

# BRITISH TENPIN BOWLING ASSOCIATION



## Annual Review 2023

Presented by Lisa Blann, Chairman

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## Introduction – Lisa Blann, Chairman

After our first full year back to bowling, I am delighted by the increased participation numbers that we are seeing across the board. It is great to see so many people returning to the lanes and enjoying our sport again.

The National Council have been hard at work over the last 12 months and have done some incredible work behind the scenes. Most of this work goes unnoticed by the general membership, so every year we compile this document to show everyone what it is that we have been working on.

As the governing body of our sport, we receive a lot of feedback via social media. I would like to encourage all of our members to get in touch with us directly via [admin@btba.org.uk](mailto:admin@btba.org.uk) with any comments or suggestions so that we can ensure they are forwarded to the correct member of the council. Comments on social media are not always seen so cannot always be actioned which can therefore create a negative atmosphere within the bowling community. I would urge all members who have ideas to get in touch with us directly. We will look at all proposals that we receive.

I would encourage you to read this document in its entirety, so grab yourself a cup of tea, settle in and see what your National Council have been up to over the last year.

Lisa Blann  
Chairman

# 1 The Association

## 1.1 Vision

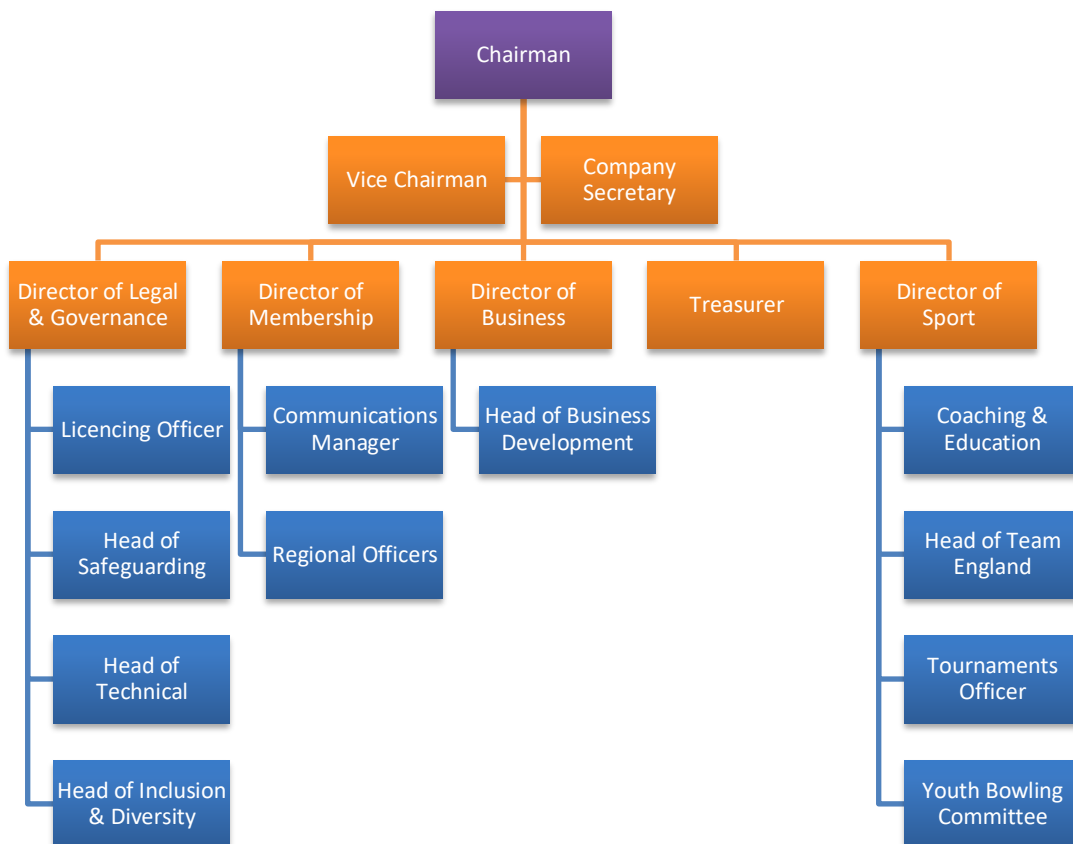


The British Tenpin Bowling Association was established to promote and improve the sport of Tenpin Bowling. It aims to ensure that all people, irrespective of their age, disability, ethnic origin, marital status, sexual orientation or social status have a genuine and equal opportunity to participate in the sport at all levels and in all roles.

## 1.2 Our Key Values

- Focus on our membership
- Commitment to equality
- Working together with respect
- Commitment to innovation
- Courage to stand united
- Pride in our heritage

## 1.3 Organisation Structure



## 2 Management and Administration – Terry Searle, Treasurer

All tasks associated with the administration of the BTBA continue to be outsourced to a group of committed volunteers, there are many tasks that have to be performed and completed within defined timescales and guidelines, for these tasks some people receive a minor remuneration.

We are still firm believers that this model provides the best level of service at the lowest cost possible.

We will look to include additional people into the list of service providers, and we are open to suggestions from members if anyone wishes to be included as part of the team.

Using this model, we can request the services that we require without managing how much time or effort is required to deliver it. Nor do we dictate when the service is provided.

This model may not be sustainable, as there are very few people willing to put in all the hours required, but we are hopeful that as we automate activities and reduce workload, we will be able to get to a happy medium.

A full list of services outsourced is shown below:

Service	Provider	Cost per quarter
Accounting Services	Newton Magnus & Co Ltd	£700.00
Financial Management & Bookkeeping	TEK Bowling	£500.00
Safeguarding Licences	R&P Griffin Ltd	£1,000.00
Website and Media	Stuart Watson & Dom Gall	£1,375.00
Email Forwarding, Telephone Support & General Secretarial	Strikerite Proshop	£1,500.00
	<b>Total for the year</b>	<b>£20,300.00</b>

Our original target to reduce administrative expenses by 50% has and continues to be achieved. From highs seen in 2013 & 2014 of £127,000 we are currently running just below £30,000 per annum. This includes revised costs relating to European and World Bowling membership fees and the cost of members Insurance etc that are not entirely under our control.

### 2.1 Financial Management

This year we are showing the 2022 expense actuals against the plan that we submitted within last years Annual report.

All these figures we are presenting today have come from the formal Accounts that will be sent to Companies House immediately after the AGM. Copies of these accounts were sent to all Delegates in advance of the AGM so that they could review them and ask any questions that they may have.

## 2.2 Review 2022 plan versus actual

In this chart we are showing how we did against the plan that was submitted at the AGM in July 2020.

<b>2022 Actual vs plan</b>	<b>2022 Plan</b>	<b>2022 Actual</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Membership Income	£50,000.00	£58,740.34	£8,740.34
Lane inspections	£2,000.00	£1,606.46	-£393.54
National Champs and masters	£1,000.00	-£330.85	-£1,330.85
Coaching	£0.00	-£6,346.50	-£6,346.50
Inter County Championships	£0.00	£1,307.50	£1,307.50
Tournament sanctions	£5,000.00	£10,050.00	£5,050.00
Licences	-£1,000.00	£409.50	£1,409.50
Other Income	£0.00	£208.48	£208.48
Members benefits incl FIQ	-£5,000.00	-£3,503.92	£1,496.08
Head Office Administration	-£20,000.00	-£16,320.21	£3,679.79
Other costs	-£4,000.00	£0.00	£4,000.00
Team England	-£15,000.00	-£17,338.48	-£2,338.48
Committee Expenses	-£4,000.00	-£4,377.11	-£377.11
Local Assoc Rebate	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Restructuring costs	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Youth Bowling	-£6,000.00	-£3,971.00	£2,029.00
Other development & Advertising	-£15,000.00	-£16,782.00	-£1,782.00
Development Total	-£15,000.00	£0.00	£15,000.00
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>-£27,000.00</b>	<b>£3,352.21</b>	<b>£30,352.21</b>

Notes:

- Membership Income was up £8,740, a great achievement by all involved.
- ICC events all run to budget.
- Revenue for sanction fees is well managed and some £10k was collected.
- Team England, events were or are being held in each division, the BTBA continues to fund Management, Uniforms and Entry fees, the rest is self-funded and supported by QubicaAMF.
- Tastecard contract is still in place.
- Apart from a request to re-engineer our coaching programs and qualifications, no other requests to fund development were received 2022.

### 2.3 Forecast Budget for 2023

2023 Plans	2022 actual	2023 budget
Membership Income	£58,740.34	£60,000.00
Lane inspections	£1,606.46	£1,500.00
National Champs and masters	-£330.85 £0.00	£1,000.00
Coaching	-£6,346.50	-£12,000.00
Inter County Championships	£1,307.50 £0.00	£1,000.00
Tournament sanctions	£10,050.00 £0.00	£10,000.00
Licences	£409.50	£500.00
Other Income	£208.48	£250.00
Members benefits incl FIQ	-£3,503.92 £0.00	-£4,200.00
Head Office Administration	-£16,320.21 £0.00	-£20,000.00
Other costs	£0.00	£0.00
Team England	-£17,338.48	-£19,000.00
Committee Expenses	-£4,377.11	-£5,000.00
Local Assoc Rebate	£0.00	£0.00
Restructuring costs	£0.00	£0.00
Youth Bowling	-£3,971.00	£0.00
Other development & Advertising	-£16,782.00 £0.00	-£12,000.00
Development Total	£0.00	£0.00
	£0.00	
<b>Surplus / (Deficit)</b>	<b>£3,352.21</b>	<b>£2,050.00</b>

#### 2022 Descriptions

Membership Income.	We accrued £32k from last year, a much healthier figure.
Lane inspections.	With thanks to all involved, Lane inspections are on the increase.
National Champs and masters.	We are wanting to return to getting a small profit from these events.
Coaching	Development continues on our "Grass Roots" coaching program
Tournament sanctions.	Expecting to continue the success of last year.
Team England.	Whilst we have some sponsorship this year could be very costly.
Youth Bowling.	£3.5K accrued from 2021 to ensure sufficient fund to deliver plans.
Development expense.	Tastecard original codes to be extended for one year.

### 3 Technical Services - Paul Le Manquais

#### 3.1 Lane Certification Inspections

The lane certification process acts as an independent health check of the proprietor's lanes. The biggest investment within a bowling centre are the lanes and pinsetters. Underlying issues which are not measured as part of day to day or routine maintenance by Technicians, can be identified and highlight a problem before it becomes too serious. It is a sound investment in the maintenance of the equipment and ensures that managers and technicians are aware, as early as possible, of any underlying problems. This will reduce the cost of upkeep and repairs in the long term. For our members this relationship and certification should result in a better bowling experience too, something which is fundamental in our aims.

Centre grading has been live for many years and continues to work very well. Annual reviews of this continue as experience develops. The centre grading is automatically generated from the measurements taken during an inspection, along with 'manual' adjustments for issues such as damage to the lane surface. Grading provides a true reflection and is generating improvements in many centres. It also gives an indication to bowlers as to the overall standard that the centre is in from its compliance with the worldwide specifications.

Last year it was agreed unanimously that the scores to generate the higher grade needed to be raised. This was to attain a better representation of the centre relative to the grade. This is being done over a two-inspection cycle. Any centre whose grading would change with a similar score at the second inspection are advised of this. Several centres have subsequently been advised that improvements need to be made in order that their current grade would still be attained.

The Gold, Silver or Bronze is also supplemented by an affiliated status which allows BTBA members to be supported in a centre which fails to reach a bronze grading.

A Lane Certification menu is on the BTBA website homepage. It comprises of:

- A description of what is measured and importantly what is NOT. The latter is significant as there are a lot of misunderstandings amongst bowlers.
- Details of all certified centre with their grading is published, along with the expiry date, details of the lane surface, pins, lane dressing machine and the pin-spotters.
- Downloads of the forms to request a lane certification inspection.

The grading of each centre allows Tournament Managers to identify which type of centre to consider for a specific type of tournament. For example, international tournaments would only to be run in Gold standard centres and even then, subject to an ETBF or IBF lane mapping inspection. Silver graded centres are the minimum standard for National Championships, County events, tour events or any nationally advertised tournament. Tournament sanctions will only be issued to tournaments complying with the relevant grading.

An inspector's aim, along with the preparing the inspection report, is to help and guide centres to rectify or make adjustments where necessary, themselves, or how to seek external assistance if needed. We believe this should provide incentive to improve standards.

The number of active inspectors is currently adequate, but another has retired during the past year. However, additional licensed inspectors are needed, and details of courses will be advertised on the BTBA website and Facebook page. These will additionally be open to all who wish to develop



knowledge and understanding.

As the number of string pinsetters increases adjustments to the legal and illegal pinfall in our General Rules have had to be made. This is to reflect first hand experiences learned.

The USBC have recently agreed to recognise sting pinsetters but within a their own specific category to free fall. They will also be introducing specifications based on detailed trialling. The unknown at this point is whether the current pinsetters that are in use will comply with this. Of specific note is the maximum string length. Details of what this will mean to manufacturers and any retrospective action to what is already on the ground is awaited with interest.

## **4 Business Development - Martin Webster**

Due to personal circumstances, there is no report for Business Development this year.

## **5 Membership Services – Kayleigh Wilkinson**

### **5.1 Annual Summary**

2022-2023 has been yet another challenging year, but for very different reasons as to the years previous. Perhaps most impactful here in England is the fact that we have all been dealing with the biggest Cost of Living Crisis for a generation and as such, I want to firstly say a big thank you to all members for continuing to support the BTBA, especially when money is a big concern for all. It is truly appreciated and allows us to continue to work to further our sport.

Over the last year and the first full year of my tenure, I am pleased to say that several new initiatives have been introduced. These include our BTBA Learn Platform (offering fully funded learning programmes), our YBE Membership Fund (offering a number of free memberships to young people across the country who require financial support to become a member) and our League Secretary Scheme (which provides a free Standard BTBA Membership to all league secretaries who submit their end of league scores). However, this has been a year of change within the Membership Services Team, with the respectful resignation of our dedicated Regional Officers, Mark Stoner (North) and Michael Kimberley (Central). I wish to offer my thanks to the work that they had undertaken for the BTBA and Ten Pin Bowling. As this Report is being produced, Recruitment is underway to fill these vacant positions and I know members will welcome our new Regional Officers with as much warmth as they have done as you always have.

In addition to the new initiatives, Membership Services have recently undertaken a survey looking into the views of you, our members and this has fully informed the new Membership Tiers, which has been included below. A personal highlight from the last 12 months is the invitation from Sports and Recreation Alliance to attend St James Palace, where I was selected to ask questions to the governing board on how we can future-proof our sport for youngsters. I look forward to building on the successes we have had as a team and moving forward into 2024 with enthusiasm, confidence and a renewed vigour for the sport.

### **5.2 Membership Benefits**

Membership Benefits are changing as of 2023, as we have decided to finish our partnership with Tastecard. This is down to the feedback that we have received from members as well as significantly increased costs to continue the partnership. I hope members will see the benefit that this creates, by reducing financial outlay and focusing on our wonderful JustGo Rewards Scheme.



This scheme is available to all members at a cost of £4.99 per annum and entitles members to a whole host of discounts, but only if you wish to partake in this scheme and feel you would benefit from the savings. We continue to offer other bowling focused benefits such as the Mint Sportswear Discounts and Physique Discounts (Sports Therapy Equipment) which remain included in memberships.

### 5.3 Membership Levels and Costs

It is with great reflection that I announce the new Membership Levels and Costs, to be presented to members at our AGM in July 2023. These costs will come into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023, prior to the new season commencing. In line with member feedback and to remain as affordable and flexible as possible, the new tiers will be :

**League Membership : £15.00 (This is for all bowlers (juniors, adults or seniors) who are competing in local leagues only within England).**

**Competitive Membership : £35.00 (This is for all bowlers (juniors, adults or seniors) who are competing in competitions, including International Tournaments, Inter-County Championships, Sanctioned Tournaments, Team England events etc.)**

**Non-Playing Official/Official/Coaching License £15.00**

**General Supporter £10.00**

*(As previous, Coaching and Official's licences are still added onto the cost of a membership, so that everything is all in one place. These are shown as separate options available through JustGo.)*

With the new tiers, there will no longer be a junior/adult divide and you will no longer require a Gold Card for competing at an international level. It is planned that these new tiers will support everyone in having an affordable and appropriate package in line with the level of bowling they wish to undertake. Memberships will still be able to be upgraded from league membership to Competitive Membership during your membership year, should you wish to.

Furthermore, it's with great pleasure to announce that our Membership Cards will be going digital, which is not only environmentally friendly, but more readily accessible for all Members and League Officials and Tournament Managers.

### Membership Numbers

\*Membership Numbers as of 21<sup>st</sup> June 2023

Member State	Count	Age	Count	Gender	Count
Lapsed	968	Under 16	459	Male	2,879
Awaiting Approval	123	16 - 18	206	Female	871
Registered	2,667	19 - 21	193	Unspecified	8
		Over 21	2,900		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,758</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,758</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3,758</b>

### 5.4 BTBA Annual Awards – Paul Le Manquais

The first year of our Annual Awards was, overall, successful. Some changes were however needed



because of lessons learnt. These have been published on the BTBA website.

The following details how the BTBA bowlers of the year are established, from nominations down to selection and then voting.

#### **5.4.1 Categories**

There are six awards that can be made annually and another by exception.

##### **Bowling awards**

- Male and Female Bowler of the year
- Senior Male and Senior Female Bowler of the year
- Junior Male and Junior Female Bowler of the year
- Team of the Year - All age groups are eligible.

##### **Non-Bowling awards**

- Official of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Significant Contribution to the Sport of Tenpin Bowling – Chairman’s Award by exception

#### **5.4.2 Selection Process**

Awards are only open to BTBA members over the whole period of the award. The junior awards may use a different timescale to those stated. This is yet to be decided by Youth Bowling England.

Bowlers may feature in only the category that they are age eligible for but must have competed in events in that category.

#### **5.4.3 Senior and ‘Adult’ Bowlers of the Year**

Nominations, with details of the achievements, will come from the membership along with Tour event representatives. Team England managers will have input to nominations too.

Initial nominations are then reviewed by the National Council and additional candidates added as required. The nominations are then reduced, based on the information received, to nominally four per category. This would be adjusted up or down dependent upon the strength of the support given. This short list, with the citations, are then sent to the Local Associations (LA) for them to vote in preference order. The candidate with the most votes from the LA is given the award. If there is a tie the National Council vote to break the tie or the votes for second place used.

#### **5.4.4 Junior Bowlers of the Year**

Nominations with details of the achievements should come from appointed, responsible people who have detailed knowledge of the groups themselves. These people will keep records over the twelve-month period of relevant Tour results.

The initial nominations are then reviewed by the National Councils members responsible for the Junior players only. Additional nominations can be added by them as required. The nominations are then reduced based on the information received to nominally four per category. This would be adjusted up

or down dependent upon the strength of the support given. This short list with the citations is then sent to the LA for them to vote. The candidate with the most votes from the Local Associations is given the award. If there is a tie the National Council vote to break the tie or the votes for second place used.

#### **5.4.5 Team of the Year**

Nominations for team of the year can come from any age group and will be made by the respective Team England managers, Inter County Secretaries and when relevant the BTBA National Championship Tournament managers.

The winners will be selected by the National Council and the award made at the Inter County Finals dinner.

#### **5.4.6 Official of the Year**

A person in an official capacity who has contributed to supporting players, participants, or other officials on Local, Regional or International duty during the previous twelve months. Nominations will be determined within the National Council, with the selection of the eventual recipient being made by the Executive Council.

#### **5.4.7 Volunteer of the Year**

A person who, whilst serving in an official or unofficial capacity, who's contribution has been felt much more locally and has contributed to their YBC, league, local centre, the County Association or National Association during the last twelve months. A person who has given up their own time to help improve the environment in which participants play, and to further develop the sport of tenpin bowling. Nominations for this award will be received from the Local Associations and the winner will be selected by the National Council.

#### **5.4.8 Significant Contribution to the Sport of Tenpin Bowling (Chairman's Award)**

This award, known as the "Chairman's Award", was introduced to recognise individuals that have made a significant contribution to the sport either during the last year or over a sustained period. A person who has dedicated themselves to the development of the sport and continues to strive to improve the sport for all participants. Nominations for this award will be sought from all members by email submission on a form that will be available on the website. Nominations contain details of what that individual has done to warrant consideration. The selection panel will be drawn up in conjunction with the sponsor of the award. This award is by exception only and based solely on the strength of the submissions. Awards may therefore not be made each year.

#### **5.4.9 Timeframes**

Late July – Website and Social Media posts inviting members to nominate individuals that they feel should be considered for Bowler of the year. This will be on a downloadable form only.

Early August – Replies received along with those from the 'responsible individuals' monitoring successes in the relevant age group and Team England as relevant. National Council shortlists Nominations

Mid-August – Shortlists sent to Local Associations on ballot sheets for them to place them in preference order.

End August – Ballot sheets returned along with any recommendations for Volunteer of the year.

Mid-September Award winners identified from voting sheets.

#### 5.4.10 Award Ceremonies

With the exception of the Junior awards, all others will be made at the respective Inter County Final dinners. A date for the Junior awards is yet to be agreed.

## 6 Sport Development – Ron Griffin (Interim)

The overall direction for Sport Development was set at the beginning of 2022 by Pete Stevenson within the overall BTBA Strategic Plan. Unfortunately, by March 2022 Pete was unable to continue in the role as Director due to increased work responsibilities. Fortunately, I had spent a lot of time with Pete on the development of his plans, so when asked to stand in I already had a good understanding of the direction that had been established.

However, the Sport Development role at that time included.

- Youth Bowling
- Team England
- Coaching
- Tournaments

In order to make it a bit more manageable, we asked Terry Searle to take responsibility for Youth Bowling and I would then continue with the rest. This seemed like a good fit as Terry has had many years' experience with Youth Bowling while I have had none.

Sports development is all about "grass roots" bowling. It brings together some of the most critical aspects of our work as a governing body, supporting growth in the numbers of people participating and ensuring that anyone who bowls has the opportunity to improve their enjoyment of the sport through improved participation and better scores.

Our Training and Education program reaches across all age groups and is designed to help beginners and experienced bowlers alike. The coaching certification program needs to be revised and improved significantly. However, we are confident that we are on the right path to bring our coaching skills program up to date, and in-line with the rest of World Bowling.

Part of the challenge for this division is linking all these items together so that we really push the sport forward. To assist with this, we see new relationships forming between Team England Management and the National Coaching team. We are working on plans to include Equality, Diversity and Safeguarding courses into our overall Training and Education program.

The objectives that we had set ourselves were:

- a) Develop programs that will increase participation and at the same time enhance the overall image of our sport.
- b) To support the NC in adopting and enforcing uniform rules, qualifications, methods, and conditions of play and enforcing bowling equipment specifications for sanctioned competitions.
- c) To provide the foundation for team representation at international events across all age groups. Including selection criteria for players and officials

- d) Build and deliver a world-class training and education structure that supports, empowers, develops and educates our coaching team for the benefit of bowlers of ages and abilities.
- e) To design and deliver a calendar of rigorous and challenging tournament events, hosted on the BTBA website, that will allow bowlers to find information on local regional and international tournaments.

## **6.1 Coaching and Education.**

During 2022 we decided that we needed to separate out the Coaching and Education role into two separate roles. One looking at the education pathway, qualification requirements and the development of courses and training materials to meet these needs, The other to focus on the development of coaching programs for the development of beginners and experienced bowlers and for the development of coaching skills and techniques. This later role would also be responsible for all of Team England's coaching requirements.

Simon Taylor continued in his role as BTBA Head of Coaching Education, and we recruited Steve Thornton to become BTBA's Head Coach.

### **6.1.1 Education**

Our education pathway for coaching remains within the EBF coaching program in which there are three main levels:

- Foundation – the development of bowlers up to league standard average groups up to around 170's
- Development- for development of bowlers above 170 who are looking to develop their skills for serious tournament play and maybe international standard.
- National - development of bowlers at the highest levels and also the development of other Coaches

In addition to this we also have a BTBA entry level qualification aimed at people that want to start out on their journey as coaches. Currently, we call this level Fundamentals but that is likely to change to reflect the fact that this really is very basic and mainly covers things like Health and Safety on the lanes, a basic approach and release, and some drills that support beginner bowlers. This level is aimed at parents of children at YBC's and bowlers that want to start coaching but are not yet ready to commit to the demands of a full blown EBF coaching course.

Simon has dedicated most of his time this year to developing a new Fundamentals level qualification and all the course materials etc that are required by it. Including several demonstration videos that can be used by new coaches when assisting beginners. While a number of people have started the program only a few have completed the course. We need to review how this program is constructed and delivered so that we continue to encourage people be part of our coaching team.

Unfortunately, due to other commitments, Simon has not been able to further develop this course nor document the overall qualification requirements, so we have stalled a bit and need more assistance if we are going to get this done before year end 2023. This needs to include safeguarding training for all coaches and officials and a continuous learning program for all existing coaches that wish to renew their licences year on year.

### **6.1.2 Head of Coaching**

#### **Grass roots coaching**



This project is being designed to deliver coaching sessions locally to beginners, aspiring and new league bowlers and, regular league bowlers. The sessions will be delivered by local coaches that have signed-up to the program. We would envisage some initial instruction sessions after which all materials will be given to the coaches free of charge. They will decide what to charge customers for attending their classes going forward. We currently have more than 50 active coaches who are interested in being part of the program.

As a first step it is our intention to develop a 12 week learn to bowl course that could be delivered as a starting point for all beginners especially those starting at a YBC. These courses will be simple enough that they can be run by newly qualified Fundamentals coaches once they themselves have been through them with an EBF qualified coach.

Further lessons will developed using Regional Coaching leads who will then pass then down to other qualified coaches in their area. The Regional leads will then support the local coaches

### **Team England Head Coach**

As Team England Head Coach my plan is to build a team of national coaches that can a) help to develop our National Squads and be available to attend as the National Team Coach at international events. For all EBF tournaments these coaches need to hold at least level 2 qualifications.

Between us will build a library of training sessions for all national teams to use. This will grow continuously from training sessions each team holds throughout the year. Once these are agreed and collated, we will share these with the Managers on a monthly basis.

Each National Team will then build a curriculum/structure for all future training sessions. These sessions will include topics like lane play, equipment arsenal building, lane patterns, topography, the mental game and team building.

All TE age groups have coaches assigned and there are other coaches available that will assist as and when required. Regular meetings are being set up with all TE coaches to share experiences from training sessions and events so that we can all learn and improve on the way that we manage the development of the squads we are responsible for.

## **6.2 Team England – Chris Hillman**

Team England has seen a very busy year since the last report with events across all of the three groups of bowlers.

We started the year with the European Men’s Championships in Tali, Helsinki, attended by Adam Shrubbs, Jamie Bottomley, Garry Sykes, Garry Baird, George Jagger and Callum Simons. Manager Caroline Hillman and Coach Mark Heathorn. Although no medals were won, conditions were challenging and was a steep learning curve for our men. George Jagger finished the event with a 202 average.

Then in August came the European Women’s Championships in Aalborg, Denmark. Participating was Vicki Harman, Natasja Ailes, Elyse Giddens, Evie Giddens, Lorna Scott and Lucy Wall. Manager/Coach, Richard Lambkin and Coach, Hadley Morgan. Again, although no medals were won, it was a great learning experience for the whole team. I believe the team gained valuable experience and a lot of knowledge about their games and plenty to work on going forward.

Next came the Youth Triple Crown, hosted by Team England and managed by Stephen Toop at



Barnsley. The event was also supported by Brian & Gill Parker who run the event on our behalf with many willing volunteers. Coaches, Russ Semple, Dave Tagg, Natalie Tagg, Martin Woodworth and Clare Shave. Teams consisted of (U16s) Abbey Rhodes, Ava Andrade, Olivia McCarthy, Jasmine Snowball, Frank Stephenson, Charlie Upton, Alex Cook, Louie Dawson. (U19s) Jessica Sillis, Izzy Fletcher, Kara Zucca, Millie Upton, Jack Blyth, Dan Harding, Ben Robinson, Thomas Cummings. (U22s) Casper Macleod, Declan Simons, Joshua Streak, Lewis Graham. Once again Team England won the overall Triple Crown, winning some 83 individual medals in the process. A great result.

This was closely followed by the European Youth Championships in Wittlesheim, France, attended by Jessica Sillis, Izzy Fletcher, Millie Upton, Kara Zucca, Dan Harding, Jack Blyth, Charlie Upton and Ben Robinson. Manager, Mark Heathorn. Coaches, Russ Semple and Callum Simons. Although no medals were won, it proved to be quite an eventful time for all concerned and helped us shape and improve the Youth Group going forward.

The next event was the Adult Triple Crown, Bromborough. Participants were, Hannah Ailes, Natalie Boot, Elyse Giddens, Vicki Harman, Charlotte Rathbone, Lorna Scott, Garry Baird, Adam Cairns, Mark Patrick, Adam Shrubbs, Frank Stephenson and Garry Sykes. Manager, Richard Lambkin. Coaches, Paul Wilkinson, Simon Herbert and Clare Shave. Once again, Team England won the overall event and a collection of some 37 individual medals and were top in all categories, except for Doubles where we took the silver.

2023 started with the European Senior Championships in January in Aalborg, Denmark. Participating was Gaye McCully, Carole Orange, Jan Hodge, Angie Brown, Gordon Humphries, Paul Cosgrove, Colin Grose and Steve Thornton. Coach, Natalie Hart. Manager, Tony Brown. Despite an extremely challenging pattern, Gaye McCully and Angie Brown came away with the gold medal as European Doubles Champions, a massive achievement. Gaye, Angie and Steve T also made the Masters, but unfortunately no more medals, but overall, a massive success for the seniors.

We then come back to this years EYC which returned to its normal time in the calendar. It was held in Vienna, Austria. Participating was, Izzy Fletcher, Jessica Sillis, Yola Stephenson, Mille Upton, Frank Stephenson, Charlie Upton, Kallum Peach and Dan Harding. Manager/Coach, Mark Heathorn. Coach, Callum Simons. Clare Shave was due to attend as a coach, but had to withdraw for personal reasons, yet she still ably assisted from the UK when she could. Having worked with the team and parents over the last year, I have to say the atmosphere was excellent, and the potential for results was good. With a massive support contingent from the Team England Parents, friends and family, bowling started out with a lot of promise. Finally, reward came in the team event, with both Boys and Girls Teams qualifying for the finals. Both teams ended up with a Bronze Medal and should be justifiably proud of their achievement and how far they have come in such a short time. Dan also went on to win a bronze medal in the masters, narrowly missing out on the silver, another great achievement. Definitely plenty to build upon for the future, with all athletes being great ambassadors for the sport.

Still to come this year is Senior Triple Crown, European Men's Championships (Wittlesheim, France), Youth Triple Crown, Adult Triple Crown and World Combined Championships in Kuwait and potentially a World Senior Championships later in the year. We wish all the athletes participating every success.

We also now have a new manager in place for the Seniors, Adults and Youth Teams and alongside the appointment of Steve Thornton as Head Coach, going forward this will form the Team England Management Committee.

With a year to run for the sponsorship monies from QubicaAMF, with the success achieved this year, we are hopeful that we can repeat or increase this sponsorship, or even attract new sponsors.



I am also in the process of working with Kegel on whether they will donate a mobile Specto machine for Team England and any other groups to use to improve bowling skills.

It has been an extremely busy year for Team England with varying results across the board. With the support of all from the bowling community, hopefully we will continue to improve and across the board, continue to win medals at all levels.

### **6.3 Youth Bowling England (YBE) – Stephen Toop (Overseen by Terry Searle)**

2022 continued to see bowlers and YBCs returning to bowling after the pandemic. The YBE was able to run a full calendar of tournaments for the YBE 2022 Tour with many of the tournaments enjoying a 65% attendance rate or more. The YBE Tour Finals, held at the Airport in December 2022, was a hugely successful event with over 70 bowlers participating across the tour divisions. The YBE would like to thank QubicaAMF for their additional support toward the prize allocation.

#### **YBE Committee**

The current YBE committee stands as shown below, but during 2023 we are hoping to extend this to include new roles and responsibilities and we would like to hear from anyone would like to get involved.

#### **Stephen Toop. Head of Youth Bowling**

- National Council Member
- Lead the development of Youth Bowling in England
- Overall Management of Youth Tours in England
- Working with Tour Management to promote tournaments and manage rankingtables
- Work with Team England to integrate a Youth Team England selection process intothe Youth Bowling Program

#### **Brian and Gill Parker. Tournament Management**

- Responsible to Head of Youth Bowling
- To assist in collating seasons calendar
- Provide tournament management assistance where required
- To manage tournaments as required

#### **Tracy Robertson. YBC Support Manager**

- Responsible to Head of Youth Bowling
- Providing Pastoral Care to YBCs
- Developing YBCs growth plans

#### **Stuart Watson. BTBA Head of Communications**

- Responsible to Director of Membership Services
- National Council Member
- Overall responsibility for all internal and external communications
- Edu Care Manager
- Junior/Youth Coaching Support (South)

#### **Membership**



Many YBCs are now getting their JustGo records up to date which assists the YBE in understanding the bowlers within Youth Bowling, and at which YBC. Such valuable information will aid the development of tournament formats and locations along with any YBC support required.

### **ClubHub**

The BTBA continues with ClubHub, a children's club activity search engine for the UK. There is a small annual fee which the YBE will cover and provide free entry for each YBC in England that is fully registered on GoMembership. The aim of ClubHub is to enable parents and children alike to search for a club activity within their local area and take part. Tenpin Bowling and YBCs will clearly benefit from being included in this search. We do encourage all YBCs to sign up with the YBE to get their YBC listed on the site.

### **YBE Titles and Record Book**

Although planned for launch during 2022 these books along with the stickers that bowlers can populate them with officially launched in January 2023. Every registered YBC is entitled to them for their bowlers and at the time of writing the YBE has issued over 500 books.

### **YBE Tours**

The 2022 YBE Tour was successful in many ways as mentioned above, but it also gave us insight into changes that could be made to make it even more appealing for more of the Youth Bowler community.

2023 will see the sponsorship of Brunswick/Bowling Vision to the value of 27 bowling balls to awarded to the top 3 in each division at the 2023 Tour Finals.

A new YBC Team Challenge tournament will be added which not only awards prizes to the bowlers but also the winning YBC.

The 2023 YBE Discovery tour is underway, and feedback so far has been encouraging. During 2023 we will hope to discover what we need to put in place for 2024.

## **6.4 Tournament Officer – Paul Loberman**

In the first full calendar year since the COVID disruption, tournament bowling really got back up and running.

There were 107 sanctioned events in 2022, with another 100 already scheduled in the calendar for 2023. I continue to sanction each event through the new online sanction request system which allows data to flow through to the tournament database and be combined with other data to be used for various other purposes, some of which are currently in development.

Up to the 1<sup>st</sup> May, I've received and sanctioned 79 events for 2023, with the usual rush of County trials events in the first four months of the year. Next year, I hope to make it easier for local associations to get their trials events sanctioned with a standard online entry system they can manage themselves.

The volume of events does cause some inevitable date clashes, and whilst I try to work with Tournament Managers, shifting some events around as early as possible when scheduling, I am also happy that bowlers have choices as to what they might want to play in. We do need to find ways to

better schedule events, especially across all the established Tours, but with a smaller number of available centres and potential dates when they can accommodate events, this is constantly challenging.

In January 2023, the new BTBA Events portal was launched. Initially, this is a centralised place for everything related to tournaments – key info, entry forms, sanction statuses, etc – enabling bowlers to search for events in their age group, by format, type, etc. I will build this out over time, and hopefully include leagues too. Thanks to all the bowlers who gave feedback on the portal, and for the new ideas it generated, including adding a QR code in case centres and tournament managers want to print out the information to distribute physically.

One of the things I set out in last year's report was to design and deliver a robust and challenging tournament programme with the intention of providing a competitive environment for bowlers of all ages and abilities. This includes helping local associations and tournament co-ordinators to get more bowlers stepping up from league to tournament bowling, as well as exploring and supporting any additional Tours and events. There is still plenty of work to do, but...

In 2023, I restarted the BTBA Championship Tour with 7 events scheduled. Disappointingly, as was also the case in 2021, nobody applied for the position of Tour Manager last year either. To avoid the absence of a BTBA Championship Tour from the calendar for another year, and with the help of a few willing tournament managers, I'm acting as the Tour Manager in 2023. My thanks to Mark Patrick and Lee Metcalfe who agreed for their events to be used as part of the Tour, as well as thanks to Daniel Bonfield for his continued support. Daniel will also run a Mixed Trios event as part of the Tour later in 2023. We added a couple more events to the schedule, which are being run by volunteers from the local associations, who are also using these events to help raise money for their local associations and county teams. A quick heads up that I won't have the time to run this Tour in 2024, so I'll be looking for volunteers to step up to support me continuing this next year.

A welcome addition to the tournament calendar last year was the introduction of the British Ladies Bowling Tour, created by Gary Taylor. The initial two events were well received and successful. However, the first two events of 2023 had to be cancelled due to low entries (for various reasons). Overall feedback and interest has been overwhelmingly positive, and I remain confident that this Tour can grow into a great series for this group of bowlers to play and compete at all levels and ages.

Behind the scenes, I continue to develop the tournament systems and processes. A new Bowler's portal is currently in development. It's my hope that this will be a place where bowlers can enter events in one click and keep track of their results. This is taking me a little longer than planned, as I'm also working in parallel on a database that can keep track of a bowler's results, and link those with the types of patterns played on, keep track of averages, rankings, etc. This all relies heavily on getting access to timely tournament results (in a format that is manageable) which is not always as simple as it sounds, so I continue to urge tournament managers to make this information publicly available and at the very least send to me with their tournament finance reports.

Beyond my National Tournaments Officer remit, I collated the rankings for both the Adult and Senior Team England qualifying in 2022 and continue to do so for the Seniors in 2023, creating and managing the spreadsheets and distribution of the rankings. I worked with Mike Bergquist, the Senior Team England Manager, to identify dates and venues for this year's Senior trials.

It was a pleasure to also work with Dave Grainger on the UK Tenpin Hall of Fame in the past year. I rebuilt the Hall of Fame database and created a new front-end website for the data, before the Hall of Fame was relaunched in June 2022. The Hall of Fame rankings now automatically update as new results are added and enables everyone to easily search the live database for players, results, and events.



It certainly feels like lot of work done this past year, but a lot more to do.

Still on my roadmap for 2023...are publishing some standard tournament rules to speed up the process and turnaround time for reviewing entry forms that are submitted for sanctioning. I also want to improve the process for submitting tournament finance reports. Tournament managers continue to feedback that these are complicated to complete in all situations, and I am constantly chasing people up to submit these accurately, and on time.

Finally, I want to say thank you to the many tournament bowlers who have taken time to talk, debate, share thoughts and suggestions this past year on how to improve tournament bowling. I'm committed to doing what I can to make changes where I can, offer support to everyone who needs it, and to help move the tournament aspect of our sport forward.

## **7 Governance and Legal - Jo Cundy**

It has been agreed that the list of Council members and their dates of appointment will be included here annually to remind all, that all of the positions on the Council are available to the membership and the intention is to select the best candidate from all the applicants for the appointment.

In some cases, people are appointed into roles when they become available mid-term. Whenever this happens, their term is limited to the original end date so that we continue with our standard process as soon as it is practical. There have been advertisements for positions, but they have not been filled due to no applications. These along with the other roles that are up for tenure will be advertised accordingly. Due to Covid restrictions and continuation the roles of Legal and Governance, Business Development, Team England and Treasurer were extended for a further year.

The roles that will be advertised as the tenure is nearly up as follows:

- Legal and Governance
- Business Development
- Membership Services
- Treasurer
- Communications
- Technical Services
- Inclusion and Diversity
- Team England
- Coaching
- Women's Council

The roles that are currently vacant are:

- Sport Development
- Regional Officer – North
- Regional Officer – Central

This means that there are a higher number of positions to be advertised on council than in previous years. This is down to Covid extensions and that positions can roll over due to no applications from the membership. We want as many people as possible, who are able and willing, to apply for these positions to give the council the breadth and wide range of experiences that the membership can offer.

NATIONAL COUNCIL TENURE
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<u>Name</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Tenure</u>	<u>Start</u>	<u>End</u>	<u>Current Status</u>
Lisa John	Chairman	2 Years	AGM 2022	2024	By AGM
Ron Griffin	Vice Chairman	2 Years	AGM 2022	2024	By AGM
Jo Cundy	Legal & Governance	2 Years	Aug - 2020	Aug - 2023	By application
Martin Webster	Business Development	2 Years	Aug - 2020	Aug - 2023	By application
Kayleigh Wilkinson	Membership Services	2 Years	Sept - 2021	Aug - 2023	By application
Vacant	Sport Development	2 Years	Aug - 2023	April - 2025	By application
Terry Searle	Treasurer	2 Years	Aug - 2020	Aug - 2023	By appointment
Stuart Watson	Communications	2 Years	Sep - 2021	Sep - 2023	By application
Paul Le Manquais	Technical Services	2 Years	Sep - 2021	Aug - 2023	By application
Vacant	Regional Officer - North	3 Years	Aug - 2023	Aug - 2026	By application
Vacant	Regional Officer - Central	3 Years	Sept - 2023	Aug - 2026	By application
Matt Smith	Regional Officer - South	3 Years	Sept - 2021	Aug - 2024	By application
Simon Herbert	Inclusion and Diversity	2 Years	Sept - 2021	Aug - 2023	By application
Chris Hillman	Team England	2 Years	July - 2020	July - 2022	By application
Simon Taylor	Coaching	2 years	Sept - 2021	Aug - 2023	By application
Vacant	Women's Council	3 years	Aug - 2023	Aug - 2025	By application
Paul Loberman	Tournament Officer	2 years	Sep - 2022	Aug - 2024	By application

## 7.1 Memorandum and Articles

Reviewed and updated, please see the updated versions sent.

## 7.2 Complaints and request for support

The number of requests for rules/incidents support and complaints against members has risen significantly in the last 12 months. These can range from enquiries regarding safeguarding matters, rules for ICC events, clarification of playing rules and complaints of the conduct of members. The Legal Team would like to thank all local associations who support fact finding meetings and supporting members with rule clarifications.

### 7.3 Inter County News

2022 saw the return of the Adult and Senior County Championships. Unfortunately, a Junior County Championships did not take place, which I know was a disappointment to those Junior bowlers. All three divisions are on the calendar for 2023, the adult division will now be known as the Open County Championships. I wish all county teams the best of luck for the upcoming events.

An extra think tank took place in November 2022 to review the amendments to the adult event. A survey was sent out to all adult finalists and discussions were had, the Baker system was voted on and will not continue for 2023. The finals will revert to previous years, a round robin event and the women's teams will now be four-person team.

The Senior Championships will once again only have two qualifying groups for the ladies but retains the four groups for the men's division. Qualifying has taken place with the finals at Guildford on 14/15 October. The SICC secretary after twenty years in the role will be standing down at the end of this championship. An advert for a successor has been posted.

Sourcing bowling centres for rounds and finals for all divisions is becoming more difficult and will be a point to be discussed at the scheduled Think Tank to happen in November 2023.

2023 sees the retirement of long-standing Senior Inter County Secretary – Paul LeManquais, personally I will be sad to see him retire as he has been an amazing asset to the county team and to me. I wish him all the best and rest for his retirement from this position, but I am sure that I will still call on him from time to time! Especially with supporting me and the BTBA with all rule amendments and updates to ICC rules, which can be found under resources on the BTBA website.

## 8 Closing remarks

I want to take this opportunity to once again publicly thank the National Council for all the work they have put in over the past 12 months. Things haven't always been straight forward but by working together as a team, we made good progress towards getting our membership numbers up and leagues back into centres. We now push forward to increase these numbers again over the next 12 months and support our members in any way that we can.

Thank you for taking the time to read this document. I hope that it gives you a good idea of some of the things that the National Council have been working on over the past 12 months. I would like to reiterate that with the exception of a small group of individuals the majority of the work carried out by the National and Executive Council is all done voluntarily. We do not get paid for the time that we put in and I would like to once again thank all of the Council for everything.

I would like to wish you all the best for the coming year.

Lisa Blann  
Chairman