester for his report on string v freefall averages over the leagues at Airport bowl showing minimal difference in the scoring year on year for the same players, he has also been in discussion with Qubica AMF, Canadian and Australian governing bodies, and the World Tenpin Bowling Association
- MW when MFA went into administration there was much speculation as to the future of the sites, he met with the new owners of a group of the bowls and helped them join the TBPA, we have seen investment plans and indeed work being completed at some venues.  
Nottingham will be refurbished with string downstairs and upstairs becoming a league and tournament venue
- RG responded to people saying the MFA/BTBA deal was no good, he explained that the deal was for the members, it gave the cheaper lineage rates guaranteed for 3 years, discount on food, drink and lockers. This deal ensured the members got more than their membership costs back in benefits.
- Hadley Morgan, Independents will still require the support and backing of the BTBA, rather than chasing new venues

#### 7. A.O.B.

- a. **D Steiner** is there a cost to join club matters
  - i. SH no the service is provided by Sport England at no cost.
- b. Is the BTBA still recording areas with no centres, allowing them to still have an area association and enter teams into the ICC's
  - i. **JC** yes, she also explained the rules around eligibility and how a player can transfer.
- c. **James Parrott**. Is there a way to link membership with county affiliation?
  - i. **LJ** we are revisiting this currently with GoMembership.
- d. **John York**, what happened to having mixed teams at ICC events?
  - i. **LJ** this was discussed and rejected at the ICC think tank (LJ to forward minutes)
- e. **Roger Game**, what are the rules for ICC eligibility?
  - i. **JC**. They are clearly set out in the first part of the ICC rules, available on the website.



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- f. **Wayne Lester**, with some clubs having major amounts of cash in the prize funds is it about time the insurance limit was increased
  - i. **Terry Searle (TS)** to investigate the required level of insurance cover and arrange for a quote

#### **Closing Remarks from the Chairman**

- **MW** said the Webber cup is being held in the USA, he has been given 4 tickets by Matchroom, if any members have a requirement please contact Head Office.
- Meeting with Tenpin Bowling Proprietors Association (TBPA), there will be a national bowling week in September 2020, there will be senior tournaments held during the day on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday's with sponsorship to be arranged.
- We have all heard anti BTBA words, we want to set up feedback groups in the north and south.

**MW** closing remarks. This first year has been a real eye opener fully understanding the complexity and number of ongoing projects that everyone is working on and the diverse things that need attention on a day to day basis just to keep the BTBA running smoothly.

There is no way this could be achieved without the help, assistance and hard work of the National Council and Executive Board who give their valuable time to ensure our sport of Tenpin Bowling continues to prosper. I would therefore like to take this opportunity of personally thanking them and all the other volunteers that help, for the great and demanding work undertaken during the last 12 months.

We continue to have successes in the International Tenpin events and congratulations should be given to all our medal winners this year and special mention must go to the EYC girls in winning their third consecutive Gold Medal in Vienna in April. This is the sixth time in the events history that Gold has come back to the UK and a truly great achievement. Well done girls.

In summing up this year, I would like to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed serving the BTBA as the Association Chairman. I feel that from a sound base, many things have improved immensely and that we have been able to make the association more transparent and responsive to our members.

Indeed, opening the AGM to all members for the first time is a great step forward and I hope members take advantage of this offer and support the meeting and ask questions.

I look forward to another challenging year ahead as we continue to put in place more initiatives and benefits for our members.

Meeting closed 15.40



## Open Questions

**Keith Hodge** Why was the senior tour dissolved with no consultation?

**RG** the 2017/18 tour was not particularly successful, there were a lot of issues around the management, we were looking at putting a £5.00 fund into the tour, but the decision was to close the tour.

We have had some consideration of what would be required for a successful senior tour and are now looking to add a senior division to the BTBA adult tour.

**Keith Hodge.** Seniors have had to pay £5.00 into the prize fund for the current tour but unless they play the required number of events they cannot win; can they have their contribution to the prize fund returned?

**RG.** The tour is 10 events, the prize fund is explained in the entry forms, they are not stand alone so their contribution for the prize fund is non-refundable. Dan Bonfield will review the entry form for the adult tour events.

**Petr Stevenson.** Why are the midweek events you are looking at only for seniors?

**MW** the senior's event will be a pilot

**Kim Oakley.** How has the removal of age bonus affected team entries?

**JC** Yorkshire, Sussex and Hampshire reported higher entries, we lost one senior ladies' team.

**Ian Oakley.** Is the age bonus cast in stone?

**JC** it will be reviewed at the next ICC think tank.

**Ken Iredale.** Has there been any work done reviewing the impact of removal of age bonus?

**PLM** Yes, there was hardly any difference after the removal, just one change of place in one of the medal positions.

**Dave Steiner** is it possible to look at starting a super senior ICC midweek events?

**JC** said she would review

**Neil Taylor.** Do you intend to update all members county affiliation on GOMembership? If so, how do we determine residency?

**JC** Yes. it is our intention to have affiliation on GOMembership. The borders were as of 1966 for residency.

**Neil Taylor.** How do we know the person is telling the truth about birthplace or residency?

**JC.** We work on the assumption of truth, if there is any doubt the it is up to the member to provide to either their Local Association or JC.

Bowling on the television, PBA and the like, can we see more broadcast in the UK

**MW** is in discussions with Matchroom.

Is it possible to get bowlers onto television quiz shows?



MW we have tried to get bowlers on the shows with very limited success, but it is my intention to continue to promote bowling in every way I can.

Session closed 16:15.

Appendix 1

Firstname	Surname	Local Assoc.	voting delegate
Katharine	Allen	Buckinghamshire	Y
Emma	Ashton	Hampshire	Y
Stephen	Bose	Warwickshire	Y
John	Denne	Kent	Y
Harald	Grau	Oxfordshire	Y
Kim	Johnson	Gloucestershire	Y
Wayne	Lester	Middlesex	Y
William	Line	Sussex	Y
James	Parrott	Surrey	Y
Allan	Pearson	Nottinghamshire	Y
Ruth	Rathbone	Lancashire	Y
Edward	Rowe	Yorkshire	Y
Alan	Smith	Essex	Y
Tina	Spence	Bedfordshire	Y
Lynn	Squibb	Dorset	Y
Neil	Taylor	London	Y
Stephanie	Tilson	Norfolk	Y
Paul	Williams	Shropshire	Y
John	York	Northamptonshire	Y
Ian	Foxall	Sussex	Attendee
Julie	Giles	Buckinghamshire	Attendee
Sukky	Gill	Bedfordshire	Attendee
Alex	Hamilton	Warwickshire	Attendee
Keith	Hodge	Kent	Attendee
Kenneth	Iredale	Oxfordshire	Attendee
Diane	Johnson	Gloucestershire	Attendee
Trevor	Lamprell	Lancashire	Attendee
Pamela	Maberley	Bedfordshire	Attendee
Hadley	Morgan	Surrey	Attendee
Ian	Oakley	Surrey	Attendee
Kimberley	Oakley	Surrey	Attendee
Matthew	Smith	London	Attendee
David	Steiner	Hampshire	Attendee
Peter	Stevenson	Warwickshire	Attendee



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Walter	Taylor	Shropshire	Attendee
Sally	Wilson	Lancashire	Attendee
David	Winter	Nottinghamshire	Attendee

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Martin	Webster	Chairman
Joanna	Cundy	EXEC
Ron	Griffin	EXEC
Lisa	John	EXEC
Terry	Searle	EXEC
Daniel	Bonfield	National Council
Vicki	Harman	National Council
Simon	Herbert	National Council
Paul	Le Manquais	National Council
Mark	Stoner	National Council

**apologies**

Alan	Bennett	Yorkshire
Adam	Cairns	Durham