

2023 AGM Questions

Lancashire

1	<p>Can the BTBA explain why people who come to reside in this country from another country have to wait 5 years to be eligible to play for a county and yet you only need to de-register for 1 year if you want to change from one county to another if you have move house into another county? With counties struggling to field teams why can't the rules be changed? A youth bowler could effectively miss out on county events at youth level depending upon how old they are when they enter the country.</p>
	<p>This has been an historical rule, one which was inherited. There is no reason not to amend this rule, it will be added to the Think Tank agenda, which will take place later this year, to be amended as decided by those who attend.</p>
2	<p>Can the BTBA explain why they are ok with allowing non-UK passport holders to join the BTBA but have all the rules in place that prevents them from receiving all the benefits I.E Are eligible for counties until they've resided for 5 years and are able to hold a British passport?</p>
	<p>BTBA do not make checks on people's nationalities before we provide them with BTBA Membership.</p>
3	<p>Can sanctioned leagues be run off a private bank account? I know there's a Lloyds Community Account requires 2 signatures however its complicated to set up. Would the BTBA look at making an instructional video on what to answers to give and possible arrange a deal with a bank</p>
	<p>The Lloyds Community Account is one of the few free Bank Accounts that currently covers the league bank requirements, however it has been under discussion that the rules are changed due to the logistical problems of holding a joint-signatory account, especially post-covid where many branches have closed. Kayleigh has an appointment with the Lloyds business team to see how Lloyds could support the BTBA in making the account as accessible as possible to all involved.</p>
4	<p>Why do bowlers of other UK countries have to hold a BTBA Membership as well as their own Countries membership to compete in certain BTBA Sanctioned Competitions. Why does the BTBA not recognise that bowlers membership?</p>
	<p>Individual tournaments can have different rules about eligibility to bowl. In general, the BTBA recognises members from Associations that are affiliated with the BTBA. These are Scotland, Jersey, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Members of other associations e.g. The USBC are not affiliated with us, and their members need to have a BTBA membership. Similarly, we are not permitted to bowl in their events.</p> <p>Anyone that bowls in a league must have a membership of the country where that league resides. i.e. Scotland. This was a joint agreement made with the home countries and the EBF when the home countries requested individual membership of the EBF.</p> <p>For sanctioned national events with the BTBA, we do ask that bowlers are BTBA members to support the BTBA and the furthering of the sport. Memberships</p>

	support the BTBA to continue providing administration, as well as business development, furthering coaching, developing our international presence and building the sport.
5	Why is a county allowed to operate without entering into competitions? Thus preventing bowlers representing that county and who are unable to represent another county because they don't fall into the required qualifications?
	Local associations operate due to having a committee. With an exec to complete their charter. If they have a charter they are stating that they are running a local association, not all of these are able to fill all county teams unfortunately. But they do fill some. There are current associations who have a charter but are unable to fill some teams across county divisions. If they do not have a charter then those bowlers are eligible for the orphan rule. Local Associations are tasked to recruit bowlers for respective teams and bowlers need to support these too where they can.

London

1	Will the BTBA consider supplementary questions in response to the BTBA answers to local association questions?
	Yes, we always allow supplementary questions under Any Other Business in the agenda.
2	Can the complaints stats be released? Not the detail, but at least a count of the types and be compared against previous years? This is not confidential data and only asked as a summary of the types of complaints (area of concern, i.e. youth, membership, tournament sanctioning, etc...). Detail of complaints are not being requested
	Complaints can be sent/spoken to members of the council. Many are solved before they become an official complaint and fact finding or disciplinary hearings are needed. Some are confidential in nature, some are incidental and I am not at liberty to share due to confidentiality.
3	Who in the BTBA monitors actions from previous years AGMs? One of the questions proposed last year was regarding the Local Association seminar. Why has this not taken place in the last 12 months?
	The Company Secretary monitors these items. The Local Association Seminar has not been held in the last 12 months due to staffing changes within Membership Services, as well as financial reasons. However, I am pleased to say that Membership Services feels it is in a position to bring this back and the planned date is for Autumn, with quotes being sourced for the event as we speak. It is the aim to make it as easy as possible to attend.
4	Please can you explain why the BTBA still have a landline number? We do not have an office location and a landline number seems superfluous. Would it be more cost effective to have a mobile number instead?
	The landline is diverted to a mobile phone which is currently answered by Dave Steiner, 7 days a week with calls coming in late into the evening and even on

	Sundays. Some members calling plans only allow free calls to landlines so it would be counterproductive to remove the landline.
5	Please can you provide a call log (number of calls by month) of all incoming calls for the BTBA landline number.
	Yes we receive a monthly breakdown the cost is c£12 per month and on average we receive around 100 calls per month.
6	Youth bowlers are the sports future, should the BTBA have a youth representative (aged under 22) on national council? Where is the youth voice?
	This has already been discussed at National Council meetings and Youth Bowling England are looking into this.
7	What plans are in place for the rest of 2023 and in the future to engage youth bowlers at all levels within the membership? How do you get youth bowler feedback?
	<p>Tracy Robertson's role within YBE is to help YBCs develop and grow, and to also help resolve issues that are reported to YBE.</p> <p>Issue resolving might require contacting relevant departments across the BTBA for specific answers.</p> <p>Typically, Tracy has helped with YBC formation, YBC sanctioning, JustGo support, Tournaments, issue resolving and liaising with potential sponsors.</p> <p>Many YBCs are now reaching out to YBE through Tracy because of her tireless work and we think the Youth Bowling Community is stronger for it.</p>
8	Why are lapsed members included in the membership totals? They are not currently members so should they not be removed, or is this to artificially inflate numbers?
	Lapsed simply means a membership has expired. It may have expired the day before and not been renewed at the time the stats were run. We include lapsed members as a separate entry so that our members can see how many bowlers we have who are registered to us.
9	Should lapsed members be categorised separately in all member stats? This would present a clearer position of BTBA membership.
	Yes, we can do that
10	Should the point that the BTBA stop counting lapsed members as members be adjusted? It's currently 2 years (answer to 2022 AGM question), 2 years seems a long time to wait for a member to return. If a members membership has lapsed, they are not members and should not be counted as members.
	Whilst Membership Services count the figures for both Lapsed and Active members, we do count these separately to give an accurate picture of who is active at that moment in time. The reason we continue to count members from within the last two years in a separate category is that from past experience, many members will take a temporary break due to a variety of reasons (injury, caring commitments, employment, financial etc) or often just forgetting to renew. The two year period gives us the ability to quickly reinstate members on the system at any time as once lapsed fully, members are removed and lose their BTBA number (alongside any other records we hold for them).

11	Moving to digital cards is a good idea, but will physical cards still be made available for accessibility purposes on request? Would the btba still consider providing physical cards to any member at a cost to the requestor/member?
	Yes, physical cards will still be available to those unable to use digital cards.
12	Please can ethnicity be shown on the membership statistics? Diversity across the sport needs to be looked at and ensure that we have fair representation across all areas of our sport.
	We will look to include these in our statistics next year. However, as this is a 'voluntary' piece of information it will not give us an accurate reflection of membership numbers.
13	It was nice to see league secretaries getting free membership. Maybe this could have been extended to include association secretaries. They also provide the organisation with much needed support at a local level. Would the BTBA consider giving local association secretaries free membership?
	I'm pleased to say that the feedback to the League secretary's free membership scheme has been positive over the last few months and we have already started to see an increase in secretaries sending their league results. Membership Services have added the Local Association Secretary membership costs to the LA Seminar agenda, to be held in Autumn 2023. Please attend to send in your input.
14	Membership fees are increasing (or decreasing in some tiers), however no analysis has been provided on member feedback to the survey in late 2022. Can this be provided? What are the monetary repercussions of this proposed change?
	I sincerely apologise for the delay in sending out the results for the Membership Survey, this has been down to significantly ill-health on my behalf which I won't bore you all with. I am returning to a semi-normal health level and really have appreciated everyone's patience while I go through such a rocky patch. The document is now available and will be distributed at the AGM (alongside the up to date mem services data). (Please see Q15 for financial justification)
15	Can the financial modelling be provided to how the new membership tiers were identified? Those that can afford to pay for a gold card and travel to international tournaments now get a discount. Doesn't seem fair, will the BTBA reconsider this cost reduction for this tier?
	Whilst I appreciate the point of view that London has put forward, I would like to challenge this respectfully; it is not my right, nor anyone else's, to question someone's personal finances. Please remember that just because a bowler is able to travel to an international tournament, does not mean that they have a set amount of disposable income above others and you cannot assume that they are living any more comfortably than another. People have different commitments, varying outgoings/income streams, prioritise different experiences and not all bowlers pay for their own costs, many parents are responsible for the old Gold Cards of children (on occasion, even multiples). I hope that all BTBA members support me when I say that we are living in one of the biggest Cost of Living Crisis to hit the UK for a generation which has impacted everyone at every level. As such, my aim has been to fairly and proportionately distribute the membership tiers so they better reflect our current bowling population who are split into Competitive and Leagues.

	<p>The financial model that has been used is one of Price Cost Modelling, incorporating an element of PRS (Price Reduction Strategy). Essentially, the BTBA have reduced the cost of their outgoings by ending the Tastecard Partnership, forecasted at another £18'000 over the next three years. Although this was never added to the cost of memberships as previously mentioned, it has still reduced our internal costs and I wish to pass these onto members where possible. In addition, the general benefits of an RPS are increased customer base. The BTBA does not operate to generate great profits, we are not an organisation paying our Execs £1000's of pounds in salary so it is the aim that both models combined will reward our loyal members, alongside attracting lapsed/new members back into the BTBA to support the sport grow (at a lower cost, across more members).</p>
16	<p>Can the member statistics please be broken down to identify the number of senior members? It is felt that the sports main membership comes from the older members. Can this be analysed and provided back to local associations and members?</p>
	<p>Of course, this can be recreated at any time and with any information included/not included that we have access to. A new one will be produced for the AGM delegates, to provide the most up to date figures.</p>
17	<p>It has been mentioned several times over the years that membership data is not correct or out of date when member characteristics are queried. What plans are in place to improve membership data so that effective decision can be made based on robust data? Is there a plan or strategy to address the data quality in the BTBA?</p>
	<p>The membership data that we hold in regards to personal characteristics is exactly that, it's personal information. Every member has the option to complete this information but our data will only ever be as accurate as the answers that we receive. Even if 100% of members were to complete the EDI Monitoring questions, there would always be at least some variance as EDI is a very personal view of yourself. E.g The Disability Perception Gap (Scope, 2018). Moving forward, there are plans in place with Equality Officer Simon Herbert to engage pro-actively with under represented groups and I hope this will give people confidence to declare their EDI.</p>
18	<p>Can we have a comparator on previous years membership? I.e. comparing 2022 with 2023 and so on.</p>
	<p>Of course, this can be recreated at any time and with any information included/not included that we have access to. A new data set comparing the last year and this year will be produced for the AGM delegates, to provide the most up to date figures.</p>
19	<p>Is there a falling trend in a given age band within the membership?</p>
	<p>A new data set comparing the last year and this year will be produced for the AGM delegates, to provide the most up to date figures.</p>
20	<p>Are ladies coming back to the sport? Can this be identified from the data?</p>
	<p>A new data set comparing the last year and this year will be produced for the AGM delegates, to provide the most up to date figures.</p>
21	<p>Have we seen a reduction in membership is a certain protected characteristic?</p>
	<p>A new data set comparing the last year and this year will be produced for the AGM delegates, to provide the most up to date figures.</p>

22	Are there regional differences with the BTBA membership? How does this compare to the demographic nationally or for the region?
	A new data set comparing the last year and this year will be produced for the AGM delegates, to provide the most up to date figures.
23	Registered members have increased by 2 (from 2665 in 2022 to 2667 in 2023) based on annual review reported levels. It doesn't feel like membership has increased significantly. Would the BTBA agree with this statement? What is being done to increase this core membership base and encourage bowlers to join the BTBA?
	<p>A new data set comparing the last year and this year will be produced for the AGM delegates, to provide the most up to date figures.</p> <p>As a membership services team, we are aiming to provide a core membership that suits the needs of Bowlers across the country and aims to speak to the majority of our members. With the revitalising of the membership tiers, it is hoped that unsanctioned leagues will start to come back to us and see the benefit of supporting their NGB, at reduced costs. Our Regional Officers are trying to liaise with Local Associations to promote leagues and bowling in their areas, promoting membership and encourage bowlers to join. But bringing in members is only possible if we have everyone on board! For example, the amazing YBE team (Stephen and Tracy) have been phenomenal in bringing back YBC's that had de-registered through promotion and setting up new tournaments. Membership Services is not just me and the RO's, it's the LA secretaries and every league secretary to boot. While I will always happily ask for thoughts, feelings and accept constructive criticism, the anger and the hatred towards the BTBA from the Local Associations needs to end if we are to work together as one team, not two teams. That is what I am trying to achieve – a synergy between us all who are fighting for the same outcome.</p>
24	The BTBA seem to fail to recognise that providing Local associations with list of members that reside in the association boundaries, is to support participation in our sport and for local associations to provide the opportunity for those members to participate in local ICC selection events etc... Will the BTBA please provide lists of members that reside in the local association boundaries from 2023 onwards? Note that this is a member benefit and not designed to poach members, provide un-wanted marketing or break GDPR.
	<p>No we are not permitted to share that information. The permission to us to provide information to a local association is based on the local association selected by the member.</p> <p>If London would like us to advertise the fact that they are looking for additional members within their Local Association please send an email to admin@btba.org.uk</p>
25	If the BTBA will not provide membership contact details to local associations due to their perceived GDPR understanding, will they approach the Information commissioners office to receive clarification on the sharing of this data with local associations?

	The information from the ICO is that we are only able to send functional data to our members unless they have requested otherwise. Sending data to Local Associations does not fall under this category.
26	In 2022, we had a member statistics document outlining a number of different counts of members. Could this be recreated with all figures including and excluding lapsed members for each metric?
	A new data set comparing the last year and this year will be produced for the AGM delegates, to provide the most up to date figures.
27	In the statement of accounts, can you please provide a breakdown of what the £16,782 was spent on for advertising?
	£14,400 Tastecard payment is the 3 rd year of a depreciated payment, £2,382 Social Media Marketing
28	In the statement of accounts, can you please provide a breakdown of what the £6,350 was spent on for instructor courses and coaching expenses?
	In 2022 we started a new program to re-develop our Coaching Pathway, which gives all coaches a roadmap of how get go from Fundamentals to National Coach. This includes all requirements for qualifications, Safeguarding credentials and introduces aspects of continuous education to ensure that all BTBA coaches are up to date with current trends and methods. It will also add specialist training for those that wish to become National Team coaches. This program is expected to be fully documented by the end of August 2023 with a rollout plan and associated trial activities planned for the last quarter of 2023. It is anticipated that this program will be fully implemented by mid-year 2024. The money for 2022 was included in the budget under Development costs. We decided to show it against Coaching so that it was more obvious where the money was being spent.
29	For each of the items in the financial plans, please provide a summary of what is included in the item. Main areas of query being, “coaching”, “members benefits inc FIQ”, “head office administration”, “committee expenses” (should this be lower given the use of video conferencing?) and “other development and advertising” (additionally if tastecard is being removed why is this figure still so high in the 2023 plan?)
	<p>Most of these items are a collection of other much smaller budgets that we add together to make it easier to review at the AGM.</p> <p>Members Benefits includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Affiliation Fees for both EBF and IBF - Local Association Grants - Members Insurance (including league funds) <p>Head Office Administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Administrative Services (detailed in annual report) - Audit and Accountancy - Council Meetings - Depreciation - IT software and consumables - Postage, Freight etc - Printing and Stationery

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Telephone and Internet <p>Committee expenses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provision of Council meetings, including room hire and refreshments - Day to day expenses incurred by the BTBA National Council and Executive council. It mainly includes mileage expenses for travel and meeting room expenses when arranging meetings with their teams etc. The total here was £1789.00 plus £1428 of General expenses that didn't fall into any other category. There are 6 Executive Council members and between 10 and 13 National Council members, so this equates to less than £200 per person annually. <p>Other development and advertising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tastecard spent in 2020 this is the 3rd year of Depreciation £14k - Additional spending re social media. - Provision in plans for 2023 for additional Development projects
30	<p>The tastecard costs were added to member cost when introduced, as the tastecard has now been removed and members are being asked to pay £4.99 for the justgo rewards, where is the reduction to membership fees for the tastecard subscription cancellation?</p>
	<p>When we introduced the Tastecard the membership fees were not increased to include this benefit. The JustGo rewards have been in place for at least two years now and have not changed in price. We are constantly reviewing the benefits that we can pass on to our members.</p> <p>These changes were taken into account when looking at the membership price changes that are being proposed for 2023.</p>
31	<p>Why is the budget for youth bowling next year £0? This the exact area that membership fees should be spent?</p>
	<p>The 2023 budget was calculated as being the net total of the funds that automatically get transferred from memberships. Plus we removed Youth Triple Crown costs which are now being paid by Team England. This left a £0 requirement for additional funds</p>
32	<p>Website and media costs have increased from £750 per quarter in 2022 to £1,375 per quarter in the current annual review. Was there a re-tender of the service? What agreement is in place to approve this spending increase during the year? What is being additionally done for the increase in cost (£2,500 annually) from 2022 to 2023?</p>
	<p>The website was upgraded to allow us to bring an improved level of service along with a much increased social media presence. This was a not a re-tender just an increase in cost... Charges in this area have been static for a number of years.</p>
33	<p>As membership tiers have been updated, what financial impact will this have on the next years projected plan (currently £60,000)?</p>
	<p>Please see question 15</p>
34	<p>The memorandum and articles needs to be updated to allow for the BTBA chair person to be elected from the membership and not the national council. It feels undemocratic to be forced to accept a national council decision. Will this be available for the membership to vote on next year (2024)?</p>

	<p>This topic was the subject of a change to the Articles of Association about 4 years ago, the main reason was that company law generally requires that a chairperson is appointed from within the Board by the members of the Board.</p> <p>Within the BTBA the role of the Chair is to provide an environment where the rest of the Executive and the National Council members can engage freely and to assist on overcoming obstacles and barriers it is not their role to determine all the strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure effective operation of the Executive Council and the National Council in conformity with the highest standards of corporate governance - To organize, set the agenda and chair Executive Council, National Council and Annual General Meetings - Ensure that the style and tone of all Council and other meetings promotes constructive debate and effective decision-making. <p>Appointing the Chair from within the existing council ensures that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - They have the full support of the council. - They can use their experience of the BTBA to support individual council members and ensure that they are being heard. - They understand the strengths and weaknesses of the BTBA and can start to develop changes immediately
35	<p>To ensure that actions are followed and members are receiving the best from the BTBA, should the establishment of a non-executive position be established?</p>
	<p>We already have this in the position of Company Secretary</p>
36	<p>The 1961 boundaries are outdated and more and more associations are folding or not able to pull together volunteers or ICC teams. Regions make this much more workable. This structure doesn't stop regions still holding county competitions or having sub region committees, if they choose. A rewrite of the memorandum of articles would be required, but this needs to be done and the BTBA needs to be brought in line with other national sport bodies. Can the BTBA please explore the possibility of moving to a regional system, rather than county associations?</p>
	<p>Everyone knows that they are outdated, hence why a working party was put in place to resolve this and London were a part of that working party. The postcode generator is on the website – if anybody is unsure then they can use it. As the member of London is aware all items relating to ICC are raised/discussed via the working group that meets every two years. The next meeting is scheduled for the end of this year, in November, and this will be added to the agenda for discussion.</p>
37	<p>When will the outsourced services be next out for tender? Please provide the review dates for all services and descriptions of what is required for each outsourced service.</p>
	<p>We have not retendered for these services as yet, but we should. We will undertake to document each of the outsourced services, the anticipated level of work required and the remuneration available for each service. This will give people the opportunity to step forward if they wish to support the BTBA in these roles. We will start this process once we have completed the next round of National Council job applications and assignments. We should then be in a</p>

	position to advertise and renew/award the outsourcing contracts before the end of the year.
38	Can the BTBA AGM be recorded or streamed so that other members are able to view proceedings? The same would extend to national council meetings. Is this a possibility? This seems like a standard practice from organisations across the country. It would be nice to see the BTBA follow this trend.
	We moved to online broadcasting of the AGM to allow more members to attend. However, we have seen a decrease in the number of delegates attending. During meetings, matters of a sensitive nature may occur at any time and therefore recording/live streaming is not something that we will be looking to do. Minutes of the meetings are recorded and published as soon as possible after all meetings.
39	A number of national council positions are now up to be re-advertised. Should the advertisement and start of position tenure be staggered?
	The Positions will be advertised over the coming weeks following the AGM. In the document it does state that due to covid the staggering of tenures has fallen away slightly. We agree that they will be staggered to fall in line with our requirements.
40	When will the BTBA release rules for 'string-pin' bowling? A string is not part of the pin and is not covered under current rules. 'String-pin' bowling has been approved by the BTBA for a number of years, but never released any rules regarding this version of the sport. Should a string be a legitimate way to knock another pin over? Where is this covered in the current published rules?
	The rules were updated to include String pinfall in May 2023 – Rule 6b
41	The £10 non-member fee at sanctioned tournaments should be at the discretion of the local association (it comes to the local association any way). We are trying to encourage bowlers onto the lanes, not turn them away. Please can this be made a locally determined fee, rather than a mandated fee, specified by the BTBA?
	The £10 day membership was introduced to provide a reduced membership that would allow bowlers who were not full members to play one (or maybe two) sanctioned events and to particularly benefit the local association. If people plan to bowl more than one tournament a year it benefits them to become members. If they are only going to bowl one event then we are not convinced that reducing the costs is going to make any difference. We feel that the opposite is most likely true, If the day membership was reduced further, this could discourage bowlers from annual membership. If local associations would like to trial reducing this number they are free to make an application to the BTBA. We would however require that that they provide data surrounding the numbers of bowlers participating before/after and see what difference it makes.
42	Were the objectives in section 6 of the 2023 annual review achieved? If any objective was not achieved, what plans are in place to achieve them in the coming year?
	The strategic plans for 2023 are reviewed by Executive council members who report on the progress of their divisions at Executive council meeting. They in turn meet with their team members and work with them to deliver all of the strategic goals for the year.

43	Please provide an update on the '2022 - 2023 Strategic Planning' document. Have the objectives been met and what objectives are still being worked on?
	An update on the 2022 – 2023 strategic plan will be worked on in the 3rd quarter or 2023. Most results will be documented within the annual report for 2023.
44	Please provide an update on the 'every member counts' initiative from last years annual review. Which working parties have been put in place to support this initiative? What are the initial outcomes of the review for the inclusion of ethnic minority groups and the LGBTQ+ community?
	This is a longer-term aspiration, rather than an initiative with set start and end points. The starting position is to review all current policies and processes, which is ongoing. The next work stream was to develop unconscious bias training for the National Council. This has been written and is due to be presented to the National Council shortly.

Middlesex

1	Do not understand the reason to list lapsed membership numbers (968) as this distorts the charts for age groups and gender numbers leaving them meaningless and artificially inflating membership numbers.
	This is more of a statement, as opposed to a question, however from this, I am taking it that Middlesex would prefer not to see Lapsed members included in the numbers. I have explained above in London's Q10 why we include lapsed members above and that we categorise them separately. However, please also see previous responses regarding figures which can be created at your request at any time. New data will be available for the AGM delegates, to provide the most up to date answers.
2	Membership fee change seems inconsistent with member groups and certainly not help grow numbers of beginner and junior bowlers which is needed to help the BTBA survive and continue to succeed in the future. As our sport is not a cheap sport (equipment costs are still rising) we believe that beginner bowlers under 16 should have free BTBA membership if they are with a YBC – this age group is particularly vulnerable to increased costs due to their constant growth rate during their first years requiring regular larger bowling shoes, larger club shirts and probably heavier bowling balls. We also believe that the 16/21 year group should be at £25-00 enabling them to bowl in adult tournaments as they improve their scoring ability but not necessarily competitive with adults over 25. To compensate for the loss of junior income the upper rate should be set at £45-00 which is the same as the current International Gold membership and less than £1-00wk to all adult competitive bowlers.
	It's great to hear that you have ideas about the Memberships and this is valuable information for Mem Services. I would like to take this opportunity to explain that Mem Services already offer YBE a number of free memberships to Juniors (at full

	competitive level too) to provide to youths who are just entering the sport or would benefit from the reduction of their membership cost. I agree completely that youth bowlers move through bowling equipment at a fast rate, which is why we have reduced the cost of the memberships to the majority of juniors by 25% this year.
3	Still unable to understand why the BTBA website on the coaching home page has no content other than to Like it on Facebook – there is no list of certified coaches or the level they have attained, there is no list of coaching levels, the cost and time to achieve each level or location where courses are held or could be held, considering how important it is to YBC bowlers to learn the basic skills from qualified instructors.
	This work is currently underway within the Coaching Pathway work being undertaken by Steve Thornton and Mark Heathorn. See answer to question 28 from London
4	Having recently searched the JustGo membership site for member coaching qualifications it became obvious it does not reflect the ETBF levels nor were levels correct against individual members – can this be corrected?
	Yes we acknowledge that the current codes used within the Membership database do not match the qualification levels that we are using. This is a carry over from previous changes in the direction that we were heading, All of the grades held within the membership database were changed to reflect the BTBA coach level 1 and level 1+ etc but we are no longer using these grades. As we discussed previously (London question 28) this is a work in progress and, as we have to ask JustGo to make the changes we are waiting for the new structure to be completed before we commission then to make the coding changes. This should all be completed before the end of this year.
5	The financial accounts includes an expense of £6350-00 for instructors courses and coaching expenses – can this be explained what this covered.
	See answer to London question, 28

Bedfordshire

1	“Sanction fee” per player at tournaments. How does this incentivise a sanctioning of tournament ? – should “sanctioning” be free and covered by the membership fee, and act as a membership service ?
	Sanction fees are a way of raising additional funds for the BTBA. They used to be called Team England and Youth England funds but the amount of money raised was nowhere near the amount that they needed so it was decided that instead of limiting TE to the amount provided within the sanction fee they put in a budget request and the BTBA funds that from a pot of all monies received. To give you an indication sanction fees raise approx. £10,000 last year (both TE and Youth) and we spent over £17,000 just on TE.
2	From the recent set of accounts can you make it clear to us the “cost” to the BTBA for sanctioning events, and if there was surplus from the “sanctioning fee” how that was that spent ?
	We did not record any expenses for sanctioning tournaments. If any money was spent, it was very small and would have been allocated to General expenses. This

	<p>does not mean that we don't provide a service surrounding sanctioning. We check that the tournament managers are current members, the centres are appropriately certified, tournament rules comply with BTBA standards etc. At completion of the event we ensure that results are published, prize money is being paid out and financial reporting is sent to the BTBA. All this work is carried out by a volunteer so does not have a financial cost to the BTBA and its members.</p>
3	<p>You state in your annual review to get in touch via email to the BTBA, but a representative from our YBC in Bedfordshire recently posed a question and requested some more information regarding the Youth Nationals being run as average based divisions instead of the traditional age groups in 2023 (you stated your key values - Pride in our heritage, this moves completely disregards all the heritage and records that have been collected though the history of the Junior National Championships) – There was support from several other prominent YBC's for changing back to age groups yet we never received a reply or even an acknowledgement of the email. Surely every members question and email should be at least acknowledged – it doesn't particularly make members feel valued.</p>
	<p>It appears a response to Daniel and the other has not been sent yet and for that we apologise, however this is what we plan to do:</p> <p>The Youth Nationals will continue as Average based divisions as apart from the Singles and All Events the Age of the bowler is typically irrelevant as bowlers can and do bowl up in age group.</p> <p>We are going to issue Age based All Events Medals in addition to the Average Based All Events medals which we believe is a suitable compromise.</p>
4	<p>When will the results be available from the "membership survey" which was carried out in October 2022.</p>
	<p>Please see London question 14</p>
5	<p>Grass roots coaching plan – is all good, but once again there isn't any plan or strategy on how you going to introduce new people to tenpin bowling. In the next year how are the BTBA going market the sport of tenpin bowling outside of the current membership ?</p>
	<p>The grass roots program is definitely aimed at beginner bowlers and those that want to join leagues but don't yet have the confidence to come forward. We will be developing Regional Coaching teams that can support local coaches in delivering a simple learn to bowl course. In addition, Youth Bowling England continues to work with YBC assisting them in developing new YBC's and helping them manage existing YBC's.</p>
6	<p>Are you able to share with us the financial modelling your carried out on changing the membership price and structure, and what increase in income will come from it in 2024 ?</p>
	<p>Please see London question 14</p>
7	<p>When there are tournaments for bowlers away from their centres is there any avenue for there to be a "house" average as it seems as though there is a huge difference in handicaps making it very unfair to some which will potentially prevent some bowlers from participating in that event. The idea could be along</p>

	<p>the lines of if a person has bowled at that centre (over a certain number of games) that becomes their “house” average, obvs if they have not bowled there previously then it would be their highest average in leagues/ tour as it is now.</p>
	<p>This is an interesting concept, and one that is possible (but it’s a lot of work to not only implement, but also for tournament managers to manage). It would also make it difficult for players to know which average to use when entering a tournament, and additional work for tournament managers to check. Paul Loberman is currently developing a National Averages Database that will try to take local conditions into account. i.e. are these averages bowled on sport patterns etc. If we are going to make this work we need all league secretaries and tournament managers to send us their results. So if you have leagues and tournaments in your area please make sure that this is happening. Otherwise this will, once again, be of limited value as this is not the first time that we tried this.</p>