



Irish Tenpin Bowling Association

Junior Sub-Committee

Secretary's Annual Report

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 period since the last report the duties of the Committees have changed and now primarily focus on organising and overseeing junior tournaments and training sessions.

Junior Membership

The junior membership period was extended from the 2023 /2024 season up to January 2025 to assist with the integration of the ITBA and NITBF. The number of junior members (including Bantam members) has remained consistent over the last number of years. In the season 2023-24 we had 26 junior members, which has increased to 31 junior members for the 2024-25 season with the addition of the NITBF junior members (5). There were 5 new memberships taken out in the 2024-25 season for the first time. There are currently 6 Bantam members.

Training Sessions

The Committee organised ad-hoc training sessions throughout the year to support the junior bowlers in their preparations for international events as part of the EBT Youth Tour. The training sessions provide an opportunity for junior bowlers from the different junior clubs to train together.

Tournaments

From September 2024 to April 2025 the Committee organised seven tournaments, excluding the Irish Open. The tournaments were held in a number of different bowling centres with each event being categorised in line with the new 'National Ranking Tour Rules & Regulations and Selection Criteria 2024-2025'. The average attendance at each tournament was 22 junior bowlers. See details below of the junior events held for the season 2024 – 2025, including event category and location.

Unfortunately, the Committee was not in a position to run a national championships for our junior bowlers as there were not enough junior bowlers in the relevant age categories.

Month	Event Number	Event Category	Venue
September	Junior Event 1	Gold	ALSAA
October	Junior Event 2	Silver	Dundonald
November	Junior Irish Open (3)	Gold	Blanchardstown
December	Junior Event 4	Bronze	Dundonald
January	Junior Event 5	Silver	Tallaght
February	Junior Event 6	Bronze	Blanchardstown
March	Junior Event 7	Silver	ALSAA
April	Junior Event 8	Gold	Dundonald

Junior Triple Crown 2024

Ireland was host for the Junior Triple Crown in August 2024. The participants in the 2024 championships included Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland, England and Iceland. Ireland, England, Scotland and Iceland competed in Under 16 and Under 19 boys and girls sections. Northern Ireland competed in the Under 16 boys and girls section.

The championships included events in singles, doubles, mixed doubles, trios, team, all events and masters. Ireland finished 4th in the medal table / championships standings overall.

Junior Triple Crown 2024 - Medal Table				
	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total
England	13	4	10	27
Scotland	4	9	8	21
Iceland	4	8	7	19
Ireland	5	5	1	11
Northern Ireland	0	0	0	0

Ireland won gold medals in the Under 16 Boys All Events, Singles and Team events and in the Under 19 Girls All Events and Singles events.

European Youth Championships 2024 (EYC)

The EYC was held in Helsinki, Finland in March 2024. The EYC training sessions commenced in January 2024 and continued up to championships and were facilitated by the appointed Team Coach. The travelling team consisted of 4 Girls and 2 Boys. 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.

It proved to be a successful championship with our junior bowlers returning home with a silver medal from the Masters Event and a bronze medal from the Girls Team Event. For the first time, the boys and girls played on different oil patterns during the Championships. The pattern length was the same at 42ft, but the volume of oil used varied. The lane conditions did prove difficult, with quick break down and transitions at times, but the support of the Coach on the lanes made a massive difference this year. This year only the Top 16 bowlers qualified for the Masters Event, which is down from the Top 24 at previous years Championships.

There was also one junior bowler who scored a perfect game during the Team Event, and was the only girl to score a 300 game during the Championships (6th girl in the history of the Championships).

There were only three 300 games scored during the Championships (Boys and Girls). The Championship results for Team Ireland are outlined below. In the boys category there were 100 bowlers who took part and in the girls category there were 68 bowlers who took part [G=Girl and B=Boy].

	G1		G2		G3		G4		B1		B2	
Singles	7 th		51 st		25 th		55 th		65 th		39 th	
Doubles	7 th				17 th				24 th			
Team	3 rd											
All Events	6 th		45 th		21 st		24 th		60 th		75 th	

EBF Youth Tour

EBF Youth Tour Finals: The EBF Youth Tour season finals were held in August 2024 in Aalborg, Denmark, where the top 8 bowlers in the rankings of each age category qualify to take part in the finals. Four junior bowlers qualified for the finals. However, three of the four were not in a position to take part in the finals. The junior bowlers qualified for the finals in a number of the age categories. The finals proved to be very competitive with bowlers from Sweden, Denmark, Switzerland, The Netherlands and Belgium taking part.

Youth Irish Open: The tournament was held in the Leisureplex Blanchardstown over the first weekend in November 2024. We had 25 junior bowlers taking part, where they performed exceptionally well against bowlers from counties including, Iceland, Greece, Scotland, Switzerland, England, Wales and The Netherlands. The Open proved to be a successful event with the Irish bowlers finishing as follows [Based on the Top 6 in each age group]:

Age 14 and Under Mixed Category	Age 15 – 18 Boys	Age 15 -18 Girls	Age 19 – 25 Mixed Category
6 th Place	2 nd and 4 th	1 st and 6 th	2 nd and 3 rd

Irish bowlers also won the high game awards in 2 of the 6 categories and high series in 3 of the 5 squads.

Bowling GP France Jeune 2024 – Saint Maximin, France: The tournament was held in Paris, France over the weekend of November 23rd – 24th with nearly 160 European youth bowlers taking part. The tournament was played with mixed categories in four different age groups [Under 14's, Under 17's, Under 20's and Under 25's]. The format of the tournament included a qualification round of six games with the top 21 qualifying for the finals, which was completed over 2 separate rounds. Step 1 of the finals was based on a series of four games for those bowlers who placed in position 8 to 21 after the qualifying rounds, with the top 7 moving into the second step of the finals with those bowlers who finished in positions 1 to 7 after the initial qualification. The top four bowlers in each age category qualified for the semi-final and then the finals. Both the semi-final and final were played in a Matchplay format. Each round of the tournament started from scratch, so everyone had to bowl well to make it through each round.

The standard of bowling was very high and there were 15 junior bowlers from Ireland taking part. All of whom played extremely well. After the initial qualification round we had bowlers finishing in 6th position in the Under 20 category, 11th Position and 20th position in the Under 17 category, 4th position, 6th position, 7th position, 10th position, 17th position and 18th position in the Under 14 age category. After step 1 of the finals, we had two make it through to step 2 of the finals to join our four bowlers who had qualified previously.

After a further 4 games, we had two bowlers who progressed to the semi-finals and after two great head-to-head matches, we had one bowler through to the finals in the mixed Under 20 category, finishing in 2nd place and we had one bowler finishing in 3rd place in the Under 14 mixed age category.

Final Note

Unfortunately, we have been unable to schedule a caps night to celebrate the successes for our junior bowlers for last season.

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 and 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