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1 July 2021

## **TOURNAMENT OFFICERS REPORT**

First my apologies for not getting my report to the meeting in time. I did not pay enough attention to the protocols required.

Our planned tournament schedule was decimated last year.

We have been trying to get a "Comeback Tournament" together, just to get bowlers back on the lanes and get our sport rolling in Kent once again. A number of leagues are starting up soon.

There are ten bowling centres in Kent seven of which are not sanctioned centres. We have looked at the possibility of holding a tournament at a non-sanctioned centre, but the rules dictate that we cannot under any circumstances have a sanctioned tournament at a non-sanctioned centre.

Tunbridge Wells has a Bronze sanction which means we can hold a local tournament there, but not County Trials. We are trying to get a dialog with Tunbridge Wells but have not yet succeeded.

Rochester has a Silver sanction which means we can hold local tournaments and County trials. A visit on 9<sup>th</sup> June got something started, and the Manager, Hannah is happy to help. We have now booked and subject to sanctioning "The 2021 KTBA Welcome Back Singles" which will take place at Rochester Bowl on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September at 10:30. This as the name suggests will be a singles event open to everybody, Juniors, Adults, Seniors and non BTBA bowlers.

We want to encourage more social bowlers into the BTBA to create more competition and get back to the days when we had The Kent Masters and Kent County Championships.

The long-term targets I have: -

- 1 A tournament at each sanctioned centre
- 2 The re-introduction of The County Championships
- 3 The re-introduction of The Kent Masters
- 4 A County wide inter centre league.
- 5 An inter centre YBC tournament.

The short-term targets I have: -

- 1 A comeback singles tournament
- 2 The resumption of the **Lords and Ladies** series of events
- 3 More Centres to be sanctioned.
- 4 More members to be recruited.

## **ITEM 1**

### **THE COMEBACK SINGLES**

The comeback event is booked, and you should have a downloadable entry form available to you.

## **ITEM 2**

### **THE LORDS AND LADIES SERIES**

We did a lot of work last year on setting this up, but apparently there is a bug going round which seems to have put the entire planet on hold. It is unlikely that it will happen this year, but next year we will be going all guns blazing, hopefully with one event at each of Cliftonville, Rochester and Tunbridge Wells.

## **ITEM 3**

### **CENTRE SANCTIONING**

Getting centres to agree to sanctioning is always going to prove a challenge. We must understand their point of view. Let us take Maidstone for example.

They have a newish centre which generates enough revenue to sustain itself, we come along and ask them to spend several hundred pounds bringing their centre up to our standards, pay us to approve their centre so that we can fill it with our bowlers who spend very little at the bar and restaurant. We also want a serious discount for our bowling. Any suggestions as to how we can sell that to Maidstone, or any other centre will be most welcome.

Bugsy's has a Gold sanction which means we can hold any sanctioned tournament there, and they are happy to accommodate us whenever they can.

Maidstone was looking for sanctioning at the end of 2019, Covid has put that on hold, but John Denne tells us that they are still moving in that direction.

All bowling centres need to concentrate on maximising their revenue in order to make up for the massive losses incurred last year. For this reason, we are going to find it hard to get tournaments booked. The mission will continue.

## **ITEM 4**

### **MEMBERSHIP**

If we can get all these items up and running, we will almost certainly attract more members. However, this is not enough, we need to have a presence in every centre, sanctioned and non-sanctioned. There are a number of ways we can do this.

- 1 The website is a permanent fixture which is accessible 24/7
- 2 We should ask proprietors permission for space to advertise The KTBA somewhere prominent in their centre. This would give us a somewhere to showcase The KTBA, advertising upcoming events and information about how to get involved.
- 3 Physically visit every league in every centre to add a presence to the posters. We would need to have a prepared programme of information and the officers of the KTBA who do these visits must all be singing from the same songsheet.
- 4 Recruit a centre rep to pass on to the bowlers news of events form KTBA
- 5 Possibly produce a regular paper newsletter, with the objective of finding a way to highlight bowlers from each centre as they achieve proud moments.

## **LONG TERM TARGETS**

### **ITEM 1**

#### **A TOURNAMENT AT EVERY SANCTIONED CENTRE**

The ambition here is to hold at least one tournament each year at each of the three current sanctioned centres. This can include County Trials, Lords and Ladies, County Championships, County Masters, Memorial events. Anything to get bowlers involved in County Tournament bowling, and to get more centres sanctioned.

### **ITEM 2**

#### **THE RE – INTRODUCTION OF THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS**

This was once a very popular, much anticipated event where we saw plenty of high-quality bowling from high quality bowlers, not to mention some high scores from mere mortals, and some truly awful results from some of the high rollers. In fact, everything we need to make a competitive Championship.

### **ITEM 3**

#### **THE RE – INTRODUCTION OF THE KENT MASTERS**

This is a longer-term ambition, but it can be done. Whether it would be an invitation only event to Kent Bowlers who have succeeded in an event over the course of the season or whether we make it an event open to any KTBA member are matters for discussion

## **ITEM 4**

### **INTER-COUNTY LEAGUE**

The concept is to give bowlers and centres the opportunity to get more involved with each other, increase our membership, and promote competitive bowling at all levels. As we only have three centres that are sanctioned, we could only use those centres. However, when for example Whitstable bowlers decide they want a home fixture, they may want to suggest to their proprietors to look at getting sanctioned again. The same would apply to other centres. Once non BTBA bowlers see what the association can do for them, we will have the opportunity to offer them good reasons to become members. Particularly when they see their new friends, who they can compete with, taking part in County Championships, which as non-members they will not be eligible for. I have an idea for a format but any suggestions as to how we could make this a reality would be welcome.

## **ITEM 5**

### **AN INTER CENTRE YBC TOURNAMENT**

This can be scheduled once a year as a target for YBC to aim for, or maybe two or three events each year. The format and frequency is best left to those people who run the YBC's. Obviously, it can only happen at a sanctioned centre

### **THE RESUMPTION OF THE "LORDS AND LADIES SERIES OF EVENTS"**

We did a lot of work last year on setting this up, but Covid saw that off. It is unlikely that it will this year, but next year we will be going all guns blazing, hopefully with one event at each of Cliftonville, Rochester and Tunbridge Wells.