



## Minutes of National Council Meeting

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2025 10:30am

Present	Geoff Brown, Paul Loberman, Stephen Toop, Vicky Knightsbridge, Matthew Smith, Chloe Dixon, Dan Bonfield and Paul LeManquais.		
Apologies/early departures	Ron Griffin, Steve Thornton, Kevin Rose, Stuart Watson, Lisa John, Kim Johnson, Mark Patrick, Jo Cundy, Ian Kennedy and Hadley Morgan.		
Item on Agenda	Discussion/Points raised	Who	Action
1. Declaration of interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>		
2. Chairmans update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• GB opened the meeting with a brief account of some of his activities during the past 3 months. Busy but productive. World Senior Championships, Senior County final, County finals, No strings pod cast.</li><li>• Visit to Mansfield on Sunday for youth end of tour finals. Proprietors meeting coming up on 4<sup>th</sup> December.</li></ul>	GB	





5. Youth Bowling	<p><b>Stephen Toop</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ST reports that we held 26 Tournaments this year with a total of 595 individuals involved. This being well up on last year's total of approximately 530.</li><li>• The youth calendar for 2026 is already out with spaces filling fast in many tournaments. Some as high as 80% full already. ST suggested that bowlers need to act quickly to secure their spots.</li><li>• ST reminded everyone that youth bowling is going to U20 from U22 from the start of 2026. Bowlers in this age group will be encouraged to join the BTBA or YAC tours from January. Bowlers will however still be able to bowl YBC at U22 for the next 2 seasons to ease the transition.</li><li>• ST reported that we would need a new management team for any U22 County Championships. Youth bowling will continue to run U13 &amp; U16 Championships.</li><li>• ST reported that a YBC booklet detailing everything you need to know about running a YBC is being composed.</li></ul>		
6. Tournaments	<p><b>Paul Loberman</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PL reported that we have 17 teams out of a possible 24 for the Shipley Fives next weekend. We are hoping to receive a few late entries.</li></ul>		



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The 2026 BTBA tour calendar is starting to fill up with several venues already secured. The Senior Nationals will be at Stroud in May with discussions ongoing with Chesterfield to host the Nationals. PL is hoping to issue the Tour calendar shortly.</li> <li>• PL &amp; GB reported that we hope to commence with the new BTBA web site within a couple of weeks.</li> <li>• CD asked about access to review prior to release. PL reported that there would be a staging area provided for review and agreement prior to the final release.</li> <li>• BD asked if there would be members only content. PL reported that members only content would be an important part of the new web site.</li> <li>• The BTBA tour are continuing to seek new venues.</li> </ul>	<p>PL</p> <p>PL/ GB</p> <p>All</p>	<p>Release the tournament calendar ASAP</p> <p>Progress new web site and keep NC informed.</p> <p>Any suggested venues to be fed back to Paul</p>
<p>7. Membership Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DB introduced Ian Kennedy as the new northern regional officer.</li> <li>• DB is E-mailing a monthly newsletter to all counties. The first letter included a short report by GB. Dan asked if Paul LeManquais could provide a brief report about his role and lane sanctioning for inclusion in the next issue.</li> <li>• DB has asked regional officers to audit local associations in order to in his words carry out a "Health Check"</li> </ul>	<p>PLM</p> <p>CD</p>	<p>Brief report to DB for news letter</p> <p>Advertise as soon as possible</p>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• MS reported that he is collecting data and awaiting response from some. He is also attending a number of AGMs in the next few weeks for various association in his region. DB will lease with MP &amp; IK. Ian being new to his role will be guided by Dan and given as much help as he needs.</li><li>• DB reported that Vicky Knightsbridge has been doing some great work reaching out to many groups. Also making social media posts for special awareness days of which there are many.</li><li>• DB has instigated a trial open casual membership at Dunstable to run until January. This invites people to become casual members for free. They will then receive Emails detailing local bowling facilities such as associations, leagues, pro shops, coaches etc., all intended to encourage them to participate more and eventually maybe become full members. If successful the scheme can then be rolled out to other regions.</li><li>• DB reported that an amount of money earmarked for county rebate would be issued this year. His plan to offer each of the 26 Associations either £70 or Bowling Ball via Bowling Vision. DB stated that his plan for the 2026 rebate would have some element of performance related incentive. This will be planned and agreed shortly.</li></ul>		
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8. Technical Services	<p><b>Paul Le Manquias</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PLM has been planning a Lane Sanctioning course after several people have approached him about the possibility. He aims to hold a course in March 2026 if possible.</li><li>• PLM reported that Hollywood have expanded the number of centers having their lanes sanctioned with 7 new centers this year. He also reported that Acocks Green have expressed a desire to have their lanes sanctioned. All positive and good for sport bowling.</li></ul>		
9. Legal	<p><b>Chloe Dixon</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• CD reported that a complaint within the Airport Bowl had been close due to lack of response from the person that issued the complaint.</li><li>• 2 other outstanding issues are awaiting court decisions before a Cause of action can be determined.</li><li>• CD stated that she is awaiting documentation from the Charity Status people for review.</li></ul>		
10. Insurances	<p><b>Ron Griffin</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• RG was unable to attend this meeting but GB reported that the Company insurance has been renewed and that RG could supply some details at the next meeting.</li></ul>	RG	Outline of Company insurance at next meeting



<p>11. Inclusion &amp; Diversity</p>	<p><b>Vicky Knightsbridge</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• VK reported that she has been working with Parkinsons UK, has been involved in surveys with Limb Power &amp; Wheel power and is helping organize a Pride event at Dunstable.</li> </ul>		
<p>12. AOB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concerns were raised over the coaching assistant's course on line, with people believing that they are able to coach having paid £25 on line. CD &amp; DB asked for urgent clarification on this point.</li> <li>• DB asked if a list of coaches was available. PL stated that there are a number of issues with current list. The list needs cleaning up and updating.</li> <li>• DB also suggested that we should maybe issue some sort of coaching price guideline. To help new coaches establish if it is appropriate to charge for coaching and how much.</li> <li>• Vacant positions to be re-advertised</li> </ul>	<p>ST</p> <p>RG</p> <p>ST/ KJ</p> <p>GB/ CD</p>	<p>Clarify situation and suggest action Required.</p> <p>Review list.</p> <p>Consider this question</p> <p>Arrange to advertise available posts.</p>
<p>13. Date of Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is intended to hold a face-to-face meeting in the new year. Date to be confirmed.</li> <li>• CD has agreed to find a venue for the face-to-face meeting</li> </ul>	<p>GB</p> <p>CD</p>	<p>Send invites when date &amp; venue are confirmed.</p> <p>Find Venue for meeting</p>