

Berkshire Area Local Association – BTBA
Minutes of Annual General Meeting 01st February 2015
Held at the Wokingham Superbowl

(1) Roll Call and apologies:

Brian Page (Secretary) Brian Dudman, Janet Page, Gerry Olver (Treasurer), Jacqui Cooper, James Loder, Alan Keddie, Andre Davidson (Berkshire Coaching Tutor), Steve Curtis (Newbury YBC), Rowan Curtis (Newbury YBC), Phil Staff, Sarah Hood, Chelsea Piggott, Kim Winston, Tricia Lloyd and Jackie Atkinson.

Apologies: Apologies for absence were received from Alison Taylor (Chairman).

Due to the absence of the Chairman it was agreed that the meeting would be chaired by Brian Page, the local association secretary.

(2) Adoption of Minutes from the 2014 AGM.

The minutes were circulated by the secretary and published on the Berkshire Bowling website after last years AGM. They were also circulated with the agenda for this AGM in early January; no adverse comments on the minutes were made by attendees. They were adopted as being an accurate report of that meeting.

(3) Chairman's Report:

No chairman's report as Alison Taylor was not available to attend the AGM .

(4) Secretary's Report:

Since last years AGM we held the Berkshire County Adults and Seniors trials at MFA Newbury in March and April, we had 29 bowlers take part (despite losing bowlers through injury problems). 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 £603.50 which paid for the Inter County team entry fees (£500) but did not fully cover the lineages costs incurred at the qualifying rounds.

In the Senior Inter Counties Southern qualifying at Worthing in June both the Men and the Ladies teams qualified for the finals at Nuneaton in October. In the finals both teams struggled with the competition and lane conditions, the men finished 11th (out of 12) and the Ladies finished 7th (out of 8).

In the Adults Southern Region Qualifying at Tolworth in September the men failed to qualify for the finals, coming seventh out of the eleven Southern Region counties participating. However the Ladies managed fourth out of six to make the finals weekend at Coventry in November. In the finals the ladies placed twelfth but enjoyed the weekend and the experience was very good for our relatively in-experienced team.

Newbury YBC held the Junior Trials for the 2014 teams in December 2013 and in January 2015 for the 2015 Junior Inter County teams, see separate details in the YBC report that follows.

In May myself and John Wallis attended the BTBA AGM in Luton. This was the last AGM with Pat White as Chairman as her resignation took effect at the end of the meeting. Ron Griffin has replaced Pat as the current BTBA Chairman. The accounts for the year ending August 2013 showed a loss of over £35,000 and it was confirmed after questioning that there was no business plan in place to reduce the ongoing losses, so at the moment the organisation is running on the cash reserves raised by selling the former head office building. This is obviously a top priority for the new "reformed" National Council to get to grips with. The final appointments of officers for the new Council structure were completed in September, the current structure and council members are fully detailed on the main BTBA website.

In October the new head of Coaching, Mark Heathorn, announced the formal re-organisation of the coaching system to achieve alignment with other world coaching organisations. However the related coaching seminar was cancelled and the new policy documents and details launched by announcements on the BTBA website in early December. Further clarification of the policies and transition processes for existing qualified coaches have been made during January along with the related coaching appointments for the regions and counties. The Southern Region coaching manager is Mark Cox and 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. More discussion on the coaching policy changes is planned under any other business.

A seminar scheduled for the 15th November that was entitled "Shaping the Future" that area secretaries and sanctioned league secretaries had been invited to attend was cancelled soon after being announced. The seminar was intended to share the new business plan for 2015 and the National Council vision for the next 3 to 5 years, it is now to be replaced with "Regional Road Shows" in early 2015. Until now I have seen no further announcements but will report back to our members once details become available.

Berkshire Local Association membership for 2014/15 has not really changed from last year, there are still no sanctioned adult leagues in Berkshire, the Newbury YBC and their Saturday morning league is the only sanctioned entity in the County. This league is now comprised of both YBC bowlers (up to age 18) and a YAC section (Age 18 up to 21) Our membership is therefore the YBC members (=29) plus Bowlers based in the county that are interested in competing in the Inter County tournaments and other sanctioned tournaments, so the membership is currently about 70 bowlers as previously estimated in 2014. However during 2014 online membership application and payment became functional via the main BTBA Website and it is easy to complete, a discount similar to that offered to sanctioned league members is available for those that opt for automatic annual renewal. Also membership is on a rolling year basis from the date of joining rather than automatic expiry on the 31st August. I think this is a good step forward for the organisation.

During the year I carried out a review of league bowling in Berkshire at the request of membership services and provided the results to our regional representative Lisa John. This review of the three main bowls in Berkshire showed a good number of non sanctioned leagues at Wokingham (10), Newbury (10) and Bracknell (4). But all are suffering from reduced bowler numbers and poor bowling conditions is a consistent complaint as all the bowls are struggling with financial restraints. None of these leagues are likely to apply for BTBA sanctioning in the near future as they see no perceived benefits for the additional cost.

This years Adult and Senior trials have been organised for Saturday 28th Feb and Sunday 15th March at Farnborough Bowl in Hampshire. Entries are currently being received and so far the response to the venue has been enthusiastic. Farnborough was chosen because it was thought the trials should be on "Synthetic" Lanes as the relevant Inter County qualification rounds will not be held at venues with wooden lanes. We will need more than 30 bowlers to compete in order to raise the necessary finances to fund the related County Team entry costs. Details of this years qualification rounds are yet to be confirmed.

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. Finally I would like to thank John Wallis for his past service to the county and to local bowlers as a qualified level four coach. John has decided to stand down from both BTBA membership and coaching duties with the Wokingham YBC due to personal reasons and I wish him well for the future.

(5) Financial Report:

Gerry Olver presented the Treasurer's report.

The 2013 end of year bank balance coming in to 2014 was £213.22; the Bank balance at the 2014 year end was £137.37. The printout of the bank statement was made available to all members present and is attached to these minutes.

During the year we received the following funds:

(1) Tombola and Ball Raffle proceeds from the South East County challenge Tournament at the Airport Bowl in August, this was a total of £113.75

(2) Profits on Adult/Senior Trials after Lineage costs was a total of £603.50

So total Income from trials/fund raising = £717.25

During the year we paid out for BTBA Inter County Team entries:

(1) BTBA ICC adult Men & Ladies entries £250.00

(2) BTBA IC Senior Men & Ladies entries £250.00

(3) Seniors IC lineage fees at Worthing £143.10

(4) Adults IC Lineage fees at Tolworth £150.00

So Total Inter County Competition cost for 2014 = £793.10

The Bank balance at the start of the 2015 year is £137.37.

(6) YBC Report:

Steve & Rowan Curtis were at the AGM representing the Newbury YBC.

They reported that membership numbers were being maintained at the Newbury YBC, helped by forming the YAC group and league. The MFA Bowl at Newbury support the YBC by charging a low lineage rate that means the YBC can make a weekly profit and hence they are reasonably well funded allowing them to support/fund entries for most of the NAYBC tournaments as well as producing recruiting leaflets, etc.

However Steve thought that the reduction in leagues and adult bowlers at Newbury is being reflected in the YBC recruitment numbers. They now recruit from the age of 6 upwards and with the YAC bowlers cover an age range up to 21 and support all NAYBC and YAC tournaments whenever possible. At the recent South of England NAYBC tournament Newbury were represented by 18 bowlers and won 12 prizes.

Having enough coaching instructors for the YBC is a continuing challenge, at the moment Newbury have a number of experienced coaches retiring or not available due to health problems and the introduction of the new BTBA coaching policies is not helping, Steve was hoping to get assistance and direction from Andre on this after the meeting.

Newbury held the 12015 Junior Trials at Newbury in January but due to lack of numbers in many of the age groups the trials were only held for the U15 age group teams. Both boys and girls teams have been entered for this years U15 ICC tournament at Tolworth in February.

The Wokingham YBC is still operating but have still 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.

Phil Staff reported that Bracknell Hollywood Bowl is thinking about re-opening the Bracknell YBC, but as yet it is early days for this.

(7) Elections of Officers of the Association:

The following elections took place.

(7.1) Area Secretary:

Brian Page agreed to remain as Secretary for another year, there were no other nominations and Brian was duly proposed, seconded and elected.

(7.2) Treasurer:

Brian Page proposed Gerry Olver, the current treasurer, who was seconded by Janet Page, there were no other nominations and Gerry was duly elected to carry on in the treasurer's position.

(7.3) Chairman:

Alison had confirmed by email that she was willing to carry on with the Chairman's role. However Chelsea Piggott was willing to take over the Chairman's role and was duly nominated, seconded and elected.

(7.4) Vice Chairman:

Brian Page proposed that Alison Taylor should take over the vice Chairman's role as the current Vice Chairman (John Wallis) has resigned from BTBA membership and therefore from his committee position. It was agreed at the meeting that Alison Taylor would be offered the vice chairman's position and was voted in on the condition that she was happy to accept the position. Subsequent to the meeting Alison agreed by email correspondence to accept the Vice Chairman's position.

(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.

(7.6) Election of Council Members for 2015:

Last years council members were: Brian Page, Brian Dudman, Alison Taylor, Alan Keddie, John Wallis, Tricia Lloyd, Jackie Atkinson, Gerry Olver, Mark Solis, Janet Page and Jacqui Cooper.

All this years AGM attendees plus Alison Taylor were elected as this years council members, thus the 2015 council is:

Brian Page, Brian Dudman, Alison Taylor, Gerry Olver, Jacqui Cooper, Janet Page, Alan Keddie, Tricia Lloyd, Jackie Atkinson, James Loder, Andre Davidson, Steve Curtis, Rowan Curtis, Phil Staff, Sarah Hood, Chelsea Piggott and Kim Winston.

(7.7) Election of County Team Managers 2015:

U15 Boys

Newbury YBC will provide managers for both teams.

U15 Girls

U18 Boys

No Team in 2015

U18 Girls

No Team in 2015

YAC Men

No Team in 2015

YAC Ladies

No team in 2015

Men's Adult Team

James Loder will continue to be the manager.

Ladies Adult Team

Sarah Hood elected as manager.

Senior Men's Team

Brian Page will continue to be the manager.

Senior Ladies Team

Jacqui Cooper elected as manager.

(8)Any Other Business:

(8.1) Fund Raising Requirements for 2015 if we are to continue with ICC

Team entries:

As for last year the Team entry costs need to be generated from the county Trial profits. To raise the potential entry fees of £500 plus the trial entry fee will be maintained at £35 per entry. Lineage costs at the qualification rounds may need to be paid by the team bowlers if necessary. Berkshire Teams will also compete in the South East County challenge at the Airport Bowl in August so that we participate in the related ball raffle and tombola to help raise funds towards the lineage costs. However we will need to organise some other fund raising activities to assist with these costs if we want to maintain or increase our bank balance.

(8.2) New BTBA Coaching Policy Discussion and Feedback:

Andre Davidson gave an explanation of the New Coaching Policy and the main reasons for change. He explained that the existing qualified coach transition test is a relatively simple straightforward test that can be completed online and if completed before June this year is also free of charge. This means that current Phase 1, 2 & 3 coaches can continue to coach without being forced to re-qualify to the new coaching standards as long as they have completed the transition test and obtain the required insurance. Also with regard to insurance cover Andre pointed out that the BTBACA (BTBA Coaching Association) is still operating and that any qualified bowling coach who joins them is provided with the required level of insurance as part of their membership. This is a cost effective way of covering the insurance requirements.

Steve Curtis stated that the Newbury YBC will assist their coaches with the required fees and insurance costs required to comply with the new policies.

During this discussion questions were asked with regard to the number of existing qualified coaches within the County, Brian was tasked with checking with BTBA head office to find out if it is possible to have a list of qualified bowling coaches living in Berkshire that are current members.

Following Andre's briefing the meeting was closed so that Andre, Steve and other interested members could have an open discussion relating to both Coaching for the YBC and in general.

The meeting closed at 11:40 am.

Brian Page

Berkshire BTBA Local Association Secretary

Berkshire Area Local Association – BTBA

Minutes of EGM held 1st February 2015

Present: Those present at AGM held on 1st February 2015, as above.

Brian Page opened the meeting at 11:45 pm and requested nominations to attend the BTBA AGM in 2016.

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 2016.

Note: John Wallis is no longer a committee member but is one of the Berkshire nominees for attendance at the 2015 AGM. It was therefore agreed that Brian should contact the BTBA head office and request that he be replaced with Chelsea Piggott if possible.

Brian closed the meeting at 11:50 am.

Brian Page
Berkshire BTBA Local association Secretary.