

The Inside Line



Welcome from our chair - Pat White

I am really delighted to see the return of a BTBA newsletter. I hope that you will find it informative, amusing and packed with interesting features. We hope there will be something for everyone and we certainly invite all bowlers to write in with their stories.

With the start of the new BTBA season, I am pleased to welcome new and existing members to our bowling family. Isn't it good that we can now invite members to join on-line and already this is proving popular with many new members signing up!

Without giving too much away, I am very



Chairman Pat White at Spurs - send in your bowling related captions for a chance to win!

confident that there will be far more in the way of on-line services available to members - so watch this space.

So in the spirit of a light hearted 'good read' for our members, I am putting my neck on the line by inviting you to send in a bowling related caption to

accompany the photo taken of me recently at the training academy of my favourite football team.

Send your answers into BTBA Head Office and the winner will be the entry that makes me laugh loudest! I will ask Matt Miller to sort out a suitable prize!

Register and win!

You can now register to receive the BTBA Newsletter, and other news updates, directly to your inbox!

To celebrate this we are delighted to announce a *Register*

and Win competition. Simply visit the BTBA website from 7th November, register your details, and you could be in with a chance of winning some fantastic prizes.

Up for grabs is a brand new Brunswick ball of your choice; a brand new Brunswick three ball roller bag; or one of two hour-long coaching sessions with Ray Teece and Jon Zadel!

British Tenpin
Bowling Association

www.btba.org.uk

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We want to stay in touch with bowlers!

We'd love to hear from you, send in any stories you have, including:

- News
- Information
- Special events

We'll do the same, and keep you up to date with everything that's going on in the BTBA!

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Hard work pays off for Bedfordshire and their county team

Written by Basher Bonfield

It's been a long barren road for the Bedfordshire County team, but a couple of years ago the local association made the brave decision to really support the county team and give them the best chance of qualifying for the National Finals.

Over the last couple of years the Bedfordshire team have been visiting different centres, playing in more five person team events via challenge matches organised by the county.

It was a brave move because the

teams participation in these challenge matches were always part subsidised by the local association, which meant a bigger



Bedfordshire men's team (l-r): S. Dynes, R. Weavers, B. Bonfield, M. Bloye, N. Hunter, S. Gill, J. Taylor. Front & centre - Tina Spence - mascot and ball carrier.

Luckily the fund raising skills of the committee has meant that not only have Bedfordshire covered their costs they are actually now in a healthier financial position than they were 2 years ago!

It paid off in September too, when Bedfordshire Men's team qualified for the national finals at Coventry for the first time since 2005. The team played really well and were inspired by senior bowler Jeff Taylor who shot the day's high game with a 279 on his way to averaging 233.

International Seniors Bowling Tour (ISBT)—Lomme, France

Written by Linda Buckland

Ian Buckland from Abbots Langley, **Hertfordshire** bowled in his first ISBT tournament in Lomme, France last weekend. He finished 5th out of 64 entrants from as far away as Sweden, Romania and Italy.

For those who do not know about the ISBT, it is open to anyone over the age of 50 and one pin is added to your score for each year over 50 (so Ian got 8!) Here 64 bowlers were cut to 28 after 6 games, with the top 8 gaining a bye into the 3rd round. The remaining 20 bowlers were joined by the 2 top scorers from qualifying and 2 desperados – the 2nd round saw another 12 cut after 4 games. The 20 bowlers that entered the 3rd round were cut to 8 after 6 games, then a 7 game round robin followed.

The United Kingdom was well represented with 13 men and 4 ladies. Steve Wright from Hertfordshire unfortunately broke his knee on very unpredictable

approaches and had to retire during his 8th game. However 10 of the British men qualified for the second round, with Ron Oldfield and Mick Ince from **Yorkshire** and Ian qualifying in the top 8. The standard was high, with all of the top 8 averaging 225 or more (scratch) and the top 28 averaging over 200. Ian had started comparatively slowly, scoring 1281 on the first day but bowled 968 over the first four on the second day and rounded off with 203, 200 to finish with a total of 2662 scratch (2748 with age bonus) to clinch 8th place by just 17 pins over Yorkshire's Les Grant.

On finals day, thanks to his 8th place qualification, Ian was able to sit out the first 4 games before joining in for the block of 6. He had a slow start of 613 over the first 3 games and was looking doubtful to qualify for the round robin but came back strongly with 223, 258 and 267 over the next 3 to pull himself up from 11th to 5th.

When the round robin started, there were 3 Brits left in the tournament – Ron Oldfield, who averaged 236 scratch in the semi finals to qualify in 1st place and, at 72, just keeps on winning tournaments, Frank Lindsay and Ian – plus players from continental Europe. The lanes had become quite demanding for most of the players by now and Ian was no exception, holding 8th place through games 2 to 4. However a 219 in the 5th followed by a fine 258 in the penultimate game moved him up to 4th place before dropping back to 5th in the last game.

The tournament was won by Andre Geelen of Belgium, who frankly never looked like losing, Ron Oldfield came 3rd and Frank Lindsay was 4th.

The oldest entrants in the tournament were Frank (83) and Ruth Stander (79) from Essex. Frank made the finals in 22nd place and said he still felt fit enough to play the round robin if he qualified!

High rollers - records broken and personal bests set

Here's a round up of some the high scores in local county leagues around the country:

Bedfordshire

Chris Gibson bowling on 7th October in the *Meg Jordache Scratch Trios* league at Dunstable *GoBowling* had his 6th 300 using a 13lb *Black Widow Venom*. Chris finished with a 770 series and was bowling with the *London Pro Shop* team. This was also the first time Chris had bowled for several months as he had been out injured with a bad back.

Andy Giles shot his 12th 300 on the 10th October in Dunstable's *GoBowling's Thursday Trios* league - shame he didn't shoot a 700 - with games of 188, 205, 300 for a 693 series.

On the 2nd October, **Paul Griffiths** bowling in the *Comwake* league hit his personal best of 280 – making it a 320 game with handicap!

Martin Stackpoole had his highest set ever in the *Meg Jordache Scratch Trios* league on the 30th September, with games of 246-265-222 for a 733 series.

Worcestershire

On Tuesday 25th September, in the *Classic* league at Worcester **Pete Stevenson** broke the house record bowling 15 series -279,269,267. Pete

is 20 and has bowled with Acocks Green as a junior. He is a Warwickshire registered bowler, but bowls regularly at Worcester!



Record breaking Pete Stevenson

Lincolnshire by Gill Hutchinson

The 2013 Combined Junior Trials and Championships brought together bowlers from the Lincoln, Grantham, Boston and Scunthorpe Steelers YBCs in the sort of head to head

A memorable day on the lanes for Rhys

Cambridgeshire

Saturday 12th October was a day to remember for 13 year old Rhys Bean, who at *AMF Peterborough* bowled his personal best game of 278 with a 736 series.

Clearly Rhys's confidence was sky high as in the afternoon *Fours* league he went and beat his personal best

competition that the young bowlers love, and personal bests were set all over the place:

U14s:

Liam Kelk (Junior Champion!), PB series - 541

Daniel King, PB game - 174

Katie Marfleet, PB game - 141

Jessica Melton, PB series - 542

Emily Posey, PB game and series - 168 and 424

U16s:

Bradley Redfearn, PB series - 598

Ben Marfleet, PB series - 495

U18s:

Ciaron Clarke, PB series - 651

Jack Waby, PB game - 237

Sam Lee, PB game - 186

once again, firing in 12 strikes in a row for a perfect 300 game!

Unfortunately for Rhys, he won't be receiving his official high score certificates from the BTBA as Peterborough's *Fours* league is not a sanctioned league, but well done Rhys and what a day to remember.

Poignant message from Bowltech UK

Written by Ross Gibson

In this sport that we love there have been many changes over the last 50+ years since Bowling came to our shores. Companies, Bowling Centres and Chains have come and gone. However at the heart of Tenpin Bowling in England stands the ever-present BTBA.

Now the BTBA itself has gone through a series of major changes

that should help shape the future of Bowling for the next 50 years. Bowltech UK would like to congratulate and welcome all the new members of the revised National Council structure.

These are exciting times and Bowltech are proud to be associated with the BTBA in their efforts to grow Tenpin Bowling in

the years ahead.

Bowltech UK Ltd are part of the Bowltech Group of companies. Their distribution centre operated by European Bowling Distributors serves as the central European hub for many major brands including Dexter, Ebonite, Storm, Kegel, QubicaAMF and many more.

Tenpin Bowling Proprietors Association Trade Show

Written by John Ashbridge

Firstly, I have been asked to pass on congratulations from the TBPA, to all recently appointed members of the BTBA National Council. As members of both associations know, the two organisations have in the recent past, communicated and discussed many aspects of the industry more so than had been the case for many years. I believe, with the current make up of both committees, that cooperation will continue to develop in the future.

The TBPA is also working with Talk Tenpin more so than ever before and with the cooperation of both parties tenpin bowling is, once again, beginning to attract more

media exposure. The formation of the UK Tenpin Hall of Fame has also helped in that direction. I am sure most bowlers will have noticed the increased number of television advertisements featuring bowling and the number of soaps that have also featured bowling. It was also interesting to see the recent fashion shoot at All Star Lanes, Manchester.

The TBPA held the first Trade Show for many years in early October at the Hilton Hotel, Leicester. This was organised to help raise awareness for Trade members. Examples of new technical innovations were

displayed together with a number of services being offered to bowling proprietors, all of which are designed to help reduce operating costs. Attendance exceeded expectations and all the feedback received was very positive.



TBPA (l-r) J. Ashbridge, A. Green, P. Millward.

New Phase 1 Coaching Courses Announced

Written by Mark Heathorn

Following many requests I am delighted to announce the hosting of two **Phase 1 coaching courses**, one to the north of the country in **Lincoln, on Saturday 11th January & Sunday 12th January**, and one to the south at **Newbury Bowl on Saturday 30th November & Sunday 1st December**. Both courses will be delivered by Derek Simpson. In order to make the most of these you will need to get your **applications in as soon as possible** by contacting Head Office in the normal way.

Currently it is not possible to promise a Phase 2 event but if I get upwards of 8 concrete requests before the end of the year I will endeavour to host one in the early part of 2014.

The future

I would like to take this opportunity to give you a progress update with regard to coaching and education via the B.T.B.A. Over the past 2 months we have been engaged a

large number of people in the consultation and review phase which has resulted in the formation of a small working group that will assist in the development of our coaching strategy going forward. Details will be disclosed at a later date.

At every level our objective must be to make the standard of coaching as high as possible, and to develop a system of coach education in our country that is fit for purpose:

- aligned to organisational objectives and structure
- capable of producing high quality coaches in the volume required by our sport
- current, modern, and relevant
- future-proofed in it's content and design
- provide our coaches with opportunities for continuous development

The method of delivery will be designed to encourage easy access

to coach education. It will be cost effective for both the coach and the organisation and it will make the most of technology.

In the longer term B.T.B.A. coaching will look at other areas of education within our sport including officials, bowling centre employees and external qualifications.

Our program will also include a review of the coaches association and I hope to have some exciting news regarding this at our first **Coaching Forum** that will be held early in 2014 - watch this space for details and further updates as our plans get refined.

Thank you for reading this, I look forward to serving all our members over the next couple of years during which I aim to significantly improve the quality and perception of tenpin bowling coaching throughout the country.

The Friendship Tour - Venray

Written by Dave Chester, Colin Laing, and Sarah Wilson

Venray is in Holland, about 30 minutes from Eindhoven and 10 minutes from the German border. We went over August Bank Holiday weekend to participate in the *Friendship Tour* - something that was started back in the early 00's over a conversation between Dave Chester and Steph and Bert Peeters, who felt that it would be nice to build up something special between two groups of friends.

As the financial crisis effectively saw the *Friendship Tour* take a back seat for a few years, there was a lot of excitement around this year's event as it was the first time

since 2007 that the Tour had taken place.

The format was very simple: 9 UK teams, 9 Dutch teams all played 9 games in 3 sets of 3 games against different opponents. Highest 4 teams from each side went through to the finals, where they played a 3 game round robin, and from this the winner was decided. With there just being bragging rights up for grabs, the tournament remained about the friendship and social side, with Sarah Wilson being the outstanding performer from the Brits, although the Dutch did retain the title for this year's event.

Suffolk Open

Suffolk County are holding a BTBA sanctioned open event at Martlesham Heath on the 17th November.

This is the ultimate test for bowlers who will play three games on three different conditions - a short, medium and long pattern. There are scratch and handicap prizes. Registration is at 9.30am.

Contact Chris Thorogood via email: christhorogood85@yahoo.com or telephone: 07545 633364 - for more details and an entry form.

Wedding bells ring for Sam and Mark

Congratulations to Sam Hill and Mark Patrick on their recent engagement, Mark popped the question to Sam at Sea World Florida during their holiday.

Mark is Assistant Manager at Corals, and is a member of the Scratch Singles league at Stroud Bowl every Thursday at 8pm presently playing on USA Open pattern.



Sam is a Sales Assistant at Lakeland and is also studying primary teaching at Gloucestershire University.

A small celebration was held at Stroud Bowl on their return when the league members wished the couple the best of luck and a long and happy future together.

Angry Birds bowling balls to hit UK shores!

Written by Ross Gibson

Bowltech UK have struck a licence agreement with Rovio to produce a range of Angry Bird products for the Bowling Industry worldwide.

The first releases are on the way from the manufacturer and should be appearing in Pro Shops at the end of November, just in time to solve that Christmas present dilemma for the bowler in your life.

The Red Bird, Green Pig and Bomb Bird balls will be available in 8lb, 10lb, 12lb & 14lb together with matching single bags.

Every little helps as they say and that is especially true in these challenging times. The Bowltech Bowlers Club is a scheme designed to give you access to many benefits including a 5% discount at participating Pro

Shops. The club is **free** to join. Full details and an application form can be found at: www.bowltechbowlersclub.co.uk



Team England News

Written by Terry Searle

England Needs You

Have you ever watched an England game and said *I would have picked someone else?* Have you ever looked our international teams and thought *why have they done that or I could select a team?*

This could be your chance to be an international selector - job descriptions and applications forms are on the BTBA web site - why not show your interest and apply for the one of the positions? Selectors are required for the Adult, YAC and Junior team England squads and teams.

There are also opportunities for the right candidate to play a major part in the future of Team England as one of the Team Managers of either

Senior, Adult or Junior squads and teams.

The positions are open to enthusiastic people willing to work hard, accept the responsibilities of managing some of the world's top players in world class teams, and enjoying the rewards that come from leading a winning team.

These opportunities do not come around very often, so if you think you can make a difference **apply by 2nd December 2013.**

Apply by going to

www.btba.org.uk

and using the forms online.

Junior International Squad

The Junior International Squad for 2013/14 from which the team to play in the European Youth Championships 2014 in Denmark will be selected:

Boys:-

George Ackerman; Aaron Faulconbridge; Alex Green; Sean Hussey;
Ben Mellors; Brandon Roberts.

Girls:-

Emily Allen; Becky Daly; Joanna Hackett; Francesca Plewis; Keira Reay; Rebecca Spiking.

Any YBC that wants to challenge the JTE squad should contact:
terrysearle@btba.org.uk

Brunswick support Team England and all BTBA members

Written by Graham Waller

On behalf of both Brunswick and Bowling Vision I welcome the new BTBA National Council and the positive changes to our chosen sport that they herald. We look forward to the exciting new era and have high hopes of a resurgence of BTBA members and organised play.

Brunswick have supported Brunswick Team England for many years and have enjoyed the relationship and interaction with the players. Brunswick Team England have performed to a high level, gaining many medals in international competition. The team has also looked extremely

professional with the instantly recognisable team shirts receiving many complimentary comments. Brunswick is currently also supporting the general membership by providing **Brunswick ball rebate vouchers**, available from the BTBA website or local Pro Shops.

In recent years Brunswick have also provided coaching for the Brunswick Team England players with the Brunswick Pro Tour Product Specialist, Chuck Gardner.

This year the relationship was extended to Chuck presenting to the NAYBC Convention. Chuck was

extremely impressed by the attendee's commitment to youth sport bowling. He also commented that he has seen several very talented youth bowlers coming through the NAYBC ranks.



Chuck Gardner visits Romford. Photo by Malcolm Glover.



The British Tenpin Bowling Association
The City Pavilion, Collier Row Road
Romford
Essex RM5 2BH

Telephone: (0) 208 478 1745
Email: btba@btconnect.com
Website: www.btba.org.uk