



## **KTBA Meeting**

**Thursday 24 August 2023**

**The Monument Public House, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1PH**

### **Minutes**

Meeting Opened: 19.20

#### **1. Roll Call.**

Present: Chris Skudder, Chris Taaffe, Dee Dyke, Joe Cooper, Janet Rankin, Gill McMillan, Richard Lambkin, Joanne Lambkin

Apologies: Robert Abbott

#### **2. Chair Address.**

Apologies for missing the last meeting but I had a family bereavement. We have had very little going on over the past three months apart from County Tournaments which I will speak about as County Manager.

I have been asked by Jerry Moll if we could hold the council meetings further up the County but I would need to see how many members would definitely be attending before changing venues as all the Council members live down this part of the County.

#### **3. Reading of Minutes and action thereon:**

Proposed by: Richard Lambkin

Seconded by: Gill McMillan

#### **4. Reports of Committees:**

##### **Vice Chair Report:**

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

Q1.

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?

A1.

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



Q2.

Is from Chris Skudder, Chair KTBA

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

A2.

We have not yet discussed or agreed the details for the Adult & Senior Nationals 2024.

Q3.

Is from Chris Taffee, Vice Chair KTBA

The increase in normal membership for 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 do not see the figures so I cannot 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 should have been advised in advanced that a change in the fees was being considered and why? I am sure you could have benefited from delegate suggestions, one way or the other.

A3.

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 for 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 system out there that would allow us to do this but would possible 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, 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 leagues sanctioning to the Proprietors? I do



recall Paul Le Manquis telling us that Hollywood Bowl allow in their Centre 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 for 30 to 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, that you very much to let us get involved and pay us money as well.

We need a Think Tank / Working Party / dedicated to SOMETHING to address this problem.

I have a 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.

A4

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 helpfully tempt some old members back and perhaps encourage some new ones to join. We have the following page: <https://btba.org.uk/membership-informtion/> which gives information regarding the benefits of a BTBA membership.

I know that we regularly attend proprietors meeting 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 are 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.

- There was long discussion regarding this proposal and the longstanding problems with getting the BTBA to agree any new ideas or changes within the paperwork that the BTBA will agree to.
- It was proposed that the KTBA run a few tournaments within the County and could we charge a minimal fee to non-members to enter these tournaments and encourage them to possible take out BTBA membership to be able to do further tournaments or even enter the Inter County Championships.
- Possibly we could devise a leaflet offering a KTBA membership of £2.50 to be able to get non sanctioned players to enter these tournaments.

#### **Secretaries:**

Chair: Chris Skudder. Vice-Chair: Chris Taaffe. Secretary: Dee Dyke.

Contact: kent@btba.org.uk



Nothing to report

**Treasurer:**  
No report

**5. Senior County Teams:**

The senior County qualifiers took place in June at Stroud but neither team could adjust quickly enough to the lane pattern and both failed to qualify for the finals.

The teams from Kent were represented by the Ladies Jan Hodge, Janet Rankin, Dee Dyke, Tina Gibbins, Gillian McMillan and Linda Flett.

The Men’s team was Keith Hodge, Steve Carnall, Steve Williams, John Hinch, Bob Ockelford, Sean Purcell and Chris Skudder.

We had an Inter County Challenge match at Dunstable in July in which we entered two 5 person teams which consisted of Sean Purcell, Clint Miller, Stuart Turpin, James McMinn and Joe Cooper in one team. Bob Ockleford, Chris Taaffe, Jan Hodge, Keith Hodge and Chris Skudder making up the other Team. A great day out with neither team managing to win the title although there were some Raffle Winners and a small amount of money was made for the County coffers.

The Adult County Team will be playing at Dunstable on Sunday 03 September 2023 taking this opportunity to wish them luck.

**6. Junior Counties:**

The Under 22 Championship will take place on Sunday 13 August 2023 at Dunstable Bowl with Kent fielding two teams of Under 22’ on the day. There were 6 games qualifying with a cut to the top 4 teams who would play out a 3-game round robin to determine the winning County.

**Team A**

Made up of Nathan Smith, Jack Welch, Hayden Baxter and Lewis Wall were in and amongst the top four places throughout the majority of the Championship, finally just missing out in the last game and finished in 5<sup>th</sup> position. Top performer on the team was grizzled veteran of the U22’s Hayden Baxter with a 177 average for the 6 games, shooting a massive 255 in game 3. Honourable mention also goes out to Lewis Wall who put in a solid performance throughout the day, racking up a 200 game in game 1.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Average
Nathan Smith:	124	122	194	151	145	111	847	141
Jack Welch:	163	154	177	186	136	182	998	166
Hayden Baxter:	152	177	255	183	144	154	1065	177
Lewis Wall:	200	193	134	184	171	155	1037	173

**Team B**

Made up of Shea Warren, Oscar Hudsmith, Joseph Trevor and William Herbert, put in a solid performance on the day. Despite the setback of being a player down for the first two games, the team’s spirits did not drop and they set about the business of moving up the standings,



eventually finishing in a credible 12<sup>th</sup> place out of 17 teams. Top performer on the day was William Herbert with a 182 average featuring a 291 in game 2.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	Total	Average
Shea Warren:	-	-	152	153	183	167	655	163
Oscar Hudsmith:	119	134	154	149	135	156	847	141
Joseph Trevor:	139	180	165	162	179	189	1014	169
William Herbert:	177	201	187	191	161	179	1096	182

**Some casual observations from the days play:**

- When the scoring pace is lower than expected, as it was at these championships, the focus on the spare game becomes ever fiercer. In spite of this, I was surprised at the number of competitors hooking their spare with reactive balls, may not even carrying a plastic ball with them. Lesson is this; employ a spare system, buy a plastic ball and throw straight at your spare.
- With the lanes being on the tougher side the name of the game becomes about covering fewer boards, keeping the ball safely in play to control the pocket and leaving makeable spares. It may be the testosterone raging and young age that has sadly passed me by but more often than not, on the day, it seemed that the physically rip the cover off the ball to produce gutter to gutter hook shouts, was the priority, no matter the cost!
- If waking up on time is a priority in the morning, set an alarm, it can really help!

All in all, some good performances on what turned out on the day to be challenging conditions for all the bowlers involved. With many of the players on the Kent Teams with a number of years left to complete at this age division the future is certainly bright for the Under 22's

**7. A.O.B:**

- Nothing was brought to the table.

8. Date of next meeting - Thursday 16 November 2023 at 19.15 pm.

Meeting Closed: 20:38

Please note that the date of the next meeting was changed on 29<sup>th</sup> November 2023,

The new date for the meeting is

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup> October at 19:15**

at The Monument Public House Whitstable.