



## Minutes of National Council Meeting

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026 12:30 – started at 12.37

Present	Geoff Brown, Chloe Dixon, Dan Bonfield, Ron Griffin, Paul Loberman, Kim Johnson, Stephen Toop, Paul LeManquais, Hadley Morgan, Jo Cundy – Minute taker		
Apologies/early departures	Matt Smith – apologies received. Kevin Rose – apologies received Steve Thornton – apologies received Mark Patrick – apologies received Stuart Watson – apologies received Ian Kennedy – apologies received Vicky Knightsbridge – apologies received Lisa John – apologies received.		
Item on Agenda	Discussion/Points raised	Who	Action
1. Declaration of interests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KJ owns a bowling centre</li> <li>• HM Mint sportswear and pro shop owner</li> <li>• RG – Tenpin Tour committee member</li> </ul>	All	
2. Review actions from previous meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 22<sup>nd</sup> November date of the last minutes.</li> <li>• Green out the actions that have been completed.</li> <li>• Note to progress the new website – we have engaged SplendidWeb – will be starting to put together new website. Lot of transferring of data. Will take a number of months to complete. This is being paid for.</li> <li>• DB requested that PLM do a report of what his role is in lane inspections. Hadley has completed one for him also for the membership newsletter.</li> <li>• Concerns over the coaching assistant course online – confusion possibly more than concern – it is live and active people are attending. RG they will be DBS checked once they have asked for it, applied for it. Can only verify if they have a physical DBS licence. DB – confusion – having the</li> </ul>	All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KJ to speak with STh to action exactly what the coaching assistant course enables then to do and what it entails. Just to make it clear to all members. Part of the statement that the assistant coach is not allowed to be on the lane at a tournament, as the rules state a coach, this needs to be clear and not include assistant coach to be on the lanes.</li> <li>• KJ to also speak to STh regarding possible coaching structure and possible ways to support coaches once they have qualified.</li> </ul>



	<p>licence from this course can assist a coach. RG changed from fundamentals to assistant. DB would be beneficial to put it out there and explain exactly what it is and what that allows you to do. Action for STh. Discussion around what assistant implies – the wording needs to be clear – Kim to speak with Steve T and can send wording to CD.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DB – List of coaches available? RG yes there is a list. The list is always current, difficulty getting it on the website and keeping it current. DB – raised because I wanted a list of coaches to contact to see if they were current and active – to be included in email about are they currently available to coach. Just go list is not a valid list for coaches – it is a list of qualification – Ron’s list is an active coaching licence with DBS. HM sent out over 180 emails with a 10% response – so we have a large number of coaches who are not coaching?! Need to work with both lists of active and willing coaches.</li> <li>• GB would like to consider coaching price guideline. DB once you have your coaching licence what support do they have after that? What can they charge? Depending on the level that they are. Could we produce a quarterly email for the coaching? Could give suggestions on chargeable costs that coaches can charge. Kim to speak with Steve about what this could look like.</li> </ul>		
<p>3. Chairman’s Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GB</li> <li>• Thankyou for your attendance, Chloe for booking the venue, Jo taking the minutes.</li> <li>• Apologies given.</li> <li>• Have attended the proprietors meeting – the hospitality and leisure sector are being bombarded with accelerated costs and future increases. We could see an increase in their costs and this will filter down into lineage rates. New minimum wage laws will impact on who bowling centres may employ. Costs will increase for leagues and tournaments. PLOB will</li> </ul>	<p>GB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLOB – to review list of tournament managers to potentially send an update of view from the proprietors focused on raising lineage costs.</li> <li>• GB – sanctioning drop in leagues – pull together a plan to be implemented.</li> </ul>



	<p>capture the cost of lineage over the year to see what average lineage rate is. GB be mindful that the bowling centres are under pressure and so we need to be supportive and accept that prices will go up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RG – do we have a list of tournament managers – would be helpful to contact them, explaining what to expect when setting up a tournament, offer support, give updates. PLOB to review the list and potentially look into this.</li> <li>• GB – Some bowling chains – acknowledge that they allow their managers to manage their centres how they wish and some will be willing and some not so willing to host leagues/tournaments etc.</li> <li>• DB – local associations need to build the relationship with their bowling centre as well as BTBA attending proprietors meeting.</li> <li>• HM – can we attend managers meetings – for example Hollywood managers?</li> <li>• DB – spoke with head of proprietors about looking at dead time in the week to liaise with DB and the local associations to fill this time potentially with a league.</li> <li>• HM – Drop in leagues to be sanctioned? GB This has been discussed – need to put a plan together and implement it.</li> </ul>		
4. Annual Awards	<p>PLM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Annual awards meeting with the committee was held last week.</li> <li>• Not always going to come up with the perfect solution.</li> <li>• PLM sent out the changes that we are proposing to go with this year.</li> <li>• See notes from PLM on update for criteria for annual awards.</li> <li>• DB – shared about International Bowler of the Year and possible reasons for doing it.</li> </ul>	PLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLM to share updated annual awards criteria with the council. This can then be shared with the membership via area associations and on the website.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RG – sponsorship is for the association to have their name on the award not necessarily to pay just for the award, which it does, but is also to the BTBA.</li> <li>• PLoB – talk about the value of sponsorship – but the build up to the award. Interview with the winner etc for our socials.</li> <li>• PLoB – is this the right thing to do? Why are we awarding for an international bowler? Could be a contribution to tenpin bowling and not just bowling achievements.</li> <li>• PLM – warranted more debate within this forum. At this time this will be included for this year. Who will decide this will be part of the annual awards committee.</li> </ul>		
5. Technical services	<p>PLM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lane inspections generated the most money – a bowling chain are stating that all of, if not most of their centres are certified. We may not use some of these centres, they may not want us to use them. But this is good for all the centres as can support them. PLoB can we feed this back to the proprietors – share that it can be a benefit. HM – can give them an independent assessment.</li> <li>• Look at numbers of interest of lane inspectors.</li> <li>• PLM to look at courses for potential new inspectors.</li> </ul>	PLM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PLM to put together potential courses for new inspectors.</li> </ul>
6. Youth Bowling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• U22 counties – junior bowling will not be running this county event, so have been looking for a new secretary – Claire Shave has possibly volunteered, only heard this recently.</li> <li>• YAC Tour – gaining interest – tried to speak to Dean to help promote it. DB – entries are out late, formats are not clear. PLoB has also offered to help – rather than run 10 tournaments – can use some of the tour events and use the rankings from those, can still have some YAC specific events. Do fewer and do well. Interesting formats and entry forms are very long and can be confusing.</li> </ul>	ST	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JC to appoint a new county secretary for the U22 division.</li> <li>• PLoB – liaise with SToop on how to entice ex youth bowlers into the Championship Tour.</li> <li>• SToop – gain update on RecruitUS on the benefit for BTBA or whether to use as a signpost for bowlers.</li> <li>• SToop – follow up proposal sent to Storm for Baker event sponsorship.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• PLOb – been asked to put in a maximim handicap for the tour, can we cap the handicap – was some feedback from the bowlers last year.</li><li>• HM – something we can do for youth bowling for the end of youth and into adults. Is there another way we can get bowlers into the Championship tour. We have helped to transition them that way. Subsidise it in some way. Stepping stone for last year of youth into tour. KJ – could play in their own average.</li><li>• DB – using challenge pattern.</li><li>• ST – on paper it should be a good vehicle – but difficult to promote it.</li><li>• PLOb – he is having a good go at running the events, but just not getting the entries.</li><li>• DB – YAC tour strategiaccally – we should be putting our support for the youth into the Championship tour.</li><li>• PLOb – Change of age range for juniors will mean that there are more bowlers available</li><li>• SToop – look at the Championship tour for the next steps from youth bowling.</li><li>• GB – PLOb can you look at how we can gain interest for these youth bowlers for example a cheaper entry etc.</li><li>• RecruitUS – This is an organisation who have approached Youth – at no cost to us – any juniors that would like to go to the states for school there is a portal – they can sign up it is a cost to the bowler \$250. If we promote it and no cost to us, do we get anything from it if we promote it. They can help with the process.</li><li>• JC – we can signpost players to this?</li><li>• SToop – ask the question of if we promote it what would we get? If not then happy to signpost if requested.</li><li>• SToop – Trying to get Storm to sponsor a baker challenge in the UK, as they have been doing it for some time in the</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Team England selectors to be more present at Youth and Senior events to support selections.</li></ul>
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	<p>states. We have made an enquiry and put in a proposal. We are running the event in August, just seeing if there is this possible sponsorship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Team England selectors presence at Youth bowling tournaments would be good to have more attending some events in the year.</li> <li>• PLoB – would also say the same for Seniors especially as selections are much wider now.</li> </ul>		
<p>7. Sports Development</p>	<p>Kim Johnson/Hadley Morgan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Grand seniors are going to Vienna for the Grand Senior European Championships.</li> <li>• EYC – Berlin – 27<sup>th</sup> March – 6<sup>th</sup> April</li> <li>• JC looking into chaperone situation.</li> <li>• Senior Triple Crown in April at Bromborough.</li> <li>• Small squad of EWC ladies to be selected as currently have a squad of 9 to be shortlisted to 6.</li> <li>• World Youths also has been finalized but not published. Initially tried that all youths for worlds to be over 18, due to the chaperone issues. Also an additional expense.</li> <li>• Everything up to Berlin is all booked etc.</li> <li>• Team manager to have emergency contact/medication/health and travel insurance collated before leaving for a Championship.</li> <li>• Chloe to collate for Hadley.</li> <li>• HM – Forms for parents to sign for taking children abroad – Chloe to complete for Hadley.</li> <li>• HM – When I was a junior we had a national academy – all of that is not out there anymore. Put a team together to look at resurrecting some of the old paperwork and content. We have updated Hadley, Curtis and Richard Lambkin. Had a meeting last Saturday with the current list of coaches – 14 attended on the day. Very positive discussions – outcome</li> </ul>	<p>KJ/H M</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JC to review chaperone for under 18's travelling with Team England.</li> <li>• Remaining Team England teams to be selected.</li> <li>• ALL Team England managers to have emergency contact details/medication list/health and or travel insurance details/signed code of conducts BEFORE travelling for all teams. CD will collate for Team managers.</li> <li>• CD to have parental forms signed before travel for EYC – taking children abroad for events.</li> <li>• SToop – to gain list of YBC's and coaches for HM.</li> <li>• HM to launch new junior coaching programme in the next few months.</li> </ul>



	<p>that 4 year programme – Year 1 will be rewritten and put into YBC's to support with structured training. This can benefit more bowlers and not just academy bowlers. It will be a 3 year academy programme. Established that we will be working with YBC's to structure training. A lot of it will be digital – going to speak with Geoff about contacting Simon Kimber around the app he has. Will then work with YBC coaches within a region to support with the implementation. Once completed year 1 can then compile lists to be nominated to be put forward to the next steps potentially Team England Academy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discussion around the history of junior coaching and what this could potentially look like going forward.</li> <li>• HM – Called the parts for YBC – Year 1 was the initial name – but then decided on level 1.</li> <li>• Hoping it to be launched in the next couple of months.</li> <li>• SToop will get a list for Hadley of YBC's and coaches.</li> </ul>		
8. Nationals/Tournaments	<p>Paul Loberman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Nationals dates have been announced, Mansfield wanted to accommodate as many people as possible – we were flexible and have two weekend but with a break in the middle.</li> <li>• See notes attached to minutes.</li> <li>• Senior Nationals at Stroud in May – 16/17 May. There are a lot of other events.</li> <li>• No change in format or average bands for the divisions for both adult and senior nationals.</li> <li>• Last year we trialed to open to all members not just competitive members. Discussed for this year – for the adult division B and C open to all members, division A must be competitive memberships.</li> <li>• Senior Nationals the same – for division B will be a league membership</li> </ul>	PL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ALL events previously named as Super Seniors are now to be named Grand Seniors.</li> <li>• Support needed to run the Nationals both for adults and seniors.</li> <li>• HM to book in dates for future training sessions/fund raising for 2027.</li> <li>• PLOB to liaise with SW and possibly ST to finalise the average database, so that it can go live.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• All events for Super seniors must now be called Grand Seniors.</li><li>• BTBA tour – last year ran 9 events – Paul to give Jo the numbers for the minutes.</li><li>• PLOB will need some help running the Nationals both adult and seniors. Ron is able to help with the Senior.</li><li>• Sanctioning – 144 tournaments were sanctioned nearly £15,000 generated in fees. Still waiting on a couple of events for sanction fees and financial reports.</li><li>• This year 48 tournaments have already been sanctioned.</li><li>• Sanction certificate production is now quicker as changed provider.</li><li>• New tournament finance reporting are now online. All the amounts are checked to ensure that they match. Once the tournament has finished the tournament manager will get a reminder to complete the report. It will tell you where to pay.</li><li>• HM – the tournament calendar is very full. Are these tournaments 90% full? Is it quantity over quality? Can cause chaos in trying to organize Team England training sessions, for people attending and centres.</li><li>• DB – Book the dates for the year for training sessions.</li><li>• HM – Look at fund raising events – book the dates in now for 2027.</li><li>• HM – so many tour organisers trying to get dates for themselves. PLOB have tried to manage them.</li><li>• DB/RG – Tenpin tour and Resdev bowlers do not tend to play in both.</li><li>• PLOB – players can bowl at more than one event in a weekend.</li><li>• RG – Put in the dates that you want – Team England – then they are booked in for the year.</li></ul>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth dates are given in advance, dates in the future for academy Team England and Youth will need to collaborate on these.</li> <li>• DB - Average database when is this going to go live? PLOb need some time with Stuart before it can be able to go live. PLOb to speak with Stoop after the meeting as he will be able to help with that.</li> <li>• PLOb – has been receiving league sheets, which have been sent in to Lisa at the admin email, the standing sheets can be difficult to transfer over to the database. As unable to manually enter all the sheets. So ongoing.</li> </ul>		
<p>9. Membership Services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community membership 101 sign ups when it went live this week, 22 were existing members, 4 have gone on to be full members. 2 monthly emails have been sent out to them. See attached notes from DB.</li> <li>• DB – to reintroduce the free memberships for league secretaries for completing league standing, data from the league.</li> <li>• DB – shared the letter that he sent out – Dan says the letter is quite long – could break that information up and send one a week in smaller chunks. Would be difficult with my time – PLOb – could set up a template and send out via mailchimp. DB and PLOb to liaise on how this can work.</li> <li>• Rebate for local associations for 2026 – awarding rebate on the performance of that association. It will be a local area reward not rebate. See DB’s notes for the meeting.</li> <li>• DB – creating new role within membership services around justgo – someone who is working with webbased applications. Possible looking at things we can do in justgo, sent Dan a lot of technical support. Need someone with more expertise with this – not advertised as of yet.</li> </ul>	<p>DB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DB and PLOb to work together on template for letter that DB has been working on for membership.</li> <li>• DB to look into a person to support him with technical support – to be advertised.</li> <li>• CD to confirm gender inclusion policy with EBF.</li> <li>• VK to email CD regarding transgender policy.</li> <li>• Executive council to determine what a fundraising policy would look like and to be finalised in line with charity status.</li> <li>• Executive council to investigate if a lottery/fundraising licence is required once we become a charity.</li> <li>• CD – send tenure of roles to DB.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vicky has completed policy - disability and inclusion policy and another have been put together.</li> <li>• Vicky has completed gender inclusion policy – CD need to confirm with EBF to ensure that it is following their rules and regulations not one for USBC. Vicky to email Chloe regarding this transgender policy.</li> <li>• Vicky sent notes to share with the council – see attached notes.</li> <li>• Fundraising – need a policy – need a lottery licence to complete this. Will this still be needed when we are charity? Fundraising regulator can be easier to access and cheaper when we are a charity.</li> <li>• DB – Ian is settling in, Mark had some issues with reengagement will spend more time doing the regional job. Matt has been attending AGMs within his region. Need to know tenures for these roles.</li> </ul>		
10. Safeguarding ICC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update from County Think Tank – minutes have been sent to all council members, local associations and those who attended the meeting.</li> <li>• Shared that Northumberland no longer have a charter, these bowlers are now eligible to become orphans – within the ICC rules.</li> <li>• Cheshire still do not have a charter so these bowlers are eligible to become orphans – within the ICC rules.</li> <li>• Summary of the the minutes to be prepared for the website, as the minutes are detailed but not overly easy to follow.</li> <li>• JC shared update from the Hall of Fame committee in regards to nominations and voting.</li> <li>• JC expressed concern that not all of the council sent their nominations in to be counted towards the BTBA's vote on the committee. The same lack of response to vote for the same. The BTBA has one vote on the committee and JC collates the councils vote to submit. We have 2 independent members</li> </ul>	JC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• JC to complete a summary of the ICC think tank to be published on the website.</li> <li>• PLM to complete update of ICC rules to be published on the website.</li> </ul>



	<p>of the National Council on the Hall of Fame, JC is the BTBA representative. All of the council need to engage with this process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two current safeguarding cases open.</li> <li>• One recent safeguarding issue is to be opened as a formal complaint to legal.</li> </ul>		
11. Legal and Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 current complaints</li> <li>• Charity adviser position to be advertised, CD to write job description for bid writing etc.</li> <li>• Maternity cover needed, no MORE THAN 4 MONTHS – Jo C to cover.</li> </ul>	CD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CD to write job description for Charity adviser position.</li> <li>• CD to advertise this position.</li> <li>• Jo C to complete maternity cover for CD</li> </ul>
12. Licensing/Insurances	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RG rules changed by the DBS, every year for volunteer they are now asking that people respond and not just for information.</li> <li>• DB – repost on socials</li> <li>• RG - DBS are now returning within 7 days.</li> <li>• Insurances – update professional indemnity and public liability is now available to all officers and coaches. All policies are renewed.</li> <li>• RG - Received a quote for overseas travel for Team England bowlers, RG has sent this information to Hadley and Kim.</li> <li>• HM – spoken with Tony Brown regarding insurance policy – he will be sending an example.</li> <li>• RG – do the things that they cover meet the requirements. Ask Vicki to review this alongside Hadley.</li> </ul>	RG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• HM/KJ to review overseas insurance quote that has been sent to them by RG.</li> <li>• HM/Vicki to review insurance policies – does it cover what we need.</li> </ul>
13. AOB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kevin Rose wants to hold a Champions event, like a Champions of Champions to be possible held in Nottingham. Putting together information to share, just wanted to share the idea at this time.</li> <li>• RG - Drop in leagues – give them a moral sanction?</li> <li>• GB – currently do not sanction drop in leagues as do not say they have to be members.</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of drop in leagues to be sanctioned – what would this look like. DB/PLob to liaise.</li> <li>• HM/DB to work together on packages of membership going forward.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DB – My drop in league – sign them up to community member straight away.</li> <li>• HM – players pay an extra £2 a week for non-members.</li> <li>• DB – not sanctioned as not having the admin.</li> <li>• PLOb – criteria for a drop in league 10 weeks or less, no financial security, to write so that it can have a moral sanction. Could create a drop in league membership</li> <li>• RG can use the community membership.</li> <li>• Discussion around what this looks like across different examples of drop in leagues.</li> <li>• HM – membership fees not close enough to where they need to be. Discussion around historical changes. HM will talk with DB offline on a potential package of what this could look like.</li> </ul>		
<p>14. Date of Next Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Council 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026 online</li> <li>• AGM 1<sup>st</sup> August 2026 can be online or in person</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Confirm at next meeting whether the AGM will be online or in person.</li> <li>• Invites to be shared with ALL council members for the next meeting – 2.5.26</li> </ul>