



# *Irish Tenpin Bowling Association*

## *Secretary's Report*

### **SECRETARY'S REPORT FOR AGM 2024**

#### **APRIL 2023 – APRIL 2024**

The Irish Tenpin Bowling Association's 2023 AGM was held on Tuesday 25th April 2023 Hybrid (ZOOM and in person)

#### **Composition of Executive.**

The following were elected at last year's AGM

Chairman	Christopher Sloan
Treasurer	Jim Donagh
Secretary	Áine Lebioda (Appointed Secretary May 9 <sup>th</sup> , 2023)
Member	Donna Brady (Team Ireland)
Member	Joe Ridgway (Seniors)
Member	Phil Joyce (Juniors)
Member	Barbara Sloan
Member	Lauren Dugan (Appointed 25 <sup>th</sup> July 2023)

In summary, the eight-member Executive comprised of 5 ladies (62.5%) and 3 men (37.5%), thus meeting the 37.5% gender balance threshold in the ITBA Constitution and Sport Ireland's 40% threshold to qualify for receipt of annual Core Grants.

The Executive Committee would like to thank Yvonne Randell for her continued support as Membership Secretary and Paddy Kilduff who continues to update the Monthly Event Calendar.

#### **Condolences**

The Executive Committee would like to express their condolences to members of the Association that have passed away this year.

#### **Meetings / Submissions**

##### **Sport Ireland (SI) and Federation of Irish Sport.**

- SI 2022 Mid Term Review: Submitted July 2023
- SI 2023 Full Year Review and Grant Application: Submitted October 2023
- The Grant awarded from Sport Ireland for 2024 is €55,000. In January 2024, a Bonus Grant of €8000 was paid for 2023. In Feb 2024, we were advised of an €8,000 increase in Core Grant to €55,000.

##### **Executive and Sub-committee Meetings.**

Meetings of Executive Committee and Sub-committees are held 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month.

A number of extra meetings were held with Executive and Sub-committees and ITBA members on a required basis.

A 32 County NGB Working Group has been established in January 2024 with two members from ITBA, two members from NITBF and one member to represent both Executives.



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- ITBA Chair Christopher Sloan and Secretary Áine Lebioda,
- NITBF, Chair Grant Dugan and Youth Officer, Andrew Deane
- Lauren Dugan representing both organisations.

The first meeting was held in January 2024 and established a comprehensive list of goals and milestones. Three information sessions have been held for ITBA members and a list of FAQ's have been circulated. A motion for this year's AGM has been proposed by the ITBA Executive to vote on whether to amalgamate the two organisations to build a better future for Tenpin Bowling in Ireland.

The ITBA Executive is strongly recommending a "YES" vote to create a 32 County NGB with an EGM to be held later this year to approve all necessary documentation including a new 32 County NGB Constitution.

### **Sub Committees**

<b>Juniors:</b>	Chairperson	Phil Joyce
	Treasurer	Alan Grant
	Secretary	Stephen Masterson
	<b>Team Ireland:</b>	
	Chairperson	Aoife Hall Chandler
	Treasurer	Anthony Byrne
	Secretary	Elaine Kelly
	Member	Donna Brady
	Member	Leanne Byrne
	Member	Paul Chandler
<b>Seniors:</b>	Chairperson	Joe Ridgeway
	Treasurer	Peter Murphy
	Secretary	Maeve O'Reilly
	Member	Ken O'Reilly
	Member	Pat Holmes
<b>Coaches:</b>	Chairperson	Grant Dugan
	Treasurer	ITBA Executive Treasurer
	Secretary	Gareth Shannon
	Member	Eoghain Lebioda
	Member	Abby McKeever
<b>Child Protection Officer</b>		John J Dunne
<b>Anti-Doping Officer</b>		David Staines
<b>Membership Officer</b>		Yvonne Randall
<b>Sport Ireland Coaching Contact</b>		Gillian Duignan



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### **Governance & Compliance**

#### **(a) Policies & Procedures:**

(b) Policies & Procedures continue to be reviewed annually and updated as needed. In September 2023, we adopted and circulated with the annual Membership Renewal the new Sport Ireland Guidelines for an improved ITBA General Code of Conduct.

(c) **Risk Management:** On-going risk management is undertaken with the benefit of our Code of Governance templates. A full risk review management assessment will be undertaken in 2024.

(d) **Gender Equality:** Under the Government's National Sports Policy and the latest Sports Ireland Action Plan, the current target is for a minimum of 40% representation of each gender on the Executive by end of 2023. Currently, the ITBA have a gender balance of 62.5% women and % at Executive level, thus meeting Sport Ireland's requirements for receipt of annual Core Grants.

(e) Volunteers I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our volunteers - Executive, Sub-committees, Team Managers, Chaperones, Coaches, Scorekeepers, Tournament Managers, and all those who regularly assist in ensuring the Association continues to develop for the benefit of all bowlers and members.

### **AGM 2024 on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2024:**

Under the Constitution, the AGM 2024 will need to elect the following Executive members, with at least three members from each gender:

1. **Chair**
2. **Secretary**
3. **Treasurer**
4. **Member & Vice-President**
5. **Member**
6. **Member who will also be member of Junior Sub-committee**
7. **Member who will also be member of Senior Sub-committee**
8. **Member who will also be member of Team Ireland Sub-committee**

To continue to meet Sport Ireland Gender Balance requirements, we need to elect an eight-person Executive, composed of at least 4 members of each gender and with each Group Sub-committee – Juniors, Seniors and Team Ireland to have one Executive member.

The current p of the Executive is designed to ensure:

- More members available to cover all the various duties required of the Executive.
- Current 40% Governance Code minimum representation for both genders being met.
- Improved representation for membership groups - Junior, Seniors, and Team Ireland

### **Tenpin Bowling Council of Ireland (TBCI)**

No meeting was held with Tenpin Bowling Council of Ireland (TBCI). A meeting will be scheduled by the new Executive with TBCI by the end June 2024.

### **Winter initiative**



# *Irish Tenpin Bowling Association*

## *Secretary's Report*

Sport Ireland encouraged all NGBs to run a winter initiative to promote return to sport. As part of this the ITBA ran (jointly with ALTBC/ALSAA) The Dom Barrett Showcase and launched the pilot Blanchardstown Junior Club aimed at promoting the sport and acquiring new members. It was decided to continue to launch new clubs targeting new members and try to increase participation in the sport across other bowling centres.

### **Web Design and Development**

Although the ITBA website [www.tenpinbowling.ie](http://www.tenpinbowling.ie) and its sister site [www.bowlingforall.ie](http://www.bowlingforall.ie) continues to be updated, a full revamp of the sites is under development and is well advanced.

### **58th National Scratch Championships**

In February, the 58th National Championships took place in ALSAA Bowl. It was held over one weekend. 46 bowlers participated this year.

The National Champions of 2024 are **Hannah Masterson & Taylor Forde Williams**, both of whom have been invited to represent Ireland at the European Champions Cup, in Bratislava, Slovakia 21 – 28th Oct 2024,

On behalf of the Executive Committee, we would like to thank Jim Donagh, Adrienne Dunne, Barbara Sloan, Joint Tournament Manager, and Aine Lebioda, for all their hard work in running and organising the Championships. A special thanks to John Dunne and Tim Dawson for the recording of all the scoring and thank you to Mark Delany, Joint Tournament Manager, and all the staff in ALSAA who assisted in making it such a successful and enjoyable Championship.

### **ITBA Merit Award April 2023 / April 2024**

The ITBA Executive Committee introduced the ITBA Merit Award in 2016, in recognition to bowlers who bowl a 300 Game in an ITBA Ranked event. To date, a total of 32 perfect games – 300 have been bowled with bowlers qualifying to receive an ITBA engraved Merit Award Trophy and a 300 Game Certificate.

The winners since our 2023 AGM are:

Fran Puzzuoli	European Men's C'ships (Jun 2023 - Wittels Heim, France)
Ken Foley	Senior Touring League (Oct 2023 – Leisureplex, Coolock)
Taylor Williams	ALSAA Open Re-Entry Singles (Jan 2024 – ALSAA Bowl)
Hannah Masterson	European Youth Championship (Mar 2024 - Helsinki, Finland)

### **High Performance Awards**

In addition to the Merit Award, the ITBA Executive presented 3 bowlers with High Achievement Awards in 2023.

**Pat Holmes** - In recognition of her outstanding achievement of winning a Masters Gold Medal at the European Seniors Bowling Championships (ESBC) in Bologna, Italy in June 2023.

**Colm Staines** - In recognition of his outstanding performance at the European Youth Championships (EYC) in Vienna, Austria in April 2023.

**Fran Puzzuoli** - In recognition of his outstanding performance in bowling a perfect game – 300 at the European Men's Championships (EMC) in Wittels Heim, France in June 2023.



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It would be remiss of me not to mention the following two recent magnificent achievements which the new Executive will no doubt recognise when deciding the 2024 High Achievement Awards.

**Hannah Masterson** - In recognition of her outstanding achievement of winning Masters Silver at the European Youth Championships, Helsinki, Finland 25<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

**The Girls Junior Team** Hannah Masterson, Anna Lawlor, Laura Grant, and Ciara Lawlor who won a Team Bronze at the European Youth Championships, Helsinki, Finland in March 2024. New National Record across all 'Team' categories. It should be noted that they are the first medal winning team across all age groups men or women, to have a 'Team average' of over 200 (204.005) since the foundation of the ITBA.

### **Appreciation**

On behalf of the Executive Committee, we would like to thank the various bowling centre proprietors and their staff for their help and co-operation throughout the year, the Technical Committee, the Child Protection Officer, the Anti-Doping Officer, the Membership Secretary, all Group Sub-committees, Paddy Kilduff for producing and updating the monthly Bowling Calendar, and also to John Dunne and Tim Dawson for their continued development and support of the ITBA website [www.tenpinbowling.ie](http://www.tenpinbowling.ie) website and also for doing the scoring at all our major tournaments. In addition, a special thanks to Paddy Gibbons, in completing Lane Sanctions for the bowling centres, approved to host ITBA Ranked events.

The Executive would also like to express its appreciation to Sport Ireland and Sport Ireland Coaching who continue to support our Association both through Core Annual Grant and through the support of staff at Sport Ireland who have assisted us through the provision advice and guidance of ~~EBF training~~ for Governance, Child Protection, Anti-Doping, General Code of Conduct and Coaching.

### **It's time to put something back - we need your support**

We have said this before and haven't had much success in appealing to members to come forward and offer support to the Sub-committees. We are at a critical point where without members stepping up to help, we will struggle to keep the ITBA and/or some of the Committees going. The current reality, where a small number of people are performing multiple roles within the ITBA at all levels, has and continues to be a limiting factor in fully achieving all our aspirations and goals.

With the proposed creation of a 32 County NGB through the amalgamation of the ITBA and NITBF, thus creating one Governing Body for the sport of tenpin bowling for the island of Ireland, perhaps members could consider volunteering now to assist in shaping this exciting opportunity.

We do need and are actively looking for, new people to come on board to work towards the Vision – *"To promote Tenpin Bowling in Ireland to all age groups as both a family recreational activity and also as an individual and team sport"* and in the process bring vitality, out of the box thinking, new ideas and approaches, that cannot only position us for success but also provide a freshness in execution that will encourage others to do likewise. If you feel you can offer support in any area, please contact me or the relevant Committee. Please be an ambassador for Irish Tenpin Bowling and encourage other bowlers to join ITBA.

Áine Lebioda  
ITBA Executive - Secretary