



YBA October Newsletter

Since starting these Newsletters nearly two years ago I've never really known if they were hitting the mark with readers. However, as I prepare to step down from the role of County Administrator, I thought I would publish this October Newsletter as my farewell attempt. I hope some of you find the contents of interest.

YBA FINANCIAL HELP FOR CLUBS

The increase in BE affiliation fees in 2024 has already been mentioned in previous Newsletters. However, as that time approaches the YBA Executive have agreed to provide a little assistance to clubs in these financially challenging times. BE will increase their element of the annual affiliation fee by £3 per member from May 2024. The YBA will therefore supplement affiliated clubs at £2 per member in 2024 and £1 per member in 2025, with clubs being responsible for the full affiliation fee as set by BE in 2026. It is hoped that this gesture of financial support will in some way help clubs as we all manage our finances with increasing difficulty in the current fiscal environment. Further details on just how this arrangement will operate for 2024 & 2025 will be circulated to clubs via the YBA Treasurer, along with the affiliation administration next year.

2023 YBA AGM

This year's AGM really has some important issues that should encourage club representatives to find time to be there. As with all AGMs there will be the usual 'bits and bobs' that have to be done but additionally this year there are a few proposals that have been tabled which could result in alterations to the YBA Constitution. These include:

1. **Regulation 14 - 'Qualification for County Badge'**: a proposed alteration to move from a points based system to a County Playing Appearance Recognition. Historically, a system was used to qualify county level players to reach a points target, which enabled them to be awarded a county badge. The current system awarded points differently, depending on which team you played in. This proposal basically says that irrespective of the team you play for, if you represent Yorkshire in the game of bowls then you are of equal value in your journey towards whatever the recognition of the day is. (Full details to be circulated to club secretaries for attendees.)
2. **Regulation 6.4-6.6 - 'Composition of the Men's Sub-Committee'**: following a review of the current Men's Sub-Committee structure, which was discussed and approved at the Men's Sub-Committee in Oct 2023, there will be some changes so that the focus is on managing bowling and the admin stuff gets done within a smaller group. This only affects the men's section. (Full details to be circulated to club secretaries for attendees.)
3. **Regulation 5.2 - 'The Executive Officers of the YBA shall be the... Honorary Administrator... who shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting'**: there are three Executive Officer posts appointed annually at the AGM, the Honorary Administrator (informally known as the County Administrator and the post currently held by me) is one of those. The YBA Ladies Sub-Committee have proposed **'to remove the position of Honorary Administrator from the YBA Executive Committee'**. (Full details to be circulated to club secretaries for attendees.)

4. **Regulation 5.2 - 'The Executive Officers of the YBA shall be the... Chairman... who shall be elected at each Annual General Meeting'**: there are three Executive Officer posts appointed annually at the AGM, the Chair is one of those. Following an internally commissioned working group report, authored by two YBA Executive members, a recommendation **'to remove the role of Chairman from the YBA Executive Committee'** was made. (Full details to be circulated to club secretaries for attendees.)

A copy of the current YBA constitution can be found under the 'Home' tab on the YBA website, [YBA Constitution V1.1 \(Current\) - Yorkshire Bowling Association - Yorkshire Bowling Association, York \(yorksba.co.uk\)](https://yorksba.co.uk).

The AGM will be held at New Earswick Indoor Bowling Club YO32 9PX, on the first floor, at 10.30am on Sunday 19th November 2023. All members of affiliated clubs are invited to attend and take part in any discussion **but only delegates may vote (Please see Regulation 8, para 8.7 of the YBA Constitution which details the voting arrangements).**

YBA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VACANCIES

The role of YBA Treasurer is a post annually appointed at the AGM. This post will be vacant and must be filled. Whilst vital, the scale of the YBA business is not complex. If you are interested please contact me as soon as possible. **The YBA must have a Treasurer in post to function.**

As I have mentioned I shall be standing down as the County Administrator at this years AGM. If the proposed YBA Constitutional alteration, submitted by the Ladies' Sub-Committee, to remove the role of Honorary Administrator from the Executive is supported (point 3 above) then clearly there will be no need to seek a new County Administrator. If, however, the proposal is rejected then a new County Administrator will be required. Anyone interested in holding this position, should it be retained, should feel free to give me a call or send me a message. I will be only too happy to explain the role.

COACHING

I mentioned last month that Lee Coutts was working hard to arrange a BE Coach Bowls course for the YBA. He has actually been working on this since the spring and we have some good news. A Level 1 course has now been sorted out starting on the 14th February 2024. This will enable individuals to qualify for the start of the 2024 outdoor season.

The schedule will be;

- a. Session One 14th February 2024 1730-2030hrs
- b. Session Two 21st February 2024 1730-2030hrs
- c. Practical Day at New Earswick IBC, York 3rd March 2024 0900-1700hrs
- d. Assessment Day at New Earswick IBC, York 7th April 2024 0900-1700hrs

To book onto the course go to <https://www.coachbowls.org/course/flat-green-level-1-new-earswick-ibc-yorkshire/> and visit <https://www.bowlsengland.com/coaching-bursary> for information about financial assistance.

For any further information please make contact with Lee Coutts (leecoutts.yba@gmail.com).

Well done, and thanks to Lee, for sorting this out.

GREENKEEPING KIT

Two items of greenkeeping equipment have become available; they are 'pre-loved' but still in good working order. So if you need a scarifier or a verticutter that fits a Dennis 510 mower please contact Graham Instone on 07527575206. I'm told that all 'sensible offers' will be considered.

MEN'S STUFF

You will have seen through the proposal at this year's YBA AGM, mentioned earlier in this Newsletter, that there have been a few changes in the Men's Sub-Committee structure. Nothing startling but a bowling sub group has been established that can focus on the men's inter county playing arrangements, Patrons and the Yorkshire/BE competitions. It is hoped this will improve the management of these areas.

Importantly for bowlers in Zones 2/3/4 (so everywhere apart from the more northern area of our county) the **administration** of all competitions has been centralised and will be managed by Steve Wilson (Dunnington BC), the YBA Men's Competition Secretary and hopefully an Assistant Secretary (to be appointed but watch this space). **This will not change** the competition early rounds playing arrangements, which will still be as they have been within your zones for many years.

Steve has recently circulated the competition forms to club secretaries but if you have any questions just drop him a line at steve.wilson1629@gmail.com.

Part of this sub-committee restructuring was aimed at reducing the number of people who sat on this group. Importantly though, it is planned to ensure that the work of the YBA Men's Sub-Committee is transparent and open for bowlers to influence. To that end the sub-committee we will be looking at options to engage with their members over the coming months – more on this in due course.

I am pleased to say that we head into the 2024 Men's season with a strong group of volunteers filling key roles:

- Men's Secretary – Andy Humphreys
- Men's Assistant Secretary – Lee Coutts
- Patrons' Secretary – Stewart Clarke
- Competition Secretary – Steve Wilson
- Team Manager – Sam Winter assisted by Graham Stephenson
- Youth Development Manager – Phil Parsons
- Safeguarding Officer – Vacant (Please drop me a mail if you are interested in this post)

LADIES' 'BITS & BOBS'

October saw the YBA Ladies hold their annual Autumn Meeting which was well attended and represented by ladies from almost 30 Yorkshire Bowling Clubs.. The ladies voted in their County lady Officers for the 2023/2024 season and discussed the events and successes of the 2023 season and plans for the forthcoming year.

On 17th October the Ladies held their annual luncheon and Presentation of Trophies event at the Yorkshire Pavilion Hotel, Fulford, York. 70 ladies representing many Yorkshire clubs across the breadth of the County had a delicious lunch and saw their fellow colleagues presented with their well-earned trophies. The YBA Ladies Stella team were presented with their badges and drops for coming first in the Northern Counties matches. The ladies also congratulated Sue Allen for coming second in the National singles competition at Bowls England Leamington. Sue will be awarded her trophy at the Bowls England Awards Night at Coventry in November.

Vivien Wilton-Middlemas

BOWLS ENGLAND CELEBRATION MATCHES

Just a reminder that each year BE organises 'celebration matches', involving a range of people who represent BE, to help clubs celebrate landmark events, such as reaching a significant milestone - the 100th year since being established perhaps. If your club is heading for a milestone and you are interested in being considered for a BE celebration match then there is more information on the BE website or contact Stephen Atkinson (07743791010 or stephenatkinson147@btinternet.com) who knows about these things!

AND FINALLY....

Just a huge 'thank you' to all who have helped me over the past two years in my role as YBA County Administrator. I have always held a firm belief that our sport should have no barriers to participation and should be completely inclusive.

During my tenure as County Administrator I had hoped to do more to deliver some of the important visible symbolic elements of unification that remain incomplete, thirteen years after we were supposed to have unified. Many of our clubs are and have always been way ahead of the YBA at County level, in terms of promoting and playing bowls in a totally inclusive way. Indeed, some clubs have always played our sport in this way. Sadly the YBA at a County level lags behind both the majority of our own clubs and other County Associations.

I wish my successor, should there be one, every good fortune in bringing our, yet to be unified, Association together so the symbols that signify separateness and division and create barriers to people participating in our wonderful sport are truly eradicated.

Take care and keep bowling!

Regards,

Andy Humphreys
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