

Berkshire Area Local Association – BTBA
Minutes of Annual General Meeting 28th February 2016
Held at the Wokingham Superbowl

(1) Roll Call and apologies:

Brian Page (Secretary) Brian Dudman, Gerry Olver (Treasurer), Chelsea Piggott (Chairman), Kim Winston, Sarah Hood, Graham Stewart, Phil Staff, Steve Toop (YBC), David Yeats and Jacqui Cooper.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Alison Taylor (Vice Chairman), James Loder, Andre Davidson (Berkshire Coaching Tutor -- who was away on a coaching meeting), Alan Keddie, Mark Wanstall, John Grace, Gavin Rutter, Carol Brock, Steve Norriss and Janet Page.

(2) Adoption of Minutes from the 2015 AGM.

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

(3) Chairman's Report:

Firstly, I would like to say how happy I am with the turnout for the adult and senior country trials. I think this was because of the great promotion happening through the Facebook page and the amount of notice people had in regards to dates. I would also like to recognize that we tripled the number of entrants last year for the SE county challenge from 1 to 3 teams.

The Facebook group has 116 likes (people following the page) and includes lots of pictures and posts about the county. It brings the county closer together.

Thank you Sarah for looking after the page.

Aim: it would be great if Newbury YBC could feed information in the page- competitions, achievements etc. Similarly it would be great if we could get people talking on the page more with their own achievements as this is a great way to share good bowling and help to promote the page further.

I would like to congratulate both the men and women's adults and senior teams in representing their counties. I would like to thank all team managers- Sarah, Jimmy, Jacqui and Brian for their help. I know that the adult ladies team finished two places higher than last year which is great. I would also like to congratulate people for their personal achievements this year. The ladies set up practice sessions in the months leading up to the qualifiers and this really brought the team together as we got to know each other's strengths and games better. I would like to say thank you to Sarah Hood for helping to make this happen and sorting out dates.

Aim: Looking forward I would like to set up practice sessions for all teams from U15s all the way to seniors. This would include inviting the top 15 bowlers from each category to practice as a group leading up to the qualifiers. I will also be looking into asking coaches to attend the sessions to help any bowler to develop further if they choose. I have been looking to run this at Farnborough as this would enable us to work on lane patterns too.

Unfortunately we did not run trials for U15 and U18 as it was believed we could not make a team due to lack of bowlers. I think looking forward we need to manage these trials more effectively as there was a lot of confusion around dates for trials. I also think it's important to run the trials anyway as it is difficult to know who will enter.

Aim: To promote U15 and U18 counties to a wider audience.

I spoke to a deputy manager at Bracknell bowl about holding a YBC. Unfortunately at the time they were only willing to run it on a Sunday morning as it wasn't 'cost effective' at any other time. However, now they are running a competition in March it may be that we try again after this.

Aim: to set up a new YBC and to help promote Wokingham YBC which is very low in numbers?

However, I do now that there are new sanctioned leagues at Newbury now and also increased membership across the county since last year which is great!

I have been working with Sarah to run our own Berkshire Association Competition. We will look at running this in the autumn and will run a tombola and cake sale alongside this. We are looking to put the funds raised in the competition back into grass roots e.g. setting up a YBC and promoting existing ones. I have spoken to Mark at Farnborough and he is happy to run the competition there as long as the dates match up.

Lastly, I would like to make everyone aware of the new coaching website that is available to see through the BTBA website. If you would like to look into becoming a coach all the information is on there. If you are already a coach you can register for a free lifetime membership that includes lots of materials. There is also a new page for local associations that lists sanctioned leagues and county members so please have a look at this too.

(4) Secretary's Report:

Since last year's AGM we held the 2015 Berkshire County Adults and Seniors trials at Farnborough Bowl in February and March, we had 28 bowlers take part. Due to lane conditioning problems we had substantially different scores between the Saturday and the Sunday results which was unfortunate but generally only effected the Adult men's team selection. We were able to form and enter both Men's and Ladies Inter County teams at Adult and Senior age groups. The trial proceeds were £535 which went towards the Inter County team entry fees but did not fully cover them and the lineages costs incurred at the qualifying rounds. So we asked the selected team bowlers to pay £2/game when bowling in the qualifying round to help cover the costs.

In the Senior Inter Counties Southern qualifying at the Airport Bowl in June both the Men and the Ladies teams failed to qualify for the finals at Nuneaton in October.

In August Berkshire entered two men's teams and a Ladies team in the South East County challenge organised by Dan Bonfield at the Airport Bowl. The men's A team averaged 993pins per game, the Men's B team 943 and the Ladies 933pins per game. The winning team was Surrey Men with a game average of 1081pins.

In the Adults Southern Region Qualifying at Tolworth in September the men failed to qualify for the finals, coming eighth out of the ten Southern Region counties participating. I think the re-organisation into regional qualifying (as against North/South qualifying) has made qualification for the Berkshire Men harder than it was previously. However the Ladies managed fourth out of seven counties to make the finals weekend at MFA Nottingham in November. In the finals the ladies placed ninth out of the twelve finalists which was an improvement on the previous year.

In May myself and Chelsea Piggott attended the BTBA AGM in Luton. The accounts for the year ending August 2014 showed a loss of over £27,000 and it was confirmed that the organisation was still running with ongoing operating losses, so at the moment the organisation continues to run on the cash reserves raised by selling the former head office building. The projected deficit for 2014/15 was a further £40,000 plus. This was obviously a top priority for the new "reformed" National Council to get to grips with and has recently resulted in the closure of the Romford head office and its relocation to Market Deeping in Lincolnshire in the New Year. This move and the sub-contracting of the office functions to Matchpoint Europe are expected to substantially reduce the office overheads. The office move situation has recently been reported on by Marcus on the BTBA Website homepage and hopefully the majority of the related problems and delays caused are now behind us. Also a substantial "Annual Review 2015" document was provided at the AGM and this was circulated to all Berkshire BTBA members that I had email addresses for at the time. This review was very wide ranging and covered most area's of activity, re-organisation and the projected way forward for the BTBA, it is assumed that this review will be updated as appropriate and published on an annual basis.

Berkshire Local Association membership for 2015/16 has increased substantially from the previous year. Mainly due to the BTBA/MFA agreement meaning that there are substantial advantages for leagues in MFA operated centres to be BTBA sanctioned. There are now Five sanctioned leagues at Newbury as well as the Newbury YBC and their Saturday morning leagues. Our membership is therefore the YBC members, plus Bowlers based in the county that are interested in competing in the Inter County tournaments and other sanctioned tournaments, plus the sanctioned league bowlers at Newbury. The Berkshire membership is currently reported on the Local Association page for Berkshire as 161 bowlers as at 29th January. (against 70 for the previous year)

The 2016 Adult and Senior trials were organised and completed during January at MFA Newbury on Sunday 17th Jan and Saturday 30th Jan. We had a total of 41 bowlers take part and had enough entries in all categories to enable formation of both Men's and Ladies teams in both age groups. We have already confirmed intent for the related 2016 Inter County Championships to the relevant tournament organisers. However apart from confirmation of the usual dates, the venues and full details for this year's qualification rounds are yet to be confirmed.

In the first weekend of February we had three Berkshire teams compete in the first ever BTBA Senior National Championships at Nuneaton. Although the majority of our bowlers struggled with the lane conditions we had two bowlers that did well. Carol Brock came first in the Ladies "B" Division singles and was also well placed in the related all events competition, whilst Homer Joseph was second in the Division "A" singles against the top senior bowlers in the country and also placed fifth in the all events competition.

Finally Brian Dudman continues to run the Berkshire Bowling website and keeps it up to date with both local and National news and results. I would like to thank him for the service that he provides for our Berkshire Bowlers.

(5) Financial Report:

Gerry Olver presented the Treasurer's report, see separate copies of Bank statements and cash projections for 2016. The bank balance on the 1st Jan 2015 was £137.32

The balance on the 31st December was £658.87, however this included £380 of entry fees for the 2016 trials taking place in January, so the effective year end balance was £278.37. The increase over the year was helped by the BTBA Membership rebate in May (£64.50), Lineage contributions by the Adult and Senior bowlers participating in the ICC Tournaments (£228 total), Funds raised in conjunction with the South East County challenge (Ball Raffle and Tombola total £144) and an £80 donation by Gerry to cover bank charges incurred during the year. These income streams and the profits made on the 2015 Adult and Senior trials meant that we covered all costs associated with the ICC Tournaments and other costs during the year to improve our bank balance by £141.

The current projections for the 2016 Financial year is that after completion of the Adults & Seniors trials in January we have a bank balance of £1,077.87. The expected entry costs and lineage for these years Adults & Seniors ICC Tournaments is £985 so we have the finances available to cover entry into these events but they will reduce our balance to less than £100.

(6) YBC Report:

Stephen Toop attended the AGM representing the Newbury YBC.

Stephen gave a short report on the situation with the Newbury YBC, there are 30 bowlers participating in their YBC/ YAC and associated leagues. However there are only 6 girls (20%) covering all age groups and 13 out of the 30 total are older than 15 (45%). So recruitment of both Younger Bowlers and Girls is seen to be Key for the continuation and health of the YBC. There are 4 instructors providing focused training at the YBC each week and they passed the new coaching exams but there appears to be no ongoing direction from the new coaching organisation and the BTBA is very slow in resolving license issues. With regard to the Inter County Tournaments the YBC has not enough bowlers of the appropriate ages to enter U15 or U18 teams this year. The U25 Trials are ongoing and will complete next Saturday and Stephen thought there would be just about enough bowlers to enable entry of both Men's and Ladies teams.

In the NAYBC South of England Championships held at Dunstable in January the Newbury YBC Bowlers won 5 trophies and for this year's NAYBC Nationals will be entering 4 teams in total. In the NAYBC Team England Robbie Bowden is currently third in the JTE rankings and participated in the Junior Triple Crown, he was fourth in the U16 singles and first in the Junior Triple Crown team. Nicole Ediker is currently seventh in the JTE rankings.

The Wokingham YBC is still operating but have very small numbers and are not considering becoming sanctioned, their main coach is now Bill Marcham who is a BTBA certified coach and a Surrey local association member.

Last year Phil Staff reported that Bracknell Hollywood Bowl was thinking about re-opening the Bracknell YBC, but as yet no positive developments can be reported. However discussions with the Bowl are ongoing.

There appears to be no possibilities of starting or organising YBC operations at either Slough or Maidenhead, neither of these centres are BTBA sanctioned or likely to be.

(7) Elections of Officers of the Association: The following elections took place.

(7.1) Area Secretary: Brian Page was re-elected for 2016.

However it was agreed that he should keep Sarah Hood, Chelsea Piggott and Kim Winston copied on all correspondence so that they will have an understanding of the requirements and workload to be in a position to possibly take over next year.

(7.2) Treasurer:

Gerry Olver was re-elected for 2016.

It was also agreed that Gerry would keep David Yeats informed and copied on relevant correspondence so that he could be in a position to take over next year.

(7.3) Chairman:

Chelsea Piggott was re-elected for 2016.

(7.4) Vice Chairman:

Kim Winston was elected to replace Alison Taylor for 2016.

(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. Again it was agreed that he would keep Sarah, Kim and Chelsea copied on the relevant documentation in order that someone would be in a position to take over next year.

(7.6) Election of Council Members for 2016:

All last year's AGM attendees plus committee members were elected as the 2015 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 year's Council is thus:

Brian Page, Gerry Olver, Chelsea Piggott, Kim Winston, Brian Dudman, Sarah Hood, Graham Stewart, Phil Staff, Stephen Toop, David Yeats, Jacqui Cooper and Steve Norriss (Team Manager -- see below).

(7.7) Election of County Team Managers 2016:

U15 Boys

No Team in 2016

U18 Boys

No Team in 2016

U25 Men

After discussions Phil Staff was appointed after volunteering to manage both the Men's and Ladies teams at MFA Nottingham over the weekend 9th/10th April.

Men's Adult Team

David Yeates elected as Manager

Senior Men's Team

Brian Page elected as manager

U15 Girls

No Team in 2016

U18 Girls

No Team in 2016

U25 Ladies

Ladies Adult Team

Sarah Hood elected as manager.

Senior Ladies Team

Steve Norris proposed and elected.
In his absence.

(8) Any Other Business

(8.1) Berkshire Area Championships.

Vote on holding Berkshire Closed championships this year or not. The decision was that we would not run a Berkshire closed championships on the allocated weekend in May, however it was decided that we would as an area association run a tournament later in the year on a more open basis. It also may/or not include a Berkshire closed Championship category within the overall tournament. This is to be discussed at the next committee/council meeting to be held in April.

(8.2) Fund Raising Requirements for 2016 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.
- The selected County Team members will be encouraged to purchase their own county shirts with their names embroidered appropriately, this will cut down on the association costs in providing shirts. This suggestion will be incorporated in the individual bowler selection letters.
- The area association is already organising to enter teams for this years South East County challenge on the 18th June, we already have enough bowlers committed for two teams. This will provide access to the related Ball raffle and tombola proceeds.

(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). 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 has run 4 Fundamental Courses, 3 in Farnborough and 1 in Banbury with a total of 24 attendees (not all from Berkshire). He has also provided a copy of the new Coaches Licensing Policy which I have available to be emailed to interested parties.

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

-- The Council meeting to discuss and organise the Berkshire Association Tournament (see 8.1 above) will be held on Wednesday 20th April in Bracknell at 7:30pm. The actual venue will be confirmed closer to the meeting date by Phil Staff who will try to organise a facility within the office block where he works.

-- A second Committee and Council meeting is to be scheduled for late September. This meeting will be primarily to discuss the organisation of the 2017 Inter County trials(Adult, Seniors, etc), the trials venue, team selections rules and principles plus organise potential team managers for 2017. The timing of this meeting is so that everything will be clarified in order to run the trials for 2017 in January if possible.

The meeting closed at 12:25 pm.

Brian Page

Berkshire BTBA Local Association Secretary

Berkshire Area Local Association – BTBA
Minutes of EGM held 28th February 2016

Present: Those present at AGM held on 28th February 2016, as above.

Brian Page opened the meeting at 12:25 pm and requested nominations to attend the BTBA AGM in 2017.

Brian Page and Chelsea Piggott were nominated and approved by the members present. So Brian and Chelsea will represent the Berkshire Local Association at the Main BTBA AGM in 2017. It was also decided that in future years the current Chairman and Local area Secretary will automatically be nominated as our representatives to attend the BTBA AGM.

Brian closed the meeting at 12:30 pm.

Brian Page
Berkshire BTBA Local association Secretary.