



Chris Taaffe

County Tournament Officer

07895 521850

[christophertaaffe@hotmail.com](mailto:christophertaaffe@hotmail.com)

13<sup>th</sup> September 2021

## Tournament Officers Report

I was tasked with putting on a tournament to kick start tournament bowling in Kent; so, I can't tell you how disappointed I am at the lack of response to The Welcome Back Tournament that was scheduled for the 12<sup>th</sup> September. We had 12 names on the scoresheet when the decision was made to cancel. Three were from outside the County, six were Kent County bowlers, two of whom were Chris S and myself. I was only able to visit two centres, Rochester and Maidstone and got one entry from each of those, only for one to cancel because he had it in his mind the cost was £15, changed his mind when he found out it was £31.

I got a lot of support from The Chair and Vice Chair, but it was not enough.

1 I was hoping to get more entries from the members of the committee.

2 We all know bowlers, otherwise we would not be on the committee, I was hoping committee members would be able to promote the event more widely amongst the league's YBC and friends.

We can all speculate on why we had such a poor response, some of mine you have just read. There was a Police bowling event taking place at Tonbridge on the Friday beforehand, which I know took at least three bowlers who would have entered ours.

Maybe the low-key approach was wrong, we focused on a Welcome Back, friendly get together type event. Not much prize money and no prestigious title to play for, perhaps we should look for something more exciting to attract entries.

In addition to, or maybe instead of some of the events mentioned in my previous report we could introduce a tournament, similar to the Sussex Sixes. This would involve teams bowling a combination of singles pairs and team events. Leave it open to anybody and call it something like the **Kent Quad Handicap Open**. The format can be worked out later, but everybody bowls 9 games, 3 team 3 doubles 3 singles for example. This should generate interest from outside the County and may possibly create a bit of excitement from another Kent bowler.

A comparison was made to the TPT, The Tenpintour was already a very popular, well-established tour that has people from all over the Country taking part, in fact four of them, in addition to Chris S and myself had committed to bowl in The Welcome Back event. That tour was being looked after and promoted while the KTBA was falling asleep. The bowlers on the TPT know what to expect, good friends, good competition, good bowling and good prize money. So, when it started up again, the same 200 odd people on the TPT list couldn't wait to come back to it. And they did. Therefore, this is not really a fair comparison. We at the KTBA are starting from scratch.

It is clearly not enough to send out 200 emails to people on the KTBA list, we have established that. We need bowlers. We cannot expect people who have never heard of the BTBA or KTBA to run through walls to join us, we have to go and find them and introduce the KTBA to them and explain the benefits of becoming members.

Asking the question

“What more can we do?”

Is no good.

We need to ask ourselves that question and come back to the committee with answers and suggestions. There is nobody else to ask, its up to us to find the answers, that's our job.

We need to have a presence in every bowl, seek permission from managers to advertise ourselves in their centres. We need to MEET league secretaries, tell them about us and get their contact details, and we need to find bowlers - In bowling centres.

I believe we did this tournament the wrong way round, we should find the bowlers first, then offer the tournament, if we don't get more pro active pretty soon, the KTBA with comprise the committee alone.

I do have a number of ideas in mind which I will put to the committee via the WhatsApp page for consideration, but I would like to see some feedback and ideas from the committee first.

Chris Taaffe

Tournament Officer