

# BRITISH UNIVERSITIES TENPIN BOWLING ASSOCIATION



## End of Season 2016-17 Meeting

### MINUTES

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2017, Mansfield Superbowl – 15:45pm

#### **1. Attendees and Apologies**

Kirsty Ralph (Chair), Tim Hughes, Sarah Hood, Paul Marks, James Larkin, Abdullah Al-Tamimi, Emma Liddington, Nikki Stam, Tom Hutchinson, Lizzi Wilson, Louis Voltattorni, Mark Hodds, Ross Lewis, Anthony Gathercole, Frazer Bowen, Tom Chuter, Kian Mistry, Laura Elliott, Mickey Lee, Faadil Fawzy, Declan Greaves, Richard Bilton, Pete Thornley, Muhammed Al-Thaqif.

There were no email votes or proxy votes to declare.

#### **2. Minutes from the 16-17 SOSM**

The minutes from the 16-17 SOSM were accepted.

#### **3. Welcome and Chair's Report (KR)**

See Appendix 1

#### **4. Treasurer's Report (PM)**

See Appendix 2

Notable suggestions regarding levies for 17/18 season as follows:

- Membership Fee (£1 in 16/17) to be reduced to zero for time being until current surplus is used.
- Ranking Levy (£0.50 in 16/17) to remain the same
- Masters's Levy (£0.75 in 16/17) to be increased to £1
- Club Development Levy (£0.75 in 16/17) to be reduced to zero for time being until current surplus is used
- 16/17 Tournament Fund deficit of £25.05 to be cleared from surpluses from membership fees

#### **5. Secretary's Report (SH)**

See Appendix 3

Tom Chuter queried whether the loss of BUCS had affected clubs ability to recruit and retain members. Several attendees agreed that this had had a significant impact due to loss of funding and the subsequent transition from an athletic club to a social club.

Pete Thornley felt that even if the bowling was free it would still be difficult to engage students on a recurring basis because of other issues faced such as transport and the conditions at local centres.

Sarah Hood commented that the BTBA Women's National Council have used a portable bowling lane to raise the profile of the sport in local areas such as shopping centres and leisure parks. BUTBA could investigate purchasing such an item to help clubs recruit members.

## 6. Constitutional Amendments

### a. Constitution

#### i. ***Repeal Representative Programme & associated Standing Order (SH) TPN 4.3***

Sarah Hood explained that the initiative was originally established to promote the BUTBA tour and while inclusion on the squad has been an aspirational target for students, it hasn't held the same appeal to Ex-Students. There were no fixtures in the 16/17 season and the proposed revised format for the challenge match, comprising of rep squad members didn't happen.

Paul Marks suggested the standing order doesn't need to be repealed as such, but that it could be agreed it wouldn't apply for a season. This would allow all the standing order items to come back into force should the time be right for a squad to be formed again.

Mark Hodds expressed an interest in standing for the Rep Squad Manager role and as a result Sarah Hood withdrew the proposal.

### b. Tournament Standing Order

#### i. ***Qualifying Averages (JL) RNK 14.1 - Amend to include all games bowled on tour, including non-ranking events, on the average tables.***

The proposal was withdrawn.

#### ii. ***Calculation of Averages (PM) RNK 14.1 / RNK 14.2 - Amend to remove 1<sup>st</sup> September pro rata calculations from non-BUTBA averages***

Sarah Hood explained that it had been noted during the season that the BUTBA ruling on calculating averages wasn't up to date with current BTBA practice. As such it was suggested the September deadline be removed and averages be calculated instead on an annual rolling basis.

The proposal was approved with no objections or abstentions.

#### iii. ***Ex-students to play on Student Teams as honorary bowlers (SH) RNK 4 – Student Clubs to be allowed to field ex-student alumni players for events where teams cannot be fielded from current student club membership***

Sarah Hood explained that this was based on a proposal by Frazer Bowen, whereby the lone bowler rule could be extended to alumni of a certain club to make it easier for student clubs to field teams in events.

The motion was passed with no objections and 1 abstention.

#### iv. ***Repeal of BUTBA Masters (SH) RNK 35 / RNK 36 / RNK 10.6 – Most bowlers are no longer entering enough events to meet the 5 tournament requirement for qualification to masters. Suggest the masters be scrapped, ending the masters fund contributions at BUTBA events (making tournaments a little bit cheaper/more profitable), and the Championships become the focal point for the tour.***

Sarah Hood suggested that the masters is not the focal point of the tour it once was with most entrants having only played 2 events to qualify, rather than the minimum of 5 events specified in the Tournament Standing Order. Money could be saved from tournament entries through the rest of the season by scrapping the masters as a masters fund would no longer be needed.

Paul Marks pointed out that the Tournament Standing Order doesn't specify a minimum number of games to qualify for the masters, it in fact states a maximum number of events which can contribute to the order of merit ranking tables.

Mark Hodds and Pete Thornley commented to say they may have bowled more on tour this year if the formats had required smaller teams, or been singles events. They were able to play the masters because it was singles and felt that formats with larger teams was a hindrance to ex-students attending events.

There was a general consensus that the 16/17 masters was one of the better attended events all season and that the council still wanted to have an end of season invitational masters.

There were no votes in favour of the motion, with 4 abstentions. The motion was rejected.

*v. Repeal of BUTBA Challenge Match (SH) RNK 37 / RNK 38 / RNK 39 / RNK 40*

The proposal was withdrawn.

The intent for the 17/18 season will be for the new Rep Squad manager to organise a challenge match between the 17/18 student and ex-student rep squad members.

*c. Ranking Event Policy for the 17/18 Season*

Sarah Hood explained this was not a constitutional proposal as such, but more a chance to get some feedback and promote discussion on how the tour should look for 17/18. As such no votes were taken at this time.

- i. Student ranking events policy to remain (SH) – 4 events including the championships held between end of Oct and start of April*

Some discussion was held about different formats for student completion including a Junior Scratch Tournament style competition (where clubs would be paired up in rounds and play each other for points before visiting the other clubs to play them) or a combined league posting (where clubs bowlers were entered in a combined league bowling from their own venues with more regular prizes and incentives to increase participation).

- ii. Decision to be made by Council on continuation of joint BUTBA/BTBA events*

In general the council was in favour of continuing the joint BTBA/BUTBA, but with some changes to try and encourage more bowlers to join the BUTBA tour from the BTBA Adult Tour. A suggestion was made for bowlers who play a BUTBA tour tournament could get free entry to a joint BTBA/BUTBA tournament to try and increase tour membership.

- iii. No Ex-student ranking events shall be organised (SH), to be replaced with one annual ex-student tournament. Prize Fund to be supplemented by Ex-Student Fund.*

Several ex-students suggested they would play more on tour, and had attended the masters, because it was a singles format, and the tour formats this year had favoured team events preventing them from being able to participate.

## **7. Nomination of Officers**

### **a. Chair**

Kirsty Ralph informed the council that she would continue in the role if there were no other nominations. There were no other nominations so Kirsty was elected for another season.

### **b. Vice Chair**

Frazer Bowen nominated himself for the role of Vice Chair and was unopposed. He was elected with no objections or abstentions.

### **c. Tournament Co-ordinator**

Tom Chuter queried whether the role is better suited to an Ex-Student rather than a current student. The committee agreed it would be better suited to an Ex-Student who has more experience of how tournaments can be run.

Tom Chuter queried whether the role could be done on a job share basis. The committee explained that there would need to be a nominated representative with voting rights on the committee, but that person could co-opt members as they like/see fit in order to do the job. Any co-opted members would not carry voting rights on the committee.

Tom Chuter, Declan Greaves and Anthony Gathercole all volunteered to help fill the role on a job share basis, working together on the 17/18 tour calendar. After private discussion it was agreed Declan Greaves would be the nominee for Tournament Co-ordinator. Declan was elected with no objections or abstentions.

### **d. Treasurer**

Paul Marks informed the council that he would continue in the role if there were no other nominations. There were no other nominations so Paul was elected to continue as Treasurer for another season.

### **e. Secretary**

Anthony Gathercole nominated himself for the role of Secretary and was unopposed. He was elected with no objections and 1 abstention.

### **f. Rep Squad Manager(s)**

Mark Hodds nominated himself for the role of Rep Squad Manager and was unopposed. He was elected with no objections and no abstentions.

## **8. Award of Ranking Table and Masters Prizes for 2016/17**

Ranking Table and Masters Prizes were awarded.

## **9. AOB**

There was no other business.

# BRITISH UNIVERSITIES TENPIN BOWLING ASSOCIATION



## End of Season 2016-17 Meeting - Appendix 1

### CHAIR'S REPORT

This year saw a big change into the way BUTBA was structured. Following the EOSM in the Summer of 2016, it was voted that the committee would be reduced to a size of 5 to help improve the efficiency and speed as well as improving communication with our bowlers. It was also felt with the decline in participation to re-format the tour and set smaller more localised events for the student side and for the ex students to host more tournaments with smaller team sizes and varied locations to help improve travel time and making the tournaments more accessible.

Following the EOSM and the new proposals of having a smaller committee the first job was to redefine the roles and expectations. Having held a committee meeting at the beginning of the summer we were able to outline the roles (all of which can be found on the website) Over the course of this year it has been a rather success. The biggest improvement was with the role of Sec-retary and Sarah Hood's ability to use social media and promote the tour to the best of her ability. I also wish to thank Kian Mistry who has worked behind the scenes this year creating a new web-site and designing the scoresheet spreadsheets for each tournament.

One of the key roles was to design a tour and make events spread out over the year. We wanted to have a later start to the tour as a chance to let the students have their freshers fair and really drive the recruitment for the clubs. The other also had to focus around the outside bowling calendars of TE Trials, MSL and other tournaments. We aimed to host a tournament around every 6 weeks and with the thought in mind of keeping the entry costs as low as possible for the students, whilst increasing the ex student side in favour of high prize money. We did have issues with tournaments not reaching the maximum number of participants and tried to accommodate the prize fund according with the numbers we had. Our best results saw the combination of join-ing up with the BTBA for our 2 satellite events held at Airport and Nuneaton.

However we did have some issues concerning averages at Nuneaton and so an EGM was called to discuss and vote on the entering averages used by BUTBA bowlers in joint events. Full results are online.

The student side of the tour unfortunately failed to take off with as a number of clubs have had very small number of members and I am sad to say Sheffield University has folded. Looking ahead with the few clubs we have it is important for the new committee to work with them and offer as much support as they can.

Whilst the numbers have been low this year we have had a good turn out and I am pleased to announce and congratulate all of our OoM winners and I wish to thank you all for the support you have given us by bowling on tour. BUTBA only exists because of the people who bowl and I do hope the tour can be sustained as it has been lovely to meet new people and making lasting friendships over the years. During my time as Chair we have tried our best as a committee to work with the situation we were given and I hope you enjoyed the variety of events and the pat-terns and formats we provided. I wish to thank the hard work of the committee I have had the pleasure of overseeing this year and whilst it may seem I've been in the background (due to having a baby!) I could not have asked for more from them all.

I hope we do have the support and ability to move forward and keep BUTBA alive for the coming future and I wish to give the new committee my full support.

# BRITISH UNIVERSITIES TENPIN BOWLING ASSOCIATION



## End of Season 2016-17 Meeting - Appendix 2

### TREASURER'S REPORT

#### **1. Comments on the season**

- 1.1 We have seen a continuation of the decline in participants this year at an alarming rate, two events were required to be cancelled on the student side due to lack of entries.
- 1.2 Regretfully, we have been informed that Sheffield will not be continuing into the 17/18 year which leaves us with only 3 active universities in Loughborough, Nottingham and Birmingham.
- 1.3 The Ex-student side has also suffered a decline, however some ex-students who have previously bowled on tour attended both of the BTBA events only, as such not technically purchasing membership but still bowling on the tour.
- 1.4 It is expected the BTBA merged events will continue to be well attended.

#### **2. Plans for the future**

- 2.1 BUTBA aims to continue to provide outstanding opportunities for Students and Ex-students to engage in Tenpin Bowling through Higher Education.
- 2.2 There was an attempt to relaunch the cup in a Baker format before Christmas however this saw only Nottingham and Loughborough submit entries and only Nottingham to do so after the first week.
- 2.3 There was a large change in the structure of the tour last year in that 4 types of events were formed: Student Only, Ex-Student Only, Students and Ex Student Combined and BTBA events.
- 2.4 The Ex-student only events (Mansfield and Stroud) were reasonably well attended. The Mansfield event was fully attended.
- 2.5 The student only events were required to be cancelled as there were insufficient entries
- 2.6 Combined events (Freshers', Worcester, Loughborough, Birmingham and the Championships) were attended fitfully. Sufficient entries were received to run the events but no event was full.
- 2.7 The BTBA events were well attended with 38 teams for each event out of a maximum of 40.
- 2.8 It is unlikely that BUTBA will be able to continue in its current 'tour format' – there are just insufficient numbers out there to regularly attend events.
- 2.9 It will be for a new committee or the remainder of the current committee to decide what types of events to run in the 2017/18 year.

#### **3. State of Funds**

- 3.1 There stands three funds with a reasonable amount of money in it which makes up nearly the entire assets of BUTBA
  - 3.1.1 Student Fund: £743.05
  - 3.1.2 Ex-Student Fund: £700.06
  - 3.1.3 Club Development Fund: £788.50
- 3.2 The Treasurer refers to his previous years' report for ideas on how these funds could be used, briefly these were:
  - 3.2.1 Subsidise entries for students and ex-students into BTBA affiliated event to boost BUTBA members by either indicating free entry or contribute the prize fund so BUTBA members pay lineage only.
  - 3.2.2 Wider publicity of the Student club Schemes but perhaps widen it to include free entry for all student teams for one event per year
  - 3.2.3 Allow students to apply for use of the fund to facilitate transport costs in attending events
  - 3.2.4 Use the ex-student fund to provide free entry to events for returning ex-students who haven't bowled an ex-student event for say 3 years.
  - 3.2.5 Use the funds to increase cash pots for events such as the championships to boost entry levels.

Year ended 30 August 2017

Income & Expenditure Account

<u>INCOME</u>	Notes	£	£
Membership Fees			
- Student			35.00
- Ex-student			30.00
Rankings fund			301.00
Club Development Fund			<u>257.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>			<b>623.00</b>
 <u>EXPENDITURE</u>			
Tournament Account	1	55.40	
Website		79.85	
Rankings Prizes		296.57	<u>(431.82)</u>
<b>Net Profit</b>			<b>191.18</b>

Notes accompanying the Income & Expenditure Account

<b>1. Tournament Account</b>			
- Entry Fees Charged			12,891.25
- Lineage		7,119.65	
- Prize fund		4,380.93	
- Event Expenses		116.07	
- Host Contributions		41.00	
- Goodwill Refund		35.00	<u>(11,692.65)</u>
- Gross profit			<b>1,198.60</b>
- <i>Less Levies paid out</i>			
- BTBA Team England		706.00	
- Club Development	301.00		
-	(54.00)	257.00	
- Rankings		301.00	
- Masters' fund	150.50		
-	(150.50)	0.00	<u>(1,254.00)</u>
- Net Loss			<b>(55.40)</b>

## Year ended 30 August 2017

### Balance Sheet

<u>FUNDS</u>	NOTES	2017		2016	
		£	£	£	£
- Ex-Student	1	743.12		753.05	
- Student	1	700.06		704.99	
- Rankings	2	4.00			0.43
- Refunds Held	3	25.00		100.00	
- Prepayment	3		81.80		81.80
- Club Development	4	788.50		541.50	
- Ball	5	17.37		17.37	
- Tournament Account	6		24.45	30.95	
			2,172.50		2,066.32

### Represented by:

#### Assets

Cash at Bank and on Hand:		2,172.50		2066.32
Debtors:	7	330.00		
Prepayments:	8	81.10		81.10
<u>Total Assets</u>			2,583.60	2,147.42

#### Liabilities

Refunds	9	(25.00)		(100.00)
Outstanding Prizes	10	(172.00)		
<u>Total Liabilities</u>			(197.00)	

<b>Net Assets:</b>			<b>2,386.60</b>	<b>2,047.42</b>
--------------------	--	--	-----------------	-----------------

## Notes accompanying the Balance Sheet

### 1. Ex-Student & Student Funds

1.1. Both funds have shown a decrease from last season; the students worrying so:

1.1.1. Paid up Ex-student members for 2015/16 totalled 54 members.

1.1.2. Paid up Ex-student members for 2016/17 totalled 30 members.

1.1.3. Student membership for 2015/16 was 43 members.

1.1.4. Student membership for 2016/17 was 35 members.

1.2. Membership funds are at a high, therefore no membership funds shall be required for the 2017/18 year. Registration by form will be sufficient.

### 2. Rankings Fund

2.1. The fund raised £301 for the year which meant the prize fund per ranking table was approximately £30 which was enough to provide adequate prizes. No change is proposed.

### 3. Masters Fund

3.1. The fund was used to lower the cost of entries by approximately £6.25 per bowler. This enabled us to run an event at £30 per head, £5 more than in 2015/16.

3.2. The treasurer feels that the levy grants quite a small reduction given the current levels of entrants and proposes an increase to £1 per person per event.



#### **4. Club Development Fund**

- 4.1. The Club Development Fund was underutilised this year given the lack of student entries. It was used to provide a discount on a second team at the Freshers' event of which £36 was used and it was also used to provide a free entrant from UCL at the first event of £18.
- 4.2. Therefore only £54 of £541.50 was used.
- 4.3. The fund raised a further £257 this year and the balance now stands at £788.50
- 4.4. The treasurer recommends reducing the levy to £0 for the £2017/18 year until that fund is redistributed to assist student clubs.

#### **5. Ball**

- 5.1. No change from last year.

#### **6. Tournament Account**

- 6.1. The tournament account was again in deficit. The total deficit being £56 however a large amount of this was due to a refund at a BTBA event of £35 due to an administrative error in the finals.
- 6.2. Net loss was therefore at £21 for all the other events combined which was mainly caused by an underfilled event at Stroud causing a loss of £15.50.
- 6.3. The account was however in profit at the start of the year and therefore even a £56 overall loss means that the account is only £25.05 overdrawn which is within acceptable levels.
- 6.4. The treasurer however proposes to wipe the fund to zero at the start of the 2017/18 year by redistributing funds from the Student and ex-student funds respectively.

#### **7. Debtors**

- 7.1. There was an issue in receiving payments from universities where both Nottingham and Birmingham Universities changed the way payments are authorised. As a result, invoices for B'ham Baker Doubles have been raised to these universities but not yet paid - £300.00
- 7.2. Saqib Shabbir (ex-student) owes £30 from the same event

#### **8. Prepayments**

- 8.1. Regretfully, no challenge match has been organised this year. The medals are still on hand and it is hoped that an event may be held at the start of the 2017/18 year to use the medals previously purchased.

#### **9. Refunds**

- 9.1. This was owed from Chesterfield 2015/16 where a lineage issue caused each team entering to overpay by £20. 3 teams have been fully reimbursed. The outstanding creditors are Charlie Baldwin who is owed £5 and Simon Wilkins who is owed £20 for his team.

#### **10. Prizes**

- 10.1. The rankings awards was split this year between a trophy for the winner and medals for the respective runners-up. This meant that there was some cash left over to accompany the awards. The committee have decided that for the 6 divisions (i.e. not combined) additional awards of £8 and £4 shall be given to the winner and runner up
- 10.2. In the new combined divisions, only cash prizes of £12, £9, £6 and £3 shall be awarded respectively
- 10.3. Two cash prizes are also outstanding from the Championships – these are Nikki Stam (£5) and Martin Townshend (£5)



**End of Season 2016-17 Meeting - Appendix 3**  
**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Communications**

In taking on the role of Secretary this year I was keen to improve communications to all BUTBA members, reducing the reliance on facebook as a sole communication method. I updated the membership database and created an email list for all tournament entry forms to be emailed to. However it has been difficult to obtain contact information for all tournament entrants this season, especially in student clubs where entries are managed by one person.

I restructured the way facebook was used, directing traffic away from the groups to the page, and created events on the page for all tournament stops this season. I especially tried to support the clubs more around freshers activities, sharing and retweeting recruitment sessions to try and extend their reach.

I also worked to increase the news items published by BUTBA both through tournament reports and monthly featured bowler profiles. I was able to use connections with Talk Tenpin to help increase the reach of our news meaning a lot of our content this year has been shared with their 8000+ followers.

However, while the content on facebook has generated a lot of reactions and comments, twitter has received little interaction and neither appear to have had a positive impact on tour numbers or membership.

**Tournaments**

This year we have held 4 student events with an additional 2 events cancelled due to low entries. We have held an additional 2 combined events with student and ex-student teams permitted. On the Ex-Student side we ran 6 events with 2 additional joint events with the BTBA Adult Tour.

36 students bowled on tour this year, with an average event attendance of 1.9 tournaments per student.

47 ex-students bowled on tour this year, with an average event attendance of 2.4 tournaments per student.

The joint BUTBA/BTBA tournaments were both hugely successful attracting some of the largest numbers for the BTBA Adult tour out of 10 stops. At Nuneaton 76 players attended, of which 15 (20%) were 16/17 BUTBA members. At the Airport 75 players entered and 16 (21%) were 16/17 BUTBA members. However these events have not brought new players to the tour, or encouraged older members to rejoin the tour.

## Feedback

In May I ran a consultation with student clubs to inform planning for the 17/18 season. Only 2 clubs (Birmingham and Loughborough) responded. Key points\* from their responses were as follows:

- Clubs have trouble converting initial interest into membership, or in converting occasional social members to more competitive bowlers. One club collected 70 emails at freshers but only 10 came to the first week and none of them carried on past Christmas.
- Conditions at local bowling centres is not conducive to retaining the interest of new members
- Decreased recruitment from traditional YBC feeders
- Discounted entries from the club development fund have been useful and could be extended to act as a bigger incentive to more members to attend tournaments
- Paying for travel to tournaments is a hindrance, especially where travel to bowls relies on drivers
- Alumni do not seem to continue bowling after graduation if they weren't already bowlers before starting at uni
- Moving tournaments or club sessions to Wednesday afternoons could damage engagement rather than encourage as there is more completion for students attention and time from other sporting clubs
- Formats of tournaments this year were good
- Bigger focus on annual championships is important
- Combining events with the NAYBC/YTE tours is unlikely to meet student needs

\*It should be noted these are not guaranteed trends, but simply the experiences of clubs in the 16/17 season