



# The INSIDE LINE

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## Relocation of BTBA Head Office

Over the last 2 years the National Council have been striving to streamline the BTBA finances and operational efficiency. Since relocation to Romford, Head Office has cost an average of £75K per annum which represents approximately 70% of our total Membership Fees.

Reducing that financial burdens has been a major focus of the National Council and we are therefore pleased that the Head Office of the BTBA has now been outsourced and relocated to Market Deeping, Lincolnshire. This action will reduce our overheads by over £50K instantly and introduce a new and innovative dimension to the way our Headquarters operates. It will place a greater burden of responsibility on the National Council and they both individually and collectively have accepted a greater degree of involvement in the day to day affairs of the organisation.

The new BTBA Head Office is located within a modern Local Government owned Business Centre with access to Meeting & Conference facilities the utilisation of which will further reduce our outgoings. The BTBA National Council wish to extend our sincere thanks to them all and particularly to Bernice Bass who has served us loyally for over 40 years.

### **The British Tenpin Bowling Association**

39 Eventus  
Sunderland Road  
Market Deeping  
Lincs PE6 8FD

Full details can be found by following the 'CONTACT US' menu at the top of [btba.org.uk](http://btba.org.uk)

***BTBA Chairman Ron Griffin and National Council would like to wish  
all our members a happy, healthy and successful 2016***



## Membership Levels Up 18%

*Director of Membership Services, Lisa John, writes:*

It gives me great pleasure to announce that as of 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016, Membership numbers have increased by 18% on the previous year. I firmly believe that this is a direct result of the implementation of the MFA partnership as well as the hard work that has been put in by many Local Associations to introduce new incentive schemes to their bowlers. For example, both Yorkshire and Sussex have introduced initiatives to reward members of the BTBA in centres within their association and both have seen an increase in numbers. I am hopeful that this is the start of a steady rise in our membership numbers, and my team and I will work hard and do our best to make this happen.

## 55<sup>th</sup> BTBA National Championships

The BTBA are pleased to announce the 55th National Championships, a 2016 BTBA Adult and Senior Tour Stop, will take place at MFA Nottingham, 1 Belward Street, Nottingham, NG1 1JZ on the 12th, 13th, 19th and 20th March 2016.

*Comments Dave Steiner, Tournament Manager -*

This Year the format for the team event has been changed from five person teams to four person teams. The reasons for this is to make it easier for people to produce teams without the worry of find extra double players and finding a team spot for the “sixth player.” The new format will enable all to play on one day and still be able to travel home at a reasonable time hopefully reduce the requirements for overnight stays hence reducing the costs for our premier annual event. Note that Entries MUST be via the BTBA website.

For full details [Click here](#) .

## Coaching website data updated and improved

*Written by Mark Heathorn, BTBA’s National Coaching Manager -*

I am delighted to announce that the coaching section of the website is now fully updated and significantly expanded to include all the information you need as a coach or prospective coach, or maybe as a parent or bowler wishing to check the credentials of your coach.

You will find lists of all coaches who are “Transitioned” or have completed training in one of the new qualifications under the **COACHES** tab. Under the **QUALIFICATIONS** tab you will find everything you need to know about our qualifications, the coaching pathway, and how you get qualified, move to the next stage or get licensed.

Our **COACHES** tab displays the structure and who’s who in our set-up including Y.B.C. Instructors and Coaches, Coaching Tutors and Team England Head Coaches.



I am also delighted to announce that in February we will be launching the **BTBA Coaches Club**, a service for all coaches regardless of when you qualified. You are now able to REGISTER using your BTBA membership number and you will need an email address as contact.

More information will be published on our NEWS page in due course. I hope you enjoy looking at the site and find it useful.

## **New BTBA 50+ CLUB & Life Members**

*Written by Jerry Moll, Assistant to Chairman –*

It is indeed a very special occasion when a member has achieved 50 years' continuous support of the National Governing Body of a sport. Therefore, we wish to record the loyalty and commitment of those bowlers who have achieved a landmark of 50 years BTBA membership by awarding them with one year's free membership as a token of our recognition and appreciation. To view the names of those so recognised, please refer to [btba.org.uk](http://btba.org.uk)

Sadly, a number of BTBA records were lost in a fire many years ago so we are unable to identify other bowlers who might qualify, so please do let us know by contacting Head Office.

We are fortunate to have received from Steve White the following account of his 50 years of bowling in Kent. Many thanks indeed Steve!

"I was introduced to bowling by a work college who already bowled in a league at the old Bexleyheath bowl, which is now an Asda's. We used to bowl on our early closing day with some other work mates. From this I got the bug for bowling and quickly joined a league all with the help of the then Manageress Janet Morrison. This one league then became two then three then four. After a few years I found myself secretary of the then Spartan Doubles League later to become trios. I ran the league for over 30 years, during those years I then became secretary for the Olympic League which I still run today and have up to date been a league secretary for over 45 years.

In my early years I used to go to Dagenham Bowl to watch the good bowlers to see how it was done, I believe it was the Supreme League which was a five-person league. My favourites had to be The Wembley All Stars. It was through bowling that I met my wife Sheila and we have been married 42 years. I feel very fortunate that my era of bowling was when it was, the bowls were mostly run by bowlers and knew what was expected and did all they could to encourage new people to the sport, sadly that does not seem to be the case these days. Our local association was at the time the S.E.B.A. and our area championships were so large that they had to be run over four weekends.

I have been fortunate to represent my County of Kent in both the Adults and now Seniors for many years and even won an Adult Gold medal sadly our only one to date. At my peak I averaged 208 but never had an 800 or a 300, I have however had 28 700's and a 299 and a



298. Sadly, with 5 shoulder operations my bowling is not what it was and now average about 175. I still try and make the Kent team each year and normally I'm the captain when I do. My regret with bowling is the demise of numbers and the lack of centres willing to promote League bowling, my 4-man League is down to 10 teams (most of the bowlers have been in the league for over 40 years) and do not see how I can replace teams as they leave.

As I said I feel fortunate to have bowled when I did when Leagues and Local Tournaments were plentiful. I will carry on bowling until my body says enough because I enjoy all the people that I have known and met these last 50 years. Thank you"

## What Safeguarding means to the BTBA/NAYBC

*Written by Hayley Rumkee, BTBA's Safeguarding Officer -*

As the recently appointed Safeguarding Officer for the BTBA and NAYBC I thought it may be useful to write a short article so that members are aware of what Safeguarding means and what the role of Safeguarding Officer entails within the BTBA and NAYBC.

Firstly, I would like to introduce myself. My name is Hayley Rumkee and I have been a member of the BTBA for 19 years. I am a trained social worker and from 2010 to 2013 I worked as a Child Protection Social worker. My front line experience within this field has given me the knowledge and understanding I require to undertake the Safeguarding Officer role within the BTBA and NAYBC. I continue to work as a social worker today and therefore undertake regular training and workshops to allow me to continue my Safeguarding Officer role effectively.

### **What is Safeguarding?**

Safeguarding is the protection of vulnerable adults or children from any form of abuse or neglect.

### **Why do we need a Safeguarding Officer?**

Any establishment, club or governing body that comes into contact with or are responsible for children or vulnerable adults should have a designated Safeguarding Officer. This should be someone with relevant knowledge and up to date training around Safeguarding. This is to ensure that all members are appropriately safeguarded whilst at BTBA or NAYBC events, this includes tournaments, YBC days and other bowling events.

Although I am the 'Designated Safeguarding Officer' for the BTBA and NAYBC the actual responsibility of safeguarding children and vulnerable adults within our governing body falls to 'EVERYBODY'. So if you have a concern regarding a child or vulnerable adult then please get in touch.



### **What does a Safeguarding Officer do?**

A Safeguarding Officer should ensure that all Policies and Procedures for Safeguarding are relevant and up to date. I am currently working my way through the current Safeguarding Policies and Procedures for the BTBA to ensure that these documents are relevant and effective.'

They should also ensure that all members, particularly those who are coaching/instructing/helping children or vulnerable adults on a regular basis, have the relevant knowledge and training around safeguarding. This is also something which is being carefully considered and there will be updates to follow regarding this.

A Safeguarding officer will give advice if anyone has concerns about a child or any other member of the BTBA/NAYBC. A Safeguarding Officer is NOT responsible to decide whether a child or vulnerable adult has been or is being abused or not. This responsibility falls to investigative statutory agencies such as Children's Social Care or Police. However, it is the Safeguarding Officers responsibility to decide how information is recorded and managed.

### **What does this mean for the BTBA and NAYBC?**

If anyone within the BTBA or NAYBC, whether you are an official, parent or carer, has concerns regarding any child this should be reported to the Safeguarding Officer. There is now a designated email address which is [safeguarding@btba.org.uk](mailto:safeguarding@btba.org.uk)

If you feel you would like any further information regarding safeguarding or if you have any questions or queries, please feel free to send an email to the above address.

## **Local Associations' own webpages launched**

*Written by Jerry Moll, Assistant to Chairman -*

I'm pleased to tell you that the new online "Local Association Directory" is now complete and can be found under "THE BTBA" header tab at [btba.org.uk](http://btba.org.uk).

This directory lists the names of the officials of each Local Association together with the email address of the Area Secretary. Venues and contact details for sanctioned leagues in each Area are also shown.

In addition, links are provided to the Local Association's own website & FB pages (where available) as well as local BTBA membership information. A link to sanctioned tournaments will be added soon.



## Gill Hutchison - "Sleep Tight and Thank you"

I have been asked by Ron Griffin to put some words together, as it is with the greatest sadness that the bowling community has learned of the unexpected passing of Gill Hutchison, Area Secretary for Lincolnshire, who died peacefully on 12 December.

Whether it be helping a YBC at one of her local (or not so local) centres, giving advice to another county association on a sticky matter or just generally popping in to get some more info for the latest Lincs newsletter, Gill was always there for anyone needing a hand, championing successes and offering the supportive words. The time and effort put in by her through fundraising, attending as many events where Lincolnshire bowlers were playing as possible, and being an ambassador for not only Lincolnshire but the sport as a whole was second to none.

But Gill was so much more than just the secretary of her Local Association, a job she had done for nearly 30 years - she was also the most passionate, caring and generous-spirited of people. Never afraid to right a wrong or to raise a concern, she always did so with respect and good grace and occasional humour - nobody else could have made a point about "Trousergate" at the Senior Counties in quite the way Gill did!

Not one to idle in between the newsletters, sanction paperwork, Hundred Club and coaching, Gill was also a keen writer and artist. She regularly went to Writers Groups and had just completed her Post Graduate Degree in Creative Writing. A talented wordsmith - in no small part due to her being a retired English teacher - Gill could always be relied upon for a cheerful anecdote as much as a chastisement without the slightest hint of malice.

In short, it is not just the bowling world that has lost a great friend but also that of the writers clubs and seminars she attended, as well as the hundreds - if not thousands - of former pupils who clearly still hold her in such high regard. She has left an impossible hole to fill, both within Lincolnshire and the hearts of everyone who were blessed to have known her.

However the loss that we all feel towards the "Bowling Mum" of many is dwarfed by that which must be felt by her immediate family right now. Our hearts and best wishes go out to Al and Fiona, as well as her granddaughter Thea - who she idolised - and the rest of her family.

The world is a little darker without your ray of sunshine in it Gill, but we are all grateful to have had that illumination in our lives - even if it wasn't for as long as we would have hoped.

Sleep tight and thank you.  
*Colin Laing, Friend.*



## National Title for Portsmouth Junior

*Written by Nick Spivey -*

The National Association of Youth Bowling Clubs (NAYBC) held their Tour Finals in Nottingham on Sunday with the best of the country's young Ten Pin Bowlers coming together in the finale of their season. With Fareham Havant and Portsmouth heavily represented across all age groups it was the under 19 girls that proved to be souths shining light with four of the six qualifiers bowling at Gunwharf Bowlplex.

After six games of qualifying the top three moved on to the stepladder final with second playing third for a place in the final. Megan Jagger (Havant YBC) qualified second but was undone as Alexia Francis-Robertson (Havant YBC) hit the best game of the day to get through to the final.

The final proved to be very close, top qualifier Leanne Spivey (Portsmouth YBC) matching Alexia all the way and both performing well despite the growing audience. The game coming down to the final ball with Leanne requiring a single pin to win but missing to leave the match tied. Both girls then had to step up again, re-playing the last two frames, with the rest of the players having finished and now watching.

Leanne was first up, hitting a strike, which Alexia couldn't match. Leanne then spared in the tenth frame and finished with a 9. Alexia now needed three strikes for the title, a feat that proved too much, leaving the title going to Portsmouth YBC's Leanne Spivey to much applause.



Megan Jagger – Leanne Spivey – Alexia Francis-Robinson



## There's more than one way



of being a star!

*Poignantly, this was written by Gill Hutchison -*

We all love to watch the high scores roaring in but if we had a choice, wouldn't we all prefer to bowl with someone who can shoot big AND support the rest of the team as well? Such a person is **Wendy Fullbrook**, who has not let debilitating illness rule her out as a player to be reckoned with. Immediately after her diagnosis, she not only rolled a 299 game, but also made Senior Team England in 2015.

However, fatigue is the key, and although Wendy can still make mincemeat of the opposition early on in a tournament, her stamina doesn't always stand up to the later stages.

Recognising this, and seeing also that the criteria for Senior Player of the Year etc simply did not fit this special lady's case, **Ron Griffin**, Chairman of the BTBA, secretly sent us a beautiful trophy of clasped hands to celebrate Wendy's quietly supportive contribution to bowling over several years.

This was presented to Wendy alongside her County "Skill, Friendship, Teamwork" award at Dave Rawding and Gary Jeans' Scotch Doubles tournament on November 29<sup>th</sup> 2015. Wendy had a little tear in her eye to see the friends who had stayed for the event and even more to see how many people commented on Facebook that the recognition was very richly deserved.

Thank you to the BTBA (Ron) for your thoughtful gesture in helping us to celebrate a fine bowler and an even finer person – that's our Wendy.





## 50 Years Ago – First 300 bowled by an Englishman

*Ron Griffin, Chairman BTBA, comments:*

“I was delighted, recently, to be reminded of a time when bowling a 300 was almost unheard of. It seemed appropriate to go back and remember the first ever sanctioned 300 bowled in England. This was by Albert Kirkham at the Top Rank Bowl in Chester on the 5th of December 1965. So it was with great pleasure that the BTBA have sent a special “50th Anniversary, Certificate of Achievement” to his family to mark the occasion”. For full story and pictures [click here](#)

## 30 Years Ago – First Cheshire Trials

*Written by Pete Duncan, Cheshire Area Secretary -*

On 6<sup>th</sup> December we at Cheshire had our trials to determine our county champions for 2015/16, and as I was playing in the trials, I was chatting to one of the other players and found out that we at Cheshire were celebrating our 30-year anniversary of playing our trials.

As I have only been the county secretary for a short time, I felt this landmark occasion should not go without some recognition, as far as I am aware the Cheshire trials was started in 1985 by a gentleman called Ray Arthur, Ray resigned from the Cheshire committee some time ago, but if it had not been for his driving force in the early years of Cheshire I don't think we would of had a county, we have in the past attended county tournaments at all levels, senior, adult, yac and junior both male and female, and I think Ray should take the credit starting and keeping it going all the time he was on the committee.

I am at the moment trying to keep our County going, working with the other two officials to encourage others to join our committee, so if you could like to put yourself forward, please email me at [peter.duncan56@ntlworld.com](mailto:peter.duncan56@ntlworld.com). I would be very grateful.



## Emily gets a surprise visit from her YBC!

*Written by Steve Herbert of Yeovil YBC -*

Emily Fowler, one of our Yeovil YBC kids is currently undergoing a spell of hospital treatment for digestive problems. When her Mum contacted me to say how down she was that she had to miss out on her usual Saturday get together with her friends we just couldn't leave it at that. So we decided that if she couldn't come to the YBC then the YBC should go to her.

Her Mum Cheryl told us she hadn't smiled all week. Well, the picture tells its own story. Unfortunately, two of our kids couldn't be there, but the very next day they made their own trip to catch up with Emily. When I explained her predicament to them all of our kids volunteered to give up part of their bowling time to visit Emily in an instant, such is her popularity with all of our little family. I know how much Emily loves her bowling and we all send our love to her for a speedy recovery.





## MFA Newcastle

### League Presentation Night and Christmas Party

*Written by Dave Malpas, Northumberland Area Secretary & Regional Officer –*

There are currently six leagues at MFA Newcastle and although a few bowlers play in more than one league, they tend to keep quite separate. (Editor's Note: all these leagues are now sanctioned by way of the MFA/BTBA Partnership – congratulations!)

In an attempt to change this and get the MFA Newcastle bowling "family" together, all six leagues postponed their usual end of season presentations until December when we held a combined Presentation Night and Christmas party.

The evening involved some careful choreography as squeezing six league presentations, two sets from our live band, bowler of the year awards, free bowling, disco/karaoke and beer (at £2 a pint) into five hours took some doing. But we did it and as far as we can remember, it was a very successful evening!

We started at about 7:30 with the YBC presentations. The idea of having the YBC first was so that the younger bowlers might need to get an early night. However, most of them were still around at midnight!

The presentations then went in order of prize money – Party League, Companions' League, Sunday Trios, Northumbria and finally the Strikeline Proshop Super Singles League – the flagship league of the centre with over £6,000 prize money shared between 20 bowlers. There was a rumour that a fair proportion of this was shared with a Casino after the party, but I wasn't there, so I can't comment. During each presentation, there was a video running on every screen in the centre (and a GBFO screen on lane 1) showing each league in action. Thanks to Hughie Clauzel for the hours and hours of video!

If you would like to read Dave's full report of their hugely entertaining and successful evening [click here](#).

Dave Malpas and Paul Ryder (GM MFA Bowl Newcastle) presenting prizes:





YBC Reindeers.



“The Hobbies”

