**Date 14th May 2017**

# To: - All Members of BEC

Dear colleagues,

This year has been slightly different to the normal organisational visits by the President, Mrs Anita Tronnier, BEC Treasurer, Mr Joel Heinrich and I due to many circumstances which resulted in not having a pre-inspection visit for the 47th Bowling European Corporative Championships.

It has been a challenge to the organising committee this year as much was promised by many but little was delivered by the few. This has all come about due to the poor and disappointing entry levels from Europe. We are over 40% down on the expectations set at the AGM in 2016 and therefore support from sponsors, bowling centre owners, hoteliers and event organisers has evaporated as time went on placing more and more stress on those few who organised this years’ event. However, between Myself, Jill Owen, Terry Webb and 2 RAF players, Tony Lee and Bryan Roberts, we believe we have arrived at a suitable point where the Championships can proceed and be successful.

**Arrival in Nottingham**

If you are coming by air you might be using 1 of several airports around the country, all of which are connected by rail or bus. East Midlands airport would have been your best choice as this has a direct bus service to the centre of Nottingham or connection with the tram service. Further afield then slightly longer train travel might be required but should not be too onerous.

**Hotels**

The Main hotels are:-

**Hotel Crowne Plaza**  **Jurys Inn Nottingham**

Wollaton Street Station Street
Nottingham Nottingham

NG1 5RH NG2 3BJ

Tel: +44 871 9429161 Tel: +44 115 901 6700

We are using other hotels which were advertised on the hotel booking website (reached via the BEC2017 web site). All hotels recommended are within walking distance from the bowling centre or a very short taxi ride if preferred.

**Bowling Centre**

Only one bowling centre is being used this year which is the MFA Bowling centre utilised a few time in the past by these Championships (the last time we were here was in 2001). There are 48 synthetic lanes available to us but, again due to the low entry we will be playing most of the games on the upstairs lanes with only a few squads having to play downstairs on the Thursday morning.

The approaches have be re-conditioned for our Championships however the Bowling Centre were to put new pins in but as yet I have not seen these. We have to remember that in the UK Tenpin Bowling is seen as a commercial venture and not a sport and therefore everything is run to a budget for profit without much room for investment. There are very few bowling centres in the UK which are privately owned where investment is made in the name of the sport of tenpin bowling.

Food at the Bowling Centre will be of the snack variety with a fast food menu. An extended menu will not be provided this year as you only minutes from café and bars in the city centre and we recommend that you investigate Nottingham and enjoy the city centre during your visit.

They do have 2 bars which will both be open and selling a variety of beers etc.

The majority of the play will be on the upstairs lanes. Unfortunately there is no lift available and therefore you will need to carry your equipment up the stairs.

Practice will be available prior to the championships at a reduced rate per game. (Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday: up to 2 hours prior to the first squad.

**PARKING: -** The Bowl is in the city and therefore there is no car park available. The nearest car park is about 250 metres away in the NCP car park – however this does cost about £12 per day. Make use of the public transport and if you are in one of the city hotels then walking to the bowl is quite straight forward.

The local bus service and trams are very frequent and could cost less than £4 for a complete days travel.

The Opening Ceremony will be held on the upstairs lanes. At the end of the Championships the Prize Ceremony and closing ceremony will be held here as well.

**Oil Patterns**

The oil pattern as you know has caused us some issues. The centre uses Gemini Silver Bullet machines and a house pattern for tournament.

The oil utilised is called Brunswick Absolute Control and the pattern length is 41 feet. Below are the settings of the machines as we know them today: -

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | P1F | P1R | P2F | P2R |  |
|  | 41 | 37 | 20 | 12 |  |
| O/S | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 |  |
| T | 34 | 33 | 12 | 10 |  |
| C | 38 | 36 | 13 | 10 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | 65% | 90% | 45% | 60% |  |
|  | M | H | H | H |  |

Legend

F = Forward R = Reverse OS = Outside T = Track C = Centre

We are attempting to get a graph made up showing the ratios etc. but this is proving difficult. So [please accept our apologies for this.

**Ball Parks**

There will be a **BALL PARK** available at the bowling centre. It can be found behind lanes 25 and 26. With many teams using the ball parks it is important that you arrive early for your squads. **IMPORTANT** – please ensure all your teams arrive in time for practice as the Championships will not wait for any late teams – we are on a very tight schedule.

Please do not leave your equipment downstairs as the downstairs lanes will be utilised for open play by the public (the exception being Thursday morning).

A Bowling Pro Shop is available at the centre should any of your players encounter small problems with their equipment or wish to purchase anything.

When bowling is complete on the Saturday ALL players must remove their bowling equipment from the ball parks.

**Food and Drink**

The Bowl will have 2 bars, fast food outlet, coffee and drinks from a machine (please bring some change with you). However, the organizers have requested that you **DO NOT** bring any food or drink from outside the bowling centre. In the City there are numerous café’s, bars and restaurants for you to choose from and the night life does extend into the small hours of the morning (this is a university city!).

**DO NOT** take any food or drink into the players’ area for safety. It is important that food and drink is kept behind the player’s area. Spectators should also remain outside of the player’s area. This will be enforced by the Referee.

**On Arrival at the Bowling Centre**

Please inform all of your teams that they **MUST** register with the Organising Committee when they first enter the Bowling Centre (behind the lanes upstairs). Here the teams will be given all the information they require and can inform the committee of any changes to player names or order of play. This only requires the team captain to register all players. Make sure you know you’re playing times before the Championships commence.

**Practice Time for Each Squad**

As normal a short practice time (10 minutes for team, 5 minutes for Doubles/Mixed) will commence at the start of each squad. There will not be much time to take team pictures – an announcement will be made to remind players of the time for pictures. As soon as the practice is complete you should commence play so that the schedule can be maintained.

**Bowling Centre Smoking Rules**

As you know our rules are quite clear on smoking. There is **NO SMOKING** in the Bowling Centres. **THIS INCLUDES Electronic Cigarettes**. You can only smoke outside to avoid any confusion.

**Dress Code**

I would like to remind you of the dress code of our Championships. We know it could be warm during our stay in Nottingham, but nevertheless **we do not allow players to wear Jeans or Shorts** while bowling. Also, the team name should be clearly visible on all bowling shirts and the flag of their Nation on the sleeve.

Please see the rules on Shirts, Company Name and Sponsor Names – and make this known to your players.

**BEC Meeting and AGM.**

The AGM will take place at the Hotel Crowne Plaza at 11:00 so please arrive in time (10:45). If you are bringing any additional representation with you then you **MUST** inform the President Mrs. Anita Tronnier and the reason why you are bringing the extra people.

**BEC Fees.**

Please ensure that you have paid your annual BEC fees prior to the Championships commencing as **NO FEE** equals **NO PLAY**.

**Opening Ceremony**

This will be held on the upstairs lanes at the Bowling Centre on the Thursday at 14:15. The time of this is on the scheduling information which can be found on the Internet but should be checked from time to time in case it changes. Please try and get as many of your players to the opening ceremony as possible. Each country should supply 1 lady and 1 man to carry the flag and banner of their country.

**Bowlers Party.**

This fantastic event will be held at the Hotel Crowne Plaza in the Royal Suite. It will start at 19:00 with the Carvery served at 19:30 until 20:30. We have a live band which will perform during the evening at 21:00 and again at 23:00. The evening will close at 24:00. However, your evening does not have to end there as the city is right outside the hotel for you to enjoy.

The arrangements for the Bowlers Party are now available on the Internet. I recommend attending the party as it will be good value for money. Please ensure you contact the British committee with details of your ticket requirement and monies. You must do this before you come to Nottingham so as to allow the Committee to organise the relevant numbers. Over 150 tickets have already been sold and we only have space for 250. DO NOT BE DISAPPOINTED – BOOK EARLY.

Specials like vegan and Gluten requirements are no problem – let the British Committee know in advance.

*The menu is on the Internet site and on the back page of the programme.*

Designated tables will be arranged for each country/teams. You will need to find your table on arrival so please ensure you sit at the correct tables for your country – **YOU MUST HAVE YOUR TICKETS WITH YOU.**

**Memorabilia**

T-Shirts will be available by our normal supplier - Fahim

The pro shop will also have various items for you including balls, bags and shoes etc.

**IMPORTANT**

The UK has just changed over to plastic £5 notes. The old paper ones are no longer valid tender in the UK and will not be accepted at shops etc. Please ensure that your players understand this and do not accept any paper based £5 notes. If they do end up with one of these they can take it to a Bank and exchange it for a plastic £5 note.

Also, the £1 coin has changed from a round coin to a 12 sided coin made up of 2 metals (very similar to the €1 coin). The old coins are still in circulation and are valid; these do not go out of circulation until October and therefore OK to accept these in your change.

**FACEBOOK**

We are progressing all the time in BEC and I would like to draw your attention to our Facebook location which is presented by Anita Tronnier. You can follow us on: -

 [www.facebook.com/BowlingEuropeenCorporatif](http://www.facebook.com/BowlingEuropeenCorporatif)

Please let everyone know of this so we can build up the membership. Until now we have

532 total likes up by over 100 this year. PLEASE CLICK ON THE **LIKE** BUTTON WHEN

YOU VISIT!

You can also see a limited feed from the Facebook pages on the main BEC Website at [www.bec.org.uk](http://www.bec.org.uk). By clicking on the Facebook items they will open in a different window. There is also a Facebook button on the top menu to take you straight to the BEC pages.

I look forward to seeing you all in Nottingham where we can all meet again during May.

**Jeff Davis**

B.E.C. General Secretary

P.S. Please keep looking at the BEC website for updates (new items) for any changes which may happen.