

## **Berkshire BTBA Local Association Council Meeting 12th Oct 2016**

At the Wokingham Superbowl, in the Laser Quest party room, Start time 08:00pm  
Minutes of Meeting recorded by Brian Page:

### **(1) Roll Call and apologies:**

Attendees: Brian Page, Janet Page, Gerry Olver, Jacqui Cooper, Phil Staff,  
Sarah Hood, Phil Staff and Brian Dudman.

Apologies: Chelsea Piggott, Kim Winston and Graham Stewart.

### **(2) Review of Minutes of last Meeting** (In this case 20<sup>th</sup> April Council meeting)

The minutes circulated prior to this meeting were approved as correct with no one at the meeting in disagreement with them.

### **(3) Treasurers update ref current Financial Situation.**

The treasurer reported that after the completion of the recent doubles tournament and issuing of all prize cheques and other costs the effective balance of the Association Bank account was £757.55 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> October. At this date there are still some cheques outstanding to be cashed but this was the reconciled balance. Without any unforeseen costs this should be the balance carried forwards for the 2017 financial year.

### **(4) Review of Inter County Tournaments Situation:**

**-- Seniors qualifying at Bowlplex Poole on the 5<sup>th</sup> June.** The senior men qualified for the finals at Nottingham on the 15/16<sup>th</sup> November placing fourth out of the 13 Counties participating, but the ladies did not qualify. They placed sixth out of the eight counties participating and only the top four qualify. As there will be hotel and other weekend costs for the bowlers taking part in the Finals it is not planned that we will collect lineage costs from them. The Finals are at no cost to the County association, so there are no costs to be covered to warrant lineage fees.

**-- Adults qualifying at Bowlplex on the 4<sup>th</sup> September.** Both our Men and Ladies teams failed to qualify for the Nottingham Finals. Both teams came Fifth with only the top four qualifying due to the Adults ICC qualifying being run in three regional tournaments (South/Midlands/North) with four qualifiers for each category from each tournament. The ladies looked to be in good qualifying position at Lunch but struggled with the lanes and bowling conditions in the afternoon.

**(5) Review of the Berkshire Doubles and Area Championships Tournament held on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October.** -- Discuss costs for Junior category entries for future tournaments, Hold again next year, if yes Venue? Format? April Championship Weekend or similar date to this year?

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--- The first decision was that we agreed to run the Championship event again next year.

--- Brian Dudman requested that we run it on the official date in April. But after a lengthy discussion on dates the decision was that we would not run the event on the BTBA nominated weekend in April as there is a lot going on in that period with both the adults and NAYBC nationals taking part in March and May respectively. The conclusion was to aim to hold the event on Sunday 01<sup>st</sup> October, 2017.

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--- No one was happy with the way MFA Newbury performed during the running of this year's tournament. There were numerous Lane issues, including oiling problems and machine breakdowns, with little uniformity across the lanes bowled on. The decision was that we would investigate holding the event at an alternative venue if possible, such as Farnborough, Wokingham, Bracknell or Slough. This would depend on if we wanted the event to be sanctioned or not. Phil agreed he would make enquiries with Bracknell and see if they were interested.

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--- Format for next year's tournament: Stay with the Doubles Team format playing six games with the Individual Bowlers scores counting for the Berkshire Championship categories for the relevant qualified bowlers. To try and remove the differing lane conditions effecting the result it was decided that all bowlers would move after every game with RH Lane bowlers moving right and LH Lane bowlers moving Left so that all bowlers covered more lanes and also bowled with different opponents each game.

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--- To encourage more entries from Juniors particularly and other Berkshire bowlers that would not expect to win the doubles tournament but would like to bowl in the County Championships it was decided to have two entry fee classes. For those Entering only the Championships (for all age groups) and not participating in the Doubles prize fund £40/Team. For entrants entering into the Prize Fund as well as the Championships £70/Team. The prize fund allocation will be the same as for this years event.

**(6) Organisation of County Trials for 2017 Inter County Teams:**

**--YBC Trials for U15, U18 and possibly U25.** When ?, What teams are we likely to be able to field? Who to run? Do we know the schedule for the 2017 U15, U18 and U25 Tournaments?

--- Brian Dudman pointed out that at the moment there are indicated dates for the 2017 U15 and U18 ICC on the NAYBC website. U18 on the weekend of 01/02 July and U15 Tournament on the 06<sup>th</sup> August, but no official Tournament information or request for letters of intent have yet been received. The rumoured date for the U25's is the first weekend in April but nothing has been confirmed.

--- The current number of bowlers per team for the various age groups are: U15 and U18 --- 4 bowlers for both Boys and Girls. For the U25 it is three bowlers for both categories.

--- Stephen Toop advised that with the current members in the Newbury YBC it would probably not be possible to raise U15 or U18 Girls Teams, any U18 girls team would need to utilise U14 girls and this is not really practical or helpful to the younger bowlers.

--- The U15 and U18 Trials will be organised by the Newbury YBC, the actual trial dates will be decided once letters of intent requests have been received from the relevant ICC Tournament officials. He will co-ordinate with both Phil Staff and Brian Dudman so that non-Newbury bowlers will be made aware of the trials and dates.

--- Due to the indicated dates for the U25 tournament it was decided to run the U25 trials as part of the Seniors and Adult Trials.

**--Adults and Seniors Trials:** When? Should we incorporate U25's in this trial. Where? Newbury, Bracknell or try Farnborough again?

--- As above the decision was made to incorporate the U25 trials into the Seniors and Adults Trials which will be run and managed by Brian and Gerry. The trials will be run at Farnborough if we can get agreement with the bowl on Dates, costs, etc. Due to the U25 ICC Tournament rumoured date in April it was decided that these trials would be held in January and the weekends of 14/15<sup>th</sup> Jan and weekend 21<sup>st</sup>/22<sup>nd</sup> January looked like the preferred dates. The trial entry fee was fixed to stay at £35 with entry into a second category costing an additional £5 (EG: Adults plus U25 = £40 or Seniors Plus Adults =£40). Brian to contact Adam Pitman at Farnborough and organise as appropriate.

--- Whilst talking about the Berkshire County Trials Sarah suggested that we should try and run combined Squad Practices for all Berkshire teams on a monthly basis if possible from February through to August so that all teams were better acquainted with each other and better prepared for their individual qualification tournaments. Sarah was prepared to help and/or run these practice sessions.

## **(7) YBC Situation across Berkshire?**

-- Stephen Toop is specifically interested in what the Berkshire Association is doing/can do to help with YBC growth. Not just Newbury but the whole county. How do we increase the numbers of Junior Bowlers?

--- There was quite a general discussion that also covered how to contact Junior bowlers who live in Berkshire that could compete in Junior Berkshire trials but bowled in YBC's outside of Berkshire (Farnborough, Airport, Tolworth?).

It appeared that the BTBA were not willing to pass on details of bowlers that had Berkshire addresses but were registered to other counties, this applied to both juniors and adult bowlers and was due to perceived data protection issues.

--- Referring friends and running open days were the main suggestions.

--- The Wokingham YBC is still not sanctioned and cannot be unless the new Wokingham Bowl applies to have its lanes certified. Phil agreed to talk to Bill Marcham with regards to the Wokingham YBC bowlers and establish if any would be interested in trialling/bowling for the County.

---- Bracknell YBC? Still no progress in getting Bracknell bowl to agree to host a YBC, at present they seem to be disinterested in leagues and tournaments.

--- Stephen said that they had approached schools in the past and distributed many "flyers" but with little response. He has approached Lee Hart at the BTBA in regard to an organised approach to schools with appropriate literature, etc, but had seen no progress so far. In the USA the bowling organisations have produced "Bowler ED" equipment which are small lane kits (costing about £400) to take into schools and demo the sport to the school children to get them interested. But nothing similar is available in the UK. There are 77 schools in the Newbury area and generating interest from schools would be a big step forward.

## **(8) Any Other Business:**

### **8.1: BTBA Membership renewal issues and County allocations (Bucks not Berks)**

A number of Berkshire County bowlers registered through the leagues and independently have had their cards come back with the Local Association incorrectly allocated to Buckinghamshire rather than Berkshire.

It will be necessary to organise an audit with the league secretaries to establish the numbers and names of bowlers incorrectly allocated to Bucks. However with the current head office situation struggling to deal with membership applications it will be prudent to wait until the new year when most of the Newbury leagues have been re-sanctioned to carry out this audit before contacting the BTBA to get corrections made. This miss-allocation of bowlers could obviously effect any head office payments to Berkshire Local Association for Members in 2017 (if any to be paid?).

**Action:** Brian to complete the audit in due course

### **8.2: Newbury Diamond Handicap Fours Tournament:**

It was pointed out that the Newbury Diamond Fours Handicap Fours Tournament entry form had the Berkshire Tenpin Bowling Association Name and Logo on it when in fact it was not being run or sponsored by the County. It is being individually run by Jason Agate. This tournament entry form was also available via the Berkshire Bowling website and it was requested that the entry form be amended to remove our logo.

**Action:** Brian to write/email both Brian Dudman and Jason to request removal of the entry form until the Berkshire Logo has been removed.

### **8.3: Proposed AGM Date.**

It was decided that the AGM should be held after the County trials have been completed in January so that when appointing County Team manager's the trial results and teams that will be entered for the various ICC championships will be known. As Brian will be on Holiday in February this meant that the AGM will need to be delayed until March at the earliest. The first weekend in March will be the target date.

The meeting closed at 10:25pm

Brian Page

Berkshire BTBA Local Association Secretary.