



Chris Taaffe

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& County Tournament Officer

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## **Vice Chair / Tournament Officers Report**

There has been no progress regarding Diamond Fours or Area Championships yet. The County Chair and County Coach were unable to attend the last quarterly meeting so no discussions or arrangements could be made. We have had no feedback about my suggestion for a Tournaments sub-committee, perhaps we can discuss that this evening.

I did attend the BTBA AGM as the KTBA delegate, this was conducted on a video conferencing app. I made three enquiries after the meeting directly to Lisa John, BTBA Chair.

Q.1

Is from Janet Rankin who runs our only YBC in Kent at Cliftonville

She believes that ladies are not permitted to wear tailored shorts at sanctioned events. I think they are! alongside skorts and skirts, can you clarify for us please?

[Ladies may wear tailored shorts at BTBA Sanctioned events with the exception of the Inter County Championships where shorts are not permitted.](#)

Q.2

Is from Chris Skudder, Chair KTBA

He wants to know if the dates for will be the same for next year for the Adult and Senior Nationals?

[We have not yet discussed or agreed the details for the Adult and Senior Nationals for 2024.](#)

Q.3

Is from Chris Taaffe, vice Chair KTBA (me)

The increase in normal membership for me is £10, from £25 to £35 which I think is too much. The abolition of the Gold Card looks like ordinary members are subsidising International events. I don't see the figures so I can't make a determination on that point. I do believe that we could have a more tiered membership fee structure.

I also included the following comment : -

I have no doubt that the fee changes have been the result of long arduous discussions, so the above would have been more useful for consideration in those discussions. But I was not aware that fee changes were being considered. I also have no idea of the financial implications for the BTBA if the above were implicated.

Maybe the delegates could have advised in advance that a change in the fees was being considered, and why. I am sure you would have benefited from delegate suggestions, one way or the other.

This was BTBA Chairs reply:-

We have been receiving feedback from members for many years with regards to the membership tiers and how they should be changed. I think we all, myself included, have thoughts on how the membership tiers should be set and, unfortunately, we will never find a solution that pleases everyone. The membership tiers that we have put into place were the simplest option from all of the possible options that were looked at. I like your idea about an introductory price for the first year, but having given it some thought this would be incredibly difficult for us to implement based on our current membership database and payment system. I am sure there are systems out there that would allow us to do this but would possibly come at a higher cost than what we are currently paying. We also do not have any paid staff to be able to monitor this on a daily basis.

We will be monitoring the new membership tiers once they have been put in place and will review them regularly.

I also made the following comment:-

In Kent I bowl in two non sanctioned leagues, one at Chatham and one at Rochester. I am lucky to have two centres so close to me. However, only Rochester is sanctioned and that expires in October 2023, and Chatham are unlikely to get sanctioned. Bowling continues nevertheless, so I spend most of my bowling in non sanctioned leagues in non sanctioned centres. Both have wooden lanes, Chatham dress the lanes immediately before we bowl, Rochester dress them at 17:00 when the technician goes home, the lanes are used by the general public until we come in at 20:00 to bowl our league. Does the BTBA have a policy, proposal, road map to sell the advantages of league sanctioning to the proprietors? I do recall Paul Le Manquis telling us that Hollywood Bowl allow in their Centres budgets an allowance for the cost of sanctioning, but it is up to each centre how they spend that money.

I recently spoke to a league secretary who is running a league with 30-40 bowlers, and 10 minutes into our chat he asked me what were KTBA and BTBA!

So the issues are what can we do to convince bowlers and centres who are getting along quite nicely without us, thank you very much, to let us get involved, and pay us money as well.

We need a think tank / working party / dedicated team SOMETHING to address this problem.

I have formulated a document aimed at non BTBA members in an effort to recruit more bowlers to the BTBA. It is this document, or a new document that Membership could produce aimed at the grass roots of bowling that can become a national playbook, moving forward to give existing County Secretaries, Chairs, officials something they can use, with words approved by the BTBA in an effort to bring new blood into our sport. (word document attached)

This was the reply :-

I have forwarded this question to Kayleigh Wilkinson and Paul Le Manquais to answer.

From my point of view, the reduction in membership fees for league bowlers will hopefully tempt some old members back and perhaps encourage some new ones to join. We have the following page - <https://btba.org.uk/membership-information/> - which gives information regarding the benefits of a BTBA membership.

I know that we regularly attend proprietors meetings and regularly advise them of the benefits of certifying their centres. We offer reduced certification fees based on the number of sanctioned leagues they have in the centre to try and encourage them to not only certify their centres but to also push for sanctioned leagues. Unfortunately, it is a battle that is not very easy to win but we will continue to bang that drum.

The Membership benefits document I sent to the BTBA are a separate document which I put on the KTBA Council Whatsapp group. Please note I originally wrote it in 2021 so the dates are out and the tastecard benefit is no longer in place. The document needs amendment before we can consider using it, and is open to any of you to comment upon, suggest additions or deletions. I would like for us to be able to use this document, or another document as an official guide to recruiting new members to the BTBA/KTBA, but it needs to be ratified by the KTBA, and maybe the BTBA so that we can use it with full approval and confidence.

Chris Taaffe

KTBA Vice Chair /Tournament Officer