

Berkshire Area Local Association – BTBA
Minutes of Annual General Meeting 26th March 2017
Held at the MFA Newbury Bowl

(1) Roll Call and apologies:

(2)

Brian Page, Janet Page, Gerry Olver, Brian Dudman, Graham Stewart, Stephen Toop, Kim Winston, Chelsea Piggott, Phil Staff, Sarah Hood, Jacqui Cooper, and Steve Curtis.

Apologies:

Apologies for absence were received from Alison Taylor, Andre Davidson (Berkshire Coaching Tutor -- who was away) Tricia Lloyd, Mark Wanstall, Carol Brock, Val Hopcraft, David Yeates.

(3) Adoption of Minutes from the 2016 AGM.

(4)

The minutes were circulated by the secretary and published on the Berkshire Bowling website after last years AGM. No comments or corrections were requested so the minutes were adopted as published.

(3) Chairman's Report:

Chelsea reported on the year's progress with regard to the aims that she set out at last year's AGM. One of the aims was to get the Newbury YBC to feed/publish relevant information about forthcoming events, etc, on the Berkshire Bowling Facebook page, so far this has not really happened on a regular basis but Stephen Toop agreed that the YBC would be more proactive in this area.

The second Aim was to encourage more team practice sessions with bowlers across all age groups to foster a better "Berkshire Team" ethos. During 2016 quite a few team practice sessions were held and Chelsea thought we should continue to build on this during 2017.

The other aims were to promote U15, U18 and YBC bowling to the other bowling centres across the County. Un-fortunately due to the lack of interest by the other bowls and the relatively few young bowlers in these centres not much progress has been made, so Newbury remains the main focus of youth bowling in the county.

(5) Secretary's Report:

(6)

2016/17 has been a very busy year since we held the last AGM in February 2016. Berkshire entered teams for the YAC (now U25), Adults and Senior Inter County Championships. The U25 ladies qualified in 5th Place to progress from the first round to the knockout stages, but went out in the quarter finals being beaten by a small margin by Cheshire. The U25 men faced some very tough opposition and failed to progress from the first round.

In the Seniors ICC Southern Qualifiers held at Poole the men qualified in fourth place for the finals at Nottingham in October but the ladies missed out finishing in sixth place with only the top four qualifying for the finals. In the finals the men could not match Yorkshire who won yet again! We placed tenth out of twelve but Alan Keddie bowled a perfect 300 game (the only one in the tournament) in what was otherwise a fairly low scoring tournament.

In the Adults ICC Southern area qualifiers, also held at Poole, both the men and ladies just missed out with both teams finishing in fifth place with the top four only qualifying. Both the Lane conditions and temperature in the bowl were not good for the afternoon session.

We entered three teams (2 men and 1 lady) for the South East County Challenge at the Airport Bowl in June and everyone had a good day's bowling with competitive scoring for the Berkshire pot prizes. Quite a number of the raffle prizes were won by tickets sold through Berkshire and the day was definitely a financial success for the County as well as good training practice for five man team bowling.

Many thanks to Dan Bonfield for keeping this tournament available as an extra county tournament.

For the first time since 2011 we held a Berkshire closed Championships in tandem with an open doubles tournament at MFA Newbury on the first Sunday of October. The tournament was reasonably well supported with twenty Doubles Team entries including entries to all age categories of the Berkshire Championships. The individual and team results were circulated after the event and also published on the Berkshire Bowling website. The event was deemed to be a success and we plan to run a similar event in 2017.

In January this year we made the decision to amalgamate the U25 trials into the Adult and Senior Trials which were held at Farnborough Bowl in January. The trials were well supported with an entry of 40 bowlers, we chose a challenging oil pattern for the trials and the resulting scores were relatively low in comparison to the participating bowler's normal league averages but the results were comparable across both squads. Berkshire will be entering both Men's and Ladies teams for the Adult's and Senior's 2017 Inter County Championships, but only a men's team for the U25 Tournament.

The year has been very eventful for the BTBA head office and organisation. In December 2015 the Romford head office was closed and the office functions moved to operate out of the Matchpoint Europe offices in Lincolnshire for both financial reasons and to streamline the office procedures. In March our Southern region representative Lisa John was replaced by Emma Ashton, who in turn was replaced by Will Lines in September. Both Lisa and Emma have moved onto different jobs and functions within the BTBA. During the second half of 2016 it became obvious that the head office operations with Matchpoint Europe were not operating well, highlighted by major problems with Membership renewals and Tournament sanction delays. In October (at the Senior Finals week-end Dinner) it was formally announced by the BTBA Chairman Ron Griffin that the arrangements with Matchpoint had been terminated and that control of the head office functions had been taken over by the Executive Council members.

The individual responsibilities are detailed on the BTBA website with all responsibilities and relevant contact details fully defined, so anyone with issues that need to be addressed should consult the website and then the relevant council officer. (However there were some reservations expressed as to the current accuracy of the Website by some at the meeting – but any contact or query can be routed through the BTBA Admin Email Address to reach the appropriate person). Since these changes were implemented the majority of the membership issues and other problems have been resolved and the organisation is being run on a de-centralised model with the day to day functions being controlled and activated by the National and Executive council members.

I understand that at the BTBA AGM in May there will be clarification of the current situation and how the organisation intends to move forward. Both Chelsea and myself are nominated to attend the AGM on May 20th and I will report further after that meeting.

This year we have held a couple of Council meetings as well as the AGM and I am pleased with the council members input and assistance throughout the year and think we are generally making progress to a more rounded Local Association. Hopefully we can make further progress this year.

(5) Financial Report:

Gerry Olver presented the Treasurer's report, see separate copies of Bank statements and cash projections for 2017. 2016 was a successful year for the association finances, we started with a good brought forward balance from 2015, had good entries for the County trials in January/February and for the Doubles/Closed Championships in October so those tournaments generated positive cash revenues. We received £164 Membership rebate from the BTBA, boosted by the new league bowlers at Newbury and as agreed at last year's AGM we collected Lineage money from the bowlers that took part in the various Intercounty Tournaments. We generated good raffle ticket sales with regard to the South East County challenge Ball draw and also received some cash from the Tombola run during the competition. This meant we had a balance of £757.55 at the end of 2016 and this has been boosted since then by the profits from the County trials held in January 2017 so that at the end of February our bank balance was £1,511.95. This is enough to cover this year's U25, Adult and Senior Inter County Championship entry fees and lineage costs with approximately £375 in hand for future/additional costs.

(6) YBC Report:

Stephen Toop attended the AGM representing the Newbury YBC.

Stephen reported that the Newbury YBC currently has 21 Bowlers, but a large percentage of the bowlers are in the YAC/U25 age group and are likely to soon move on. The YBC have introduced 4 new Trainers this year.

The YBC has had recent tournament successes winning six trophies at the South of England Youth Open at Dunstable in January and two trophies in the South Coast Junior Challenge at Portsmouth in March.

Due to the low number of bowlers of the right age groups the decision has been to enter only an U15 Boys team this year for the Inter County Tournaments, so there will be no U15 girls and no U18 Boys or Girls teams. The U15 trials have been held in March with only Newbury YBC bowlers competing and the ICC entry has been made.

On the negative side Stephen reported that the YBC is losing bowlers due to the MFA Newbury Bowl and lane conditions, the YBC lost one of their best youth bowlers recently because she refuses to bowl at the centre due to the lane and centre conditions being provided. With regard to this situation Steve Curtis had tabled a question asking if the BTBA do anything with proprietors to ensure they are actively supporting leagues and providing the right conditions. The answer to this is at present the BTBA has no influence on how any proprietor operates and run their bowling centres. The only proprietor that has signed up to the BTBA/Proprietor agreement is in fact MFA and they obviously do not let it influence the way they run their bowling centres apart from what is defined in the pricing and practise facilities as agreed. It would appear from research on other MFA centres using trip advisor, etc, that the conditions at MFA Newbury are reflective of the whole group.

Stephen had also spoken to Terry Searle (NAYBC) about organising a “Berkshire YBC” using the other Berkshire bowling centres but all controlled by one YBC organisation to try and assist in generating more youth bowlers around the county rather than just at Newbury. He did not receive any positive response from Terry other than that he mentioned a “Back to School YBC” initiative – info on which is not yet available, so Stephen is interested to see what this initiative will be.

As mentioned in the Chairman’s report by Chelsea very little progress has been made at Wokingham and Bracknell with regard to new YBC’s and/or recruiting or locating young bowlers interested in competing in Tournaments or for the County

(7) Elections of Officers of the Association for 2017:

The following elections took place.

(7.1) Area Secretary: Sarah Hood was elected for 2017.

(7.2) Treasurer: Gerry Olver was re-elected for 2017, and it was agreed that if available David Yeats would shadow Gerry and possibly replace him later in the year or for 2018.

(7.3) Chairman: Chelsea Piggott was re-elected for 2017.

(7.4) Vice Chairman: Kim Winston was elected for 2017.

(7.5) Inter County Co-ordinator: Brian Page has operated in this role for the last few years and was happy to continue in the role. Brian was elected to carry on for 2017/18.

(7.6) Election of Council Members for 2017:

All last years AGM attendees plus committee members were elected as the 2016 council members and it was proposed that we would do the same for this year but also add Andre Davidson as he is the appointed Berkshire coaching Tutor and also add any Team managers that were not present or part of the committee.

This years Council is thus: Andre Davidson, David Yeats, Brian Page, Janet Page, Gerry Olver, Brian Dudman, Graham Stewart, Stephen Toop, Kim Winston, Chelsea Piggott, Phil Staff, Sarah Hood, Jacqui Cooper, and Steve Curtis.

Plus the team managers appointed below -- Gavin Rutter and Mark Wanstall.

(7.7) Election of County Team Managers 2017:

U15 Boys --- Stephen Toop.

U15 Girls --- No Team for 2017

U18 Boys --- No Team for 2017

U18 Girls --- No Team for 2017

U25 Men --- Stephen Toop

U25 Ladies --- No Team for 2017

Men's Adult Team

Gavin Rutter elected as Manager

(Gavin, Jason Agate & Mark Wanstall had been nominated)

Ladies Adult Team -- Sarah Hood.

Senior Men's Team

Senior Ladies Team

Mark Wanstall had offered himself as available for a Team Managers role.

As he did not get the Adult men's role it was decided to offer Mark the position of Manager for the Senior Teams, both Men and Ladies or one of his choices. Brian Page will talk to Mark and we can announce the decision at a later date. Brian would help with any related paperwork but would prefer to bowl this year rather than manage.

(8) Any Other Business:

(8.1) Berkshire Area Championships.

It was decided in the October council meeting that we would run the Berkshire Closed Championships again in 2017 in conjunction with a Doubles tournament, so basically the same format as for the 2016 Tournament. The current date selected is Sunday the 1st October as that date appears to be relatively free of competitive events. The venue is as yet undecided and will need to be sorted out in the next Council meeting.

(8.2) Fund Raising Requirements for 2017 if we are to continue with ICC Team entries:

Lineage fees will be expected to be repaid by the ICC participating bowlers at a rate of £2/game as already set in 2015 and operated for 2016. It was agreed that we would continue with this policy for the 2017 ICC Tournaments.

The County will also endeavour to enter as many teams as possible for the South East County Challenge, so that we can participate in the related Raffles, Tombola, etc, run by Dan Bonfield. The event is scheduled for Sunday 16th July at the Airport bowl. Brian will circulate info to all bowlers that participated in the January trials.

(8.3) New BTBA Coaching Feedback Provided by Andre Davidson

The coaching tutor for Berkshire is Andre Davidson (who is a Berkshire Local Association member who bowls at Maidenhead/Slough). Andre's function is to assist Berkshire members who want to be coaches to get into the coaching system by helping them with advice and arranging the required courses, etc.

Andre provided a report/summary of the BTBA Coaches conference that he attended in Feb 2017, this was available as a separate word doc "Andre Long report Coach Conf Feb2017" The following comments are his short report:

The recent BTBA Coaches conference was a great success judging by the reactions and comments of the coaches attending. As one delegate later said, "This was a brilliant opportunity to meet senior staff, feedback our concerns and be taken notice of. It's a shame that others who decided not to attend have missed this great opportunity." Twenty nine coaches attended the February 2017 conference, held in a centrally located conference venue just off the M6 in Coventry. There was plentiful parking and a very good hot lunch for all delegates.

The conference aimed to deliver the new philosophy and vision of BTBA coaching and inform and educate coaches in person. The team of Andy Penny, Director of Coaching, Terry Searle, Director of Sport Development and Lee Hart, National Coaching Manager, managed to do this extremely well. Presentations included the new vision for coaching, education on Anti-Doping organisations and procedures, the coaches' website, practical coaching tips and Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults.

The overall message is that coaching has changed. The ETBF qualifications are here to stay and coaches will have to stay up to date with developments in coaching to maintain their licences. All this will be supported by a solid coach education and Continuing Professional Development (CPD) program from the BTBA. A lively open forum Q&A session ended the day with plenty of opportunity for all delegates to have their say. Slides from the 2017 conference will be available shortly on the coaches' website.

The Coaches Conference 2018 planned for next year is open to all coaches and officials. Lee Hart said "We would like to welcome and meet as many of you as possible next year so keep an eye on the Coaches Club website for details."

A coaching course was recently held at MFA Newbury on a Saturday morning and there was some discussion between the Course tutors and the YBC trainers which has led to them (Newbury YBC) being concerned about the current coaching situation with regard to courses that they were told they would have to complete and the related cost that the current YBC helpers are likely to incur. It was stated by Stephen (and also Steve) that they were concerned about the stated costs for attending the new BTBA/ETBF coaching qualification courses and that they were also worried about the continuity of the approach being adopted by the BTBA Coaches organisation as it appears to be changing too often. It was agreed that the Newbury YBC will draft and send a letter to the BTBA raising their issues and questions relating to the new Coaching Policy prior to the main BTBA AGM in May. Possibly we should raise the matter for discussion at the AGM or at least discuss it informally with the appropriate people after the AGM.

(8.4) Committee and Council Meetings to be held in 2017:

It was agreed that Berkshire will plan to hold two council meetings, probably in May/early June (after the main BTBA AGM on May 20th) and September. The dates and venues to be fixed in due course.

The meeting closed at 11:40am.
Brian Page
Berkshire BTBA Local Association.

Berkshire Area Local Association – BTBA

Minutes of EGM held 26th March 2017

Present: Those present at AGM held as above,

It was decided in the 2016 meeting that in future years the current Chairman and Local area Secretary will automatically be nominated as our representatives to attend the BTBA AGM.

So Sarah Hood and Chelsea Piggott will be the Berkshire representatives at the 2018 BTBA AGM.

Brian closed the meeting at 11:45 am.

Brian Page
Berkshire BTBA Local Association Secretary.