

The Inside Line



Yorkshire Trios - Entries Open

http://btba.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=646:2014-yorkshire-trios&catid=37:all-sanctioned-entry-forms

The next stop on the BTBA Tour takes us to MFA Bowl Sheffield in Firth Park. Held over the 24th-26th May, the event is run in memory of Scott Banks and Sam Hargreaves.

In a change to the published entry form, please make all enquiries to:

jacks@resdev.co.uk

The format is a trios team event. All bowlers shall bowl 8 games at trios pace, in 2 blocks

of 4 games. With the top 16 teams playing a further 4 games.

Then the top 8 teams play a match play knockout final - 1 v 8, 2 v 7, 3 v 6, 4 v 5 - with a semi-final and final. All matches are played at trios pace over one total game.

The final finishing positions after the 8 qualification games will be used to decide BTBA Tour ranking points.

There will be a total prize fund of £2,742 (based on 32 entries), with 1st Place prize being £842, 2nd - £500, 3rd and 4th - £300 each, 5-8th - £200 each.

Entries are now open, with a variety of squad times available over the Saturday and Sunday, before the second round and finals on Monday. Be sure to enter soon to guarantee your preferred squad time.

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.

We'll print them alongside our news, keeping you up to date with everything that's going on in the BTBA!

Be sure to share the newsletter amongst your friends and family!

Register and Win with BTBA and Brunswick Bowling



Brunswick Bowling through UK distributor, **Bowling Vision**, are again delighted to support the second **Register & Win** event.

Open to **all** BTBA members (including affiliated members), simply **complete the form found on the BTBA website**. The information you provide will be used to update your records in our membership database and enter you into the

FREE PRIZE DRAW!

Once entered you're in with a chance of winning one of two fantastic prizes:



Radical REAX2 Pearl



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Meet *The Inside Line* team!

But first, we're very pleased to announce the launch of our new email address - insideline@btba.org.uk - feel free to use this to send your news and views directly to us! If it matters to you, it matters to us, so let us know about personal bests, league standings, tournaments, and special events.



Frazer Bowen - Editor

I have enjoyed bowling for as long as I can remember, at various parties and on family holidays. I started to bowl more regularly in 2004, joining a beginners' league at Rugby Superbowl. I bowled in that league for two seasons before moving to Nottingham to begin my university studies in 2006 where I also joined their bowling club. I took a two-year hiatus from bowling and re-joined the club in 2009, when I became actively involved in its organisation. I have held various positions on the committee.

My passion for bowling has flourished since 2009, mostly thanks to the great people I have met. In 2011 I joined the committee of the British Universities Tenpin Bowling Association to help ensure that bowling was accessible to every student who wanted to play the sport, while aiming to provide students with an experience that was just as positive as mine.



Jerry Moll - Sub-editor

I am pleased and proud to join BTBA's National Council's Membership Services.

I started bowling soon after the Top Rank Bowl in Chatham Kent opened, several decades ago! I have bowled in various Kent leagues over the years and participated (with varying success!) in many tournaments. I formed "The Playboys" 5 man team back in the 70s. We were sponsored by the Playboy Club of London. Happy Memories!

Over the years, I have served in positions of League President and Tournament Manager and was also editor of Kent Bowling News. I was a member of the Kent TBA Committee for a number of years and I established and continue to maintain the website of Bugsy's Bowl, Margate. I am somewhat obsessive about communication so you can look forward to me hassling for contributions to "Inside Line"!



Louise Parker - Sub-editor

I got into bowling by accident at the age of 8 – I'd initially gone to watch my brother in Chesterfield YBC but ended up joining. I entered numerous tournaments during my YBC years, most notably winning a bowling ball and finishing 4th in the European Junior Open. I represented Derbyshire at all levels (under 14, 18, 24).

Since 2005 I have been a regular face on the BUTBA tour having represented Sheffield Hallam (2005-2008) and Manchester Metropolitan (2008-2009 & 2012-2014) Universities. Since graduating in 2008 I have been a member of the BUTBA Committee where my current role is that of Tournament Collator.

My most notable achievements have occurred since 2010 winning the Ex Student Ladies Order of Merit Rankings from 2010-2012, the Female Rankings in 2014 and the Ladies Masters in 2010, 2012 & 2013. When not on the BUTBA tour, I can be found bowling the Midland Scratch League (Team Gotham) and the North West Fives (Manchester Cosmics).

Sad passing of Neil Lever

The BTBA Chairman, National Council and Head Office staff were shocked and very sorry to learn that Neil Lever passed away on Saturday 3rd May 2014 in Canada where he had been living for the past nine years

Neil was not only well known as an International bowler who represented his country but also worked hard for the promotion of Tenpin Bowling in the UK. He was an active and

respected member of the National Council where he held the position of Vice Chairman for a number of years

Pat White (Chairman - BTBA) was particularly saddened to hear such distressing news and said that Neil would always be remembered for his commitment to his chosen sport and the fact that so many people were affected by his passing was testament to the high esteem in which he had been held in this country.

Daniel Bonfield, Central Region Officer, added fond memories of Neil - "He was a big friendly giant of a man and believed in the philosophy that if you were good enough you were old enough, and many younger bowlers especially in the county of Berkshire benefited from his belief."

We feel sure all members will wish to join with us in sending our most sincere condolences to his family at this unhappy time in their lives.

Central Region - update from your officer, Dan Bonfield

Hello bowlers, I hope that many of you supported and played in the Area Championships that were arranged by your Local Associations. These events are a prestigious occasion. We are, after all, crowning the winning bowlers with the title of 'County Champions' which is just a step away from National Champions.

Since the last newsletter, I have appointed Craig Ellis of Northampton to act as my assistant officer for the Central Region. Craig owns a Proshop in Kettering, so has links within the industry. He sits on his local Association committee and also has a role within Midland Scratch league.

I have emailed all the Area Secretaries in the Central Region inviting them to enter County teams in a tournament I've created called the 'Central Region Challenge' which will

be held on 3rd August at Nuneaton. I've held a tournament in the Southern Region for the last 2 years and it has provided some great competitive but fun practice for the Counties ahead of the ICC Qualifiers. Last year with raffles and tombolas, the tournament raised a substantial amount of cash for the Local Associations.

Baby news!

I want to send my congratulations to Former England Star Donna Ellis (Adams) and her husband Craig who are expecting a new addition to the family, due early November. Their daughter Karta will have a new brother or sister to play with - congrats guys!

Congratulations to Graham Whitten and his wife Hannah on the birth of their baby boy Ethan Floyd Whitten!

Born at 7.12am 8th May, weighing 7lb 6oz. Can't stop looking at him!

Congratulations as the world welcomes another Tiddler! James and Catherine Tidd announced the birth of their daughter Naomi Louise who arrived on Thursday 8th May at 5.20pm weighing 8lb 5ozs. Big brother duties are going well so far and Joshua loves his little sister very much.



Bedfordshire announce new “Bowler of the Month” scheme

Starting from March, the Bedfordshire committee launched a “Bowler of the Month” scheme. We wanted to engage league secretaries more with the committee and their bowlers and also reward and recognise the achievements of the Bedfordshire BTBA members. In the last couple of years Bedfordshire has significantly increased its revenue from fund raising and it was agreed the County coffers aren't for the sole use of our county teams, but were in fact for all the bowlers who carried a BTBA Bedfordshire card.

Nominations for Bowler of the Month have to be submitted from league secretaries on the 25th of each month and from the short list, the President and Secretary will select a worthy winner. We have teamed up with Andy & Shirley Penny at Ballmaster Pro Shop who have agreed to

sponsor the event with the winner getting a money-off voucher to use at the Pro Shop. The criteria for nomination isn't just bowlers who shot 300's and 800's. It could be a bowler who turned up every week of the league, a bowler who shoots their personal best, whether that be their first 200 or their first 400 series, or a bowler who has bowled well in a tournament outside of Dunstable. The bowlers don't have been born or live in Bedfordshire, the only rule is they must have a Bedfordshire BTBA card. The nominations and short list for March's award were:

Jeff Taylor
Mike Bloye
Lorna Scott
Ki Leighfield
Jordan McKay
Martin Stackpoole

So the winner was... (drum roll, please) ... KI LEIGHFIELD ! – Ki,

who's only 14, and a bowler at Dunstable's YBC, came 4th in the Hertfordshire County trials averaging 214 and he also recently put in an impressive performance at a Junior Tournament in Torquay shooting a 286 game in the process! Ki receives a £30 money-off voucher at Ballmaster Proshop and is pictured (below) with Area Secretary and all round legend Basher Bonfield. Editor's note: Unsurprisingly this report was submitted by the legend himself!!



Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire County Trials

Written by Dan Bonfield

The Bedfordshire County trials attendance numbers have been steadily climbing over recent years, no doubt thanks to the counties increased participation in events all round the country.

This year was the best year yet with a total of 32 bowlers. This included 10 lady bowlers, which is significant because it's the one division we have always struggled for entries. It was a case of deja vue and the same old same old at the top with Daniel 'basher' Bonfield winning the Men's division for a 3rd year running with 1451 (a 242 average) which also included a final game of 12 magnificent strikes for a 300! Kevin Minnis was second with 1411 and there were a total 6 bowlers achieving a 100 over.

In the Senior's, the winner was Mike Bloye winning for a 2nd year running and in the Ladies, also winning for a 2nd year, was the talented 14 year old Lorna Scott with 208 average.



Dan Bonfield and Lorna Scott

The Hertfordshire County trials were held at Dunstable Gobowing and top bowler was England Senior International bowler Ian Buckland (pictured below) on 1381 with Stevenage's Craig Barrett 2nd on 1328. A great achievement by 15 year old Ki Leighfield who finished 4th with a 214 average! Ian also topped a competitive Senior's section with former BTBA senior bowler on the year Ray Lay and ex international bowler Allen Jordache in joint 2nd.



Buckinghamshire County Trials

Written by Steve Miller

Buckinghamshire recently completed their 2014 roll offs for both the Adult and Senior teams at Gobowling, Dunstable. This year's roll offs saw 14 men contest the adult event, with 7 in the ladies and 8 in the Senior men's section. It will be a difficult task facing the Men's player/manager Gary Robertson as 11 out of the 14 men all averaged over 200 over the six qualifying games. Leading qualifier was Lee Miller averaging 227 with Sam Burch second averaging 220. Matt Trotter

came third averaging 218 with Gary Robertson on 217, Ben Hayes on 213 and Andy Giles on 210. Five more bowlers averaged between 200 and 209, Michael Kent, Ian Bishop, Richard Beck, Nick Kelly & Jack Stone.

The task facing the new ladies manager, Lynn Craske, should be a bit easier. The top 5 averaged over 170, led by Ann Nagle who averaged a good 10 pins more than the rest, made up of Kathleen Allen, Cheryl Hoare, Sam Mortlock & Karen

Parslow. Julie Giles also took part but had to withdraw after 2 games through injury, but at the time was the leading scorer.

The Senior men were led by John Rechnitz who averaged 209, with a 277 last game to secure his top finish, with Paul Brunning also over 200. The next four, who all averaged over 190, were Keith Bishop, Mick Caputa, Kevin Gibson & Roger Hurst. Manager Neil Craske and Cal Caputa also took part and should be able to provide back up if required.

Central Region - League and Centre News

Dunstable - Dan Bonfield reports..

Dunstable's **Regency** league was in its first season in its new Wednesday night slot and it was a tense final week! The Atlantis team (Scott Mucklestone, Adrian Scales, and Ian Tallentire) needed just 4 points in the final week to secure the title from the Aylesbury Ducks team. It should have been a formality with Atlantis playing against one of the 3 Gobowling staff teams who are all brand new to bowling. But things never are straight forward when you're bowling for a title... a nervy match that went to the final game, and final frame. Atlantis won the overall pinfall by just 7 pins and that gave them the extra 2 points they needed for a 4-4 draw and the league title by just 1 point!!

Special mention to all the bowlers from the Gobowling staff teams. It was great to see many new lady bowlers playing and I hope they continue to bowl in leagues and keep improving their averages. Also, another mention to Lizzie Shaw. She has only taken up bowling in the last year and I have never seen someone practice as much and work so hard to improve.



Pictured are the winning Atlantis team

In Dunstable's only scratch league, the top of table clash between The Itchy Trigger Fingers, captained by Basher Bonfield, and London Pro Shop, captained by Matt Miller, always generates high scores. The match on the 31 March was again no exception. Matt Miller came out straight away and shot his 27th 300, supported by his team Steve Miller 257, and Chris 'gibbo' Gibson 255. It meant they shot a 812 team game. Adding insult to injury, this 812 beat the previous high game by 1 pin which was held by their opponents, Itchy Trigger Fingers! That first game set up a massive set by London Pro Shop who shot a team

series of 2199 - Steve Miller low man on 693, Matt with a 780 and Gibbo with a 726.



London Pro Shop

300's coming thick and fast...

In addition to Basher's 300 on 7 April, also rolling a perfect 10 was County bowler Jeff Taylor. It means the league high game is now split between 6 bowlers!

Sukky Gill, bowling in Dunstable's Scratch Trios League on 28 April unleashed his new ball the Storm IQ pearl and recorded a new personal best with games of 261,246,254 for a 761. Many congratulations Sukky!

Central Region - League and Centre News

Brize Norton - Diane Johnson reports...

12/13 April saw a training weekend with World Champion Brian Michael. Held at Astra Bowl, RAF Brize Norton with 11 students of all abilities. Each session was just over an hour and was run on a one to one basis allowing Brian to give his full attention to each individual. The weekend was extremely successful, enjoyed by all and everyone felt it was well worth it! Hadley Morgan will be arranging a

few weekends like this throughout the year (one every couple of months) so if you would like any help get in contact with me, **Diane Johnson: Tel. 01993 776800**

Norwich - Teresa McCarthy reports...

At the beginning of May 7 year old Olivia McCarthy was thrilled to get a personal best game of 111 at Norwich YBC. Olivia first got interested in bowling after watching the adult Nationals in 2013 and thought that it

looked fun. This year she will be experiencing the Nationals for herself when she will be joining others from Norwich YBC at the junior Nationals.



Northern Region - League and Centre news

Congratulations to one of Lincolnshire's finest, the amazing Danni Hopcroft who has been selected to bowl for Team England in the European Championships to be held this June in Berlin.

Lincoln - Gill Hutchison reports...

News that earned 12 year-old **Lauran Lill** our April headline and caused me to fall about laughing was this – having been invited to play for the Lincs team at Barnsley in the **Northern Touring League** with a whole lot of YAC and Adult county players, what did she do? Only rolled a **239** PB game and beat the lot of them!!

Since then this feisty junior has also upped her PB series with 202,168,180 for **550** in the Monday 2s and shows no sign of slowing down. Happy Birthday Lauran!

Stafford - Craig Bunting reports...

A record high weekly average at the

Stafford Tenpin Tuesday Doubles League this week (6th May) as Be The Ball move closer to a first ever scratch league title and Holy Split strengthen grip on winning their first ever title, in the handicap league.

Be The Ball defeated 4th placed Spare Pair to move 6 points clear, with a game in hand, of defending champions The Outcasts who were held 4:4 by 7th placed T.C.B. Be The Ball's win was inspired by a first league 700 for Ian Naish, who bowled 213-222-277 for a 712 series to take his league average above 210 and within 1.4 of league average leader, and team partner, Andy McComiskie ; Outcasts needed a big last game to keep faint hopes alive, having lost the opening two against T.C.B. and a 248 finisher for Dan McGill in the match high 588 series kept them in the hunt.

3rd placed That'll be 9 Then failed to close and they look destined to finish 3rd now as they sit 22 off 2nd but 24 clear of 4th. They drew 4:4 with Holy Split, who won 10:2 handicap to go a nice 19 clear of That'll be 9 Then in

the handicap league, this was despite a couple of 600's for the team with Dean Tillson hitting 6 dead and Colin Laing 607, Josh Ratcliffe took his average over the 200 mark with a 690 series, 239-201-250.

Elsewhere other high scoring achievements of the night saw Steve Erdwin join the league 700 club with a 223-255-223 - 701 series in a team 5:3 win which saw Steve Hill hit a 640 for the opposing side. There was also a 614 for Myke Cattell and a league best 578 series for Derek Leighton tonight as the league hit the highs with a 179.8 average !

With just 6 weeks of Tuesday bowling left it's going to be an exciting finish to the season before the league moves to it's new home of Monday evenings from September, where new bowlers and teams will be more than welcome to join. For details please contact the league secretary on:

cbunting24@gmail.com

Greg Stretton's Back to Back 300s

A perfect 300 game is something all bowlers strive for, but is rarely achieved. Which made 20 year-old Greg Stretton's achievement on the 8th March astounding. Greg (pictured below) was bowling in the Manchester Lightning YAC league which runs on Saturday mornings. His first game was an impressive 257, then followed not one, but two 300 games! For a truly phenomenal 857 series.



So, was this out of the blue? We take a look at Greg Stretton and Manchester Lightning YBC and YAC clubs to see what might have helped produce a score of this calibre.

For starters, Greg comes from a bowling family. His father, Dave Stretton, who is the person most responsible for his coaching, was a member of Team England along with his cousin Colin Grose.

With this in mind it's no surprise that Greg started bowling early, with Worsley Y.B.C. at the age of 10. He joined Manchester Lightning in June 2007.

In his first full season (2007/2008) with Manchester Lightning he was part of the league title winning team (trios format) averaging 160.

In total he bowled for four seasons with Manchester Lightning Y.B.C. leaving at age 18 with an average of 189.

In 2011 he enjoyed his best tournament performance in winning the NAYBC Junior Nationals



Graduate Singles Event with a score of 742.

He returned to Manchester this season joining our YAC league last October. This is, in Greg's own words his best ever season, not only due to the events of 8th March, but his average is now 222.

Manchester Lightning

Greg's 300 was the first for either Manchester Lightning's YBC or YAC, but it's not their only success story. Ian Grundy and Derek Slinn offer an insight into the two clubs:

We started life as Manchester Y.B.C. in the 1960's, bowling at Granada Bowl, Belle Vue, Manchester. In 1995 the bowl became a Bingo Hall and the club moved to the Mega Bowl, White City, Manchester. The name was changed in 1998 at the instigation or suggestion of some of our members who also redesigned the club shirts and club logo.

The Mega Bowl was demolished in 2003 and we were forced to disband. Other centres locally either had a YBC of their own or the centre was not to BTBA standard. In 2004 we became aware that the Hollywood Bowl in Ashton Under Lyne was about to open and we approached them with a view to reforming. We started again in April 2004 with just 3 of our old members and fortunately 10 new bowlers turned up on the first day.

We went from strength to strength and had 51 bowlers at our peak.

Last year we were "asked" by the Hollywood Bowl, Ashton Under

Lyne to consider relocating to AMF Bury where we bowl at present.

We now have twenty bowlers in the Y.B.C. and six bowlers in the Y.A.C.

We actively participate in as many competitions as possible and have a number of Lancashire county bowlers and three bowlers involved with JTE.

Recent success - In 2011, Amanda Slinn finished Runner Up in the UK Championships B Division. Players from all divisions of the 50th BTBA Nationals qualified for the event by their All Events positions.

While last year Manchester Lightning put in a sensational club performance at the 19th Annual Dave Bamford Junior Grand Prix. Not only did **Mathew Terry** win the event, but in total six of the top eight were club bowlers! **Cara Houghton** (2nd), **Sam Woodworth** (3rd), **Nathan Cropper** (4th), **Courtney Lewer** (7th), **Jonathan Slinn** (8th).



Perhaps these performances are due to the atmosphere created by the club's coaches. They teach teamwork as not only useful for bowling, but as a valuable life skill. Combine this with great continuity - Ian was a member during the 1960s - and you seem to have a recipe for success. *Congratulations to all involved!*

Southern Region—League and Centre News

Kent County Trials - Jerry Moll reports...

Kent County trials were recently held at Buggy's Bowl, Cliftonville. There was an entry of 20 for the Men's division with James Knapp being top average over the 6 games of 210, despite his set including a 129! Following closely behind were Ryan Beake average 206 and Chris Skudder 201. The Under 24 Men attracted 17 entries. Top of the pile was Ryan Beake 206 average, followed by Latham Palmer 202. Sadly, there were insufficient entries for Ladies or Under 24 Ladies.

Top qualifiers in Senior Men were Chris Scudder and Steve Carnall. The Senior Ladies who entered were led by Denise Dyke who averaged 192.

Airport - Wayne Lester reports...

Stuart Fripp recently bowled an 800 series in the Horlicks Marshalls and Adam Lewis made a personal high game of 298. Many congratulations to both!

Latest standings in our sanctioned leagues:

Early-Bird League (Monday Trios):
1st: 318.5 - Squirrels
2nd: 297.0 - Summer Wine
3rd: 289.0 - No Pressure

Horlicks Marshalls (Tuesday Fours):
1st: 142 - Pin Wreckers
2nd: 127 - Loose Cannons
3rd: 126 - Bin Liners

Scratch League (Wednesday Doubles)
1st: 273 - Davedogs
2nd: 265 - The Xpendables
3rd: 265 - London Pro Shop

British Airways (Wednesday Trios)
1st: 62.5 - Team Awesome
2nd: 57.0 - TBN
3rd: 52.5 - Hucks Hounds

Headpin League (Friday Fours)
1st: 69 - Wrecking Crew
2nd: 63.5 - Sejara
3rd: 61 - Hammers

Monarch YBC (Saturday Doubles)
1st: 137 - Die Pins Die
2nd: 131 - Destroyers
3rd: 120 - Lemon

Cliftonville - Jerry Moll reports...

The month of May heralds the 50th Anniversary of opening of the bowl. It was originally a 24 lane Excel Bowl but in 1971 it was sold and re-opened as Top Ten Bowl with 12 lanes. In 2007 it was purchased by new owners, Richard Lambkin and Kevin Plewis, who refurbished it and added a ProShop. This special occasion is being celebrated by a number of special events to be held this month.

See www.bugsys.info

Gravesend - Steve White reports...

The Olympic League www.olympicleague.weebly.com began life about 50 Years ago at the old Bexleyheath Bowl. In its time it has only had three league secretaries, Brian Langford, John Cudmore and myself.

The league then moved to the new Bexleyheath Bowl and stayed there until the then management decided that Thursday night could be filled better if my league wasn't there.

On approaching Gravesend they were only too pleased to accommodate us, they serve us drinks when we press the button, they turn the music down when asked, they dress the lanes just before the league starts and are always willing to help.

The league did start as a five man but became more and more difficult to find teams, so when we moved to Gravesend it went down to a four

man which it still is today. In doing this we were also able to accommodate some four man teams that were also thrown out of Bexleyheath. We have been at Gravesend now for over ten years and it that time have seen 7 perfect games, the latest one being from Alan Jones which he bowled in March.

The league until recently was having a tough time scoring on the very tired wooden lanes but these have now been resurfaced and we also have a Kegel lane dresser and this has made a tremendous improvement. Last season on the tired lanes the league managed 46 600's but with two weeks still to go the league has had 123 600's and 8 700's with the Leagues average being about 182 most weeks, a great improvement.

With two weeks to go Venomites lead by 7 points over Atlanta Hawks who are 7 points ahead of Climax.

Unfortunately the league lost a team last season so is currently running with 11 teams and would really love to find another team to come to the now high scoring Gravesend, when the league runs with 12 teams we pay out over £3500. The new league will begin on Thursday 5th June with an 8.15 start.

Rochester - Jerry Moll reports...

This excellent Hollywood Bowl, opened in Spring last year, is going great guns! The centre's General Manager, Ian Thompson, tells me that he is delighted with the support they are getting from local communities and that bowlers of all ages and abilities are enjoying their attractions, particularly their popular family and special events. It is hoped that they will introduce a league programme once necessary upgrades to the scoring software have been undertaken.

Southern Region - League and Centre News

Sussex - Terry Webb reports...

BTBA Nationals continued ...! Well done to Eastbourne Outlaws A as well as Outlaws B and C! In Division B Terry Webb won the Singles with 679 was 4th in the All Events with 1820. Terry just pipped Paul Wilmshurst from Outlaws B who had 666 to finish 2nd in the Singles and Paul got his revenge by pipping Terry to 2nd place in the All Events with 1846! Maybe they should be in the same team next year?

Eastbourne Sanctioned Tuesday Doubles 2013/14 season has now concluded. This is a 14 team handicap doubles league and has just completed its season with 1st and 2nd places being decided on the last

match position round - actually on the last frame of the match - a nail biting finish! With Doodles (Mike Cosham and Ken Doggett) taking 1st place from Team Stevens (Richard Stevens and Paul Stevens) on pinfall with an 8-0 victory. Team Stevens needed a single point from the match but just couldn't get one! Third place went to Outlaws (Dave Purnell, Adam Purnell and Greg Langston). Well done to Doodles and commiserations to Team Stevens.

High men's average went to Adam Purnell with 205. He also bagged himself the high scratch series of 700 and high scratch game of 277. His team took high scratch team series with 1248 with his (or is it his dads)

team Outlaws. Ball and Socket (Michael Ball and Malcolm Faulkner) took high scratch team game with 478 and high handicap team game with 541. Claret and Blue (Peter Skan, Simon Crouch and Malcolm Crowhurst) took high handicap team series with 1452. Men's high handicap game went to Charlie Cook with 310, and high handicap series went to Mike Rich with 771. On the ladies side Michele Furnell took most things - high scratch game 235, high handicap game 291, high scratch series 587 and high handicap series 755 - with ladies high average going to Julie Webb with 168.

Well done to everyone at Eastbourne on a great season!

British Universities - Airport Trios

Written by Rachael McKenzie

Matchplay returned to the BUTBA Tour once again this season, with another new centre on our calendar. Competitors travelled south to Airport Bowl in Harlington, Middlesex for the penultimate competition of the season, playing on another difficult pattern - London 44ft. The matchplay format saw students and ex-students separately split into two groups each, acquiring 1% of their pinfall as their points after each match, including a 2 point (or 200 pin) bonus for the winners of each match. For both students and ex-students, the top team from each of the two groups and the team with the highest pinfall would qualify for the finals.

Student Finals - The first step-ladder round of the student finals saw highest pinfall qualifiers, Portsmouth C come up against fellow Portsmouth students (Portsmouth A). Portsmouth A started well in the game, but were matched for the majority of the match by their competitors. Finally, in a tense final frame, Portsmouth C stole the match by just 7 pins to progress

to face Birmingham A in the step-ladder finals. Portsmouth C put up a good fight in the finals, with Adam Lucas in particular scoring highly with a 172 (from a 137 entering average), however, this was not enough to deter the highest point scoring team of the day, who stole the match with a 725 to Portsmouth C's 688.

Ex-Student Finals - X2 came up to face fellow group-mates, Who Spares Wins, in the step-ladder semi's, producing another close match between teams who (on straight handicap pinfall) were just 4 pins apart in qualification. X2 just managed to climb ahead of Who Spares Wins in their match, however, winning 659 to 635. X2 picked up their scores in the step-ladder finals against Splittin' Headache, having found good lines on the lanes. Despite impressive performances from all, including a 202 game from Rachael Sargent, this was not enough to deter Group Y winners, Splittin' Headache, who won by just 10 pins, 714 to 704, with help from an impressive 216 game from Matt

Warmington.

Student Prizes:

Female High Game Scratch - **Danielle Ediker (230)**. Female High Game Handicap - **Renee Santos & Philippa Relf (281)**. Female High Average - **Danielle Ediker (190)**. Male High Game Scratch - **Mark Hodds (268)**. Male High Game Handicap - **James Horwood (288)**. Male High Average - **Curtis Hooper (203)**. Team High Game Scratch - **Loughborough A & Portsmouth A (617)**. Team High Game Handicap - **Portsmouth C (775)**. Most Improved - **Jay Young (+36 pins)**.

Ex-Student Prizes:

Female High Game Scratch - **Louise Parker (238)**. Female High Game Handicap - **Kayla Knight (262)**. Female High Average - **Louise Parker (186)**. Male High Game Scratch - **Andy Price (254)**. Male High Game Handicap - **Joe Crook (298)**. Male High Average - **Andy Price (212)**. Team High Game Scratch - **Bowling on a Wing and a Prayer (669)**. Team High Game Handicap - **Splittin' Headache (766)**. Most Improved - **Matt Warmington (+25)**.

Report from Jo Cundy - Head of Elite Bowling

It has been a pretty hectic time for me and the elite team since I last updated you all. The first of the Team England Trials has taken place, the biggest event for all bowlers, the Nationals, has been and gone and the closing date for monies to be in for the Adult counties has also been and gone. I have been working hard with the team on the senior trials which is to be held at Romford on the 17th and 18th of May, if you are in the area please come down and see what you are missing! Or just come down and support the bowlers.

There have been a couple of changes for the senior trials which I know may seem a little late in the day, but they will make the experience a whole lot better for those bowling. I know that the number of games has been cut, which for some has not been ideal, however there is an opportunity for all the bowlers to play on all three patterns before they bowl, which is more beneficial to actually playing on those kinds of conditions before the trials. Adults watch this space, those of you who have played the first trials should have received a questionnaire to get your feedback on how the trials could be improved or what you liked about them. This is so that we can continue to move forward and

improve the environment for all bowlers and so that our members can see that they do have a say.

The first Adult England Trials was an exhausting but brilliant weekend. I suppose that I can say that as I was watching and not actually bowling. The three patterns were tough to say the least and I saw a lot of head scratching, disappointment and bewilderment as well as joy at figuring it out and the sheer guts and determination to not let the pattern beat them! Many bowlers have had the experience of playing on non-house patterns but this would show who is the best at reading the lane and making ball choices and moves at the right times.

All the scores and results/stats can be viewed on the latest news section of the BTBA website and on facebook, please visit and like our facebook page Team England Adult Trials.

All the bowlers that I spoke to said that even though they didn't always look it they did enjoy it and were all looking forward to the next one at Romford at the end of June. I must say that none of it would have gone so well if it wasn't for the amazing team that were there. Ross Gibson

for his great work on the lanes I am sure the bowlers will all thank you later, Alex Hamilton in his new role as team manager, finals commentator and general sort it, Dean Keeble for his amazing scoresheets and displaying/updating of scores not only in the bowl but on the Team England Trials facebook page, I seriously could not have done it without you guys. I must not forget the work that went into the media event on the Saturday morning, Jo Allsebrook and her mum Kay did a fantastic job in trying to get the local community involved in our sport, it was even on the radio. The children that came down in the morning made an impact on all those involved and words cannot describe what it was like to watch potential England bowlers interact with children of all abilities and disabilities. Truly inspirational.

I need to remind those counties who have not paid, really!!!! Come on the closing date was 30th April, please do not make me name and shame! Also to remind you that I will need all trials results and registration forms by the 14th June.

I look forward to seeing many of you at tournaments in the coming weeks, keep practising!

A bowling curio - Old Naval College

Written by Stuart Watson



Visitors to a special Open Day at the Old Royal Naval College in Greenwich, London were surprised to learn that tenpin bowling was played within the college during early Victorian times. A home to disabled sailors, obliged to attend two church services daily, a two-lane alley was built in the east wing to allow them to wend-away the long days and get some exercise as well.

With lignum vitae bowling balls, without drilled finger-holes of course, the alley became a social focus and a popular distraction for the residents, who were not bothered about the lanes being housed in what was once the morgue in the magnificent twin-domed Christopher Wren built masterpiece.

Back in April 2009, Psychic Medium David Wells was host to the opening night of London Ghost Week, in which one member of the visiting paranormal thrill-seekers commented "The venue is super creepy. We're in a crypt-like environment where dead pensioners were stored prior to burial. Marks are visible on the sills where coroners would sharpen knives...beside it sits the table upon which Nelson's body once rested. It is an auspicious place to hunt ghosts."

News in Brief

Written by Stuart Watson

BTBA SENIOR TOUR - STROUD

The event scheduled for Stroud has been re-scheduled for the weekend **28th/29th of JUNE**.

SENIOR TEAM ENGLAND 2015 QUALIFIERS

The initial concept of the trial weekends was to give potential senior Team England members the opportunity to trial on the types of conditions that they would meet at the World Championships.

In keeping with this concept, and to make the trials as close as possible to the real thing, it is intended to change the number of games played in any block from eight to six, as this will be the maximum number of games played in the World Championships in any event in any one block.

Full details on the BTBA website.

SENIOR TRIPLE CROWN 2014

The seniors had a fantastic Triple Crown this April in Dunfermline, with both the men and women finishing atop their respective tables. Full results are available on the BTBA website, with pictures to follow.

For the men, Steve Carnall took gold in the singles, Ian Buckland/Gordon Humphries took gold in the doubles as Ron Oldfield and Gary Barlow took silver, Ian Buckland/Steve Bose/Gordon Humphries took silver in trios.

For the women, Catherine Wills took singles gold as Angie Brown took silver and Jan Hodge bronze. Liz Griffin/Angie Brown took gold in doubles as Wendy Fullbrook/Catherine Willis took bronze. Liz Griffin/Jan Hodge/Angie Brown also took a gold in trios. Jan Steiner/Steve Bose took silver in the mixed doubles.

In the Masters, Gordon Humphries, Ian Buckland and Gary Barlow took gold, silver and bronze respectively, and Angie Brown took gold as Catherine Wills took bronze.

U18'S INTER-COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS INTENT OPEN

For counties entering U18 teams in the 2014 Inter-County Championships, we are pleased to announce that registration of intent to participate is now open. See the NAYBC website for links, <http://naybc.org>

MATT CHAMBERLAIN AND STEVE THORNTON WIN BTBA ADULT TOUR STOP #1 – PTBC SURREY MATCHPLAY DOUBLES

After completing qualifying in 5th place, Chamberlain and Thornton met John Chew and Gary Leggate in the best of three final defeating them 1300-1205 and 2 games to 1 to take the first BTBA Adult Tour title as Surrey Matchplay Doubles Champions for 2014.

LISA JOHN WINS BTBA ADULT TOUR STOP #2 – PTBC WORTHING SINGLES

England's Lisa John won the 2014 BTBA Tour's PTBC Sussex Singles on Sunday 27th April 2014 after qualifying

in second behind 2013 Commonwealth doubles silver medallist Chris Oates with a pinfall of 1386 / 236.0 avg.

Lisa kept her second place through final round #1 to take the lead after final round #2 with a 16-game pinfall of 3796 / 222.8.

The BTBA congratulate Lisa on her win, and thank all the bowlers that took part in this event.

<http://ptbc.co.uk>

BTBA JUNIOR TOUR, JUNIOR TEAM ENGLAND TOUR

The NAYBC website, <http://naybc.org>, has the results of the 1st PeeWee Singles South held at Cliftonville in February and the South Coast Junior Challenge held in Portsmouth in March. A little further back to January and we also have the results for the 2014 Midlands Matchplay Singles, Bowlers Round 2 and the North and South of England Junior Opens. Entry forms have been published for the Dave Bamford Junior Grand Prix in June, The British Junior Open in July and the NAYBC Classic Singles at Tolworth in June.

NAYBC CONVENTION

The National Association of Youth Bowling Clubs (NAYBC) are holding their annual convention on Sunday, 29th June at the Holiday Inn Coventry (M6 Jct. 2). There are a limited number of places left for this year's convention, so if you would like to have the opportunity to attend please contact Pat Crosby (Warrington) on pat.warrington@bt.com straight-away.

EUROPEAN DEAF BOWLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Matt Forsyth, Damien Bates, Ray Lay, Jaan Laumets, Phil Bocking and Barry Peace are travelling to Plus Bowling in Vienna to participate in the four-yearly European Deaf Bowling Championships. They will be playing Singles, Doubles, Trios, and 5 man team and hopefully making it into the Masters. The European Championships are held every four years and from 2006 Great Britain have brought back medals. The men's singles start on Friday 16th may.

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS - DENMARK

Junior Team England returned home from the 2014 EYC with 5 European medals. Along with a team silver, England's girls (Frankie Plewis, Becky Daly, Emily Allen and Keira Reay) also took silver in the doubles (Emily & Keira), and then Keira added bronze in singles, gold all-events and then a very hard-won silver in the Masters, losing to Germany's Lea Degenhardt in a tense final. Keira commented afterwards that "...the event was memorable; I'm not likely to forget it!"



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