



Irish Tenpin Bowling Association

Junior Sub-Committee

Secretary's Annual Report for the Calendar year 2023

This year's Junior Sub-Committee ('the Committee') comprised the following ITBA members:

- Chairperson – Phil Joyce
- Treasurer – Alan Grant
- Secretary – Stephen Masterson

Foreword

In the calendar year 2023 the Committees main duties involved organising and overseeing junior tournaments and training sessions as well as supporting the junior bowler's preparations and participation in international tournaments.

Junior Membership

The number of junior members (including Bantam members) has remained steady since the last membership period. In the season 2022-23 we had 27 junior members, which has decreased by one member to 26 junior members for the 2023-24 season. There were 5 new memberships taken out in the 2023-24 season but there was also a number of junior members who did not renew their junior membership, taking out General Membership instead.

Training Sessions

The Junior Committee organised regular training sessions throughout the year supported by the ITBA qualified coaches. The training sessions had good participation rates by the junior membership. The training sessions also proved an invaluable opportunity for the junior bowlers from the different junior clubs to train together and work with different coaches, which helps to integrate the bowlers and prepare them for international training sessions.

Tournaments

From January to May 2023 the Junior Sub Committee organised five tournaments. The tournaments were held in ALSAA bowling centre and had on average 20 junior bowlers taking part. In May 2023 we held our end of year awards to recognise the performance of the junior bowlers over the season. Awards were made for the top performing Under 19 Boy, Under 19 Girls, Under 16 Boy, Under 16 Girl and Bantam age categories. High Game awards were also presented for each category.

From September to December 2023 the Junior Sub Committee organised three tournaments. In addition, the Junior Irish Open took place in November 2023. The tournaments were held between

the different bowling centres ALSAA bowling centre, Leisureplex Tallaght and Leisureplex Blanchardstown. We had on average 19 junior bowlers taking part in each tournament.

Over the course of the end of the 2022-23 season and the tournaments held between September to December 2023 we have seen improvements across the board when it came to the junior bowler's averages, which is a testament to their commitment to ongoing training sessions throughout the year and their preparations for international tournaments, such as Junior Triple Crown. The notable improvement in the junior bowlers averages could not have been achieved if it were not for the ongoing commitment and hard work of the junior club Coaches.

Junior Triple Crown

The Junior Triple Crown was hosted by Scotland in August 2023. The association was represented by boys and girls teams in each age category (i.e. Age 18 & Under and Age 15 & Under). Regrettably, we only had three U18 Girls competing which meant that they could not compete in the team event, and it limited full participation by all U18 Girl bowlers in competing in the doubles and mixed doubles events.

Overall Ireland finished 5th in the points table but there were a number of excellent performances from the junior bowlers. Picking up a number of gold and bronze medals across the different age groups and events. Summary medal table below:

| Event | Gold | Silver | Bronze |
|---------------|----------|--------|-----------------------|
| Singles | | | U15 Boys |
| Doubles | | | U15 Boys U18 Girls |
| Trios | | | U18 Boys U18 Girls |
| Team | | | |
| Mixed Doubles | U15 | | |
| All Events | U15 Boys | | |
| Masters | | | U15 Boys |

European Youth Championships (EYC)

The EYC was held in Vienna, Austria in April 2023. The EYC training sessions commenced in January 2023 and continued up to championships. The travelling team consisted of 4 Girls and 1 Boy. The standard of competition was very high, and the championships was played in a sporting manner. Our young bowlers performed well throughout the championships, applying themselves in each event that they participated in but the lane conditions proved difficult. One of our young bowlers performed very well narrowly missing out on qualification for the singles semi-final finishing in 6th place, qualifying for the Masters event finishing in the top 24 in the All Events. The bowler also made it through to the quarter finals of the Masters event. In the boys category there were 95 bowlers who took part from 26 different countries. In the girls category there were 72 bowlers who took part from 20 different countries [G=Girl and B=Boy].

| | G1 | G2 | G3 | G4 | B1 |
|------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Singles | 6 th | 53 rd | 68 th | 55 th | 83 rd |
| Doubles | 16 th | | 30 th | | |
| Team | 13 th | | | | |
| All Events | 22 nd | 52 nd | 67 th | 55 th | 42 nd |

Youth European Trophy ('YET')

YET Finals: The YET tournaments / season finals were held in May 2023 in Wommelgem, Belgium, where the top 8 bowlers in the rankings of each age category qualify to take part in the finals. Five junior bowlers qualify for the finals. The junior bowlers qualified for the finals in the Under 16 and Under 19 boy categories and the Under 16 and Under 19 girl categories. The finals proved to very competitive with bowlers from Sweden, Denmark, France, The Netherlands and Belgium taking part. The lane and bowling centre conditions also proved difficult. After a very competitive finals, with a high standard of play, our junior bowlers finished as follows:

| Under 16 Boys | Under 19 Boys | Under 16 Girls | Under 19 Girls | Under 19 Girls |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 7 th Place | 3 rd Place | 8 th Place | 4 th Place | 7 th Place |

Youth Irish Open: The tournament was held in the Leisureplex Blanchardstown over the first weekend in November 2023. We had 15 junior bowlers taking part, where they performed exceptionally well. There were entries from 8 counties [Iceland, Greece, Scotland, Switzerland, England, Wales and The Netherlands], including Ireland across the various age groups [Under12, Under 16, Under 19 and Under 25's]. The Open proved to be a very successful event with the Irish bowlers finishing as follows [Based on the Top 6 in each age group]:

| Under 12's Mixed Category | Under 16 Boys | Under 16 Girls | Under 19 Boys | Under 19 Girls | Under 25's Mixed Category |
|---|-----------------------|---|-----------------------|---|---|
| 3 rd , 4 th & 6 th Place | 2 nd Place | 2 nd & 3 rd Place | 5 th Place | 1 st & 3 rd Place | 2 nd & 5 th Place |

Irish bowlers also won the high game awards in 3 of the 6 age categories.

Final Note

The Junior Sub-Committee held a caps night in September 2023 to celebrate the many successes (as detailed above) of our junior bowlers during the year 2023. The Committee would like to thank all the parents of our junior bowlers who continue to support & encourage their children's participation in the junior tournaments, training sessions and in their respective junior bowling clubs as well as the staff of the bowling centres who look after our junior bowlers so well.

The Junior Sub-Committee would also like to thank the dedicated coaches who work with our juniors each week at the bowling clubs and who support & encourage the junior bowlers to take part in the competitions and training sessions throughout the year and their participation at international events.

A final word of thanks to the Executive Committee for supporting the Junior Committee and our junior bowlers to compete at the highest level for the betterment of our sport.

Yours in Sport

ITBA Junior Sub-Committee