



BOWLING EUROPEEN CORPORATIF

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To: - All Members of BEC

Dear colleagues,

During February the President, Mrs Anita Tronnier, Joel Heinrich and I met with the French Organizing Committee in Lille, France to view the arrangements being made for the 2018, 48th Bowling European Corporate Championships.

Once again I am pleased to report that everything is on track and the Championships are looking to be successful thanks to the hard work of the Organizing Committee.

Arrival in Lille

If you are coming by air Lille has an airport served by Airlines such as EasyJet etc. The Eurostar can be used direct from London or Belgium whilst the SNCF can be used from a whole host of other cities around Europe. If you are driving then there is parking available at each of the bowling centres, but if you are staying in the centre of Lille be prepared to pay heavy for parking at hotels etc. Other hotels at Lomme or Villeneuve D'Ascq could be free but check with your hotelier.

Hotels

We are using several hotels around Lille and therefore you need to choose which ones you stay at and then contact them directly to make your own booking arrangements. Most are close to the Metro which you can take to either bowling centre, but there will be about a 10 minute walk at either end.

Bowling Centres

We will be using 2 Bowling Centres this year as we did in our previous visit to Lille, Planet Bowling and Bowling van Gogh.

There is ample car parking at the Bowling Centres for those of you travelling by car. However, for the majority of people who have elected to stay at the Hotels a metro link is available. There will not be any buses from the hotels to the bowling centres ONLY from Bowling centre to Bowling Centre (see schedule).



The Bowling centres are very spacious and both have good eating facilities. Planet Bowling is a split centre and utilised as 2 centres for scheduling purposes (40 lanes) whilst Bowling van Gogh is a straight set of lanes.

Rooms have been allocated for the ladies changing areas.

In case of emergency each bowl does have first aid facilities.

Oil Patterns

The oil pattern for each centre (which will be the same) is posted on our Facebook pages. To view the oil pattern please refer to the web site for details.

Ball Parks

There will be a **BALL PARK** available at each of the bowling centres. 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. A Bowling Pro Shop is available at both centres should any of your players encounter small problems with their equipment or wish to purchase anything.

The ball park at the Planet Bowling is up a set of **spiral stairs** so please be exceptionally careful when taking bowling balls up and down this stairway. The Bowling van Gogh ball parks will be behind the end sets of lanes – however, when placing your bowling balls in this area make sure you do not impede the entrance to the playing areas.

When bowling is complete on the Saturday ALL players must remove their bowling equipment from the ball parks. This is important especially for Bowling van Gogh as the players party will be held in the bowl and the space will be utilised for the party.

Food and Drink

The Bowl will have a bar, food, coffee and drinks. However, the organizers have requested that you **DO NOT** bring any food or drink (except Closed water bottles) from outside the bowling centre. The centre will be open until late each evening – the food is excellent at both bowling centres.

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. It is the BEC rules that you should not drink alcohol during play or eat. There is a very good range of beers available at the bar and some are very strong (8.5% €5.50 - €7.00 for large beers) so please drink responsibly.

The French federation (Ministry for Sport) have reminded us that they may decide on drug tests – as with all Sports **“stay clean”** – with the current scandals around the world it could happen here.



Bus Shuttle

From the Bowling Centres a scheduled bus will be available to take you to both centres. Please ensure that players have the priority for boarding the busses and supporters second. The busses only go between the bowling centres and not the hotels. There are no buses outside of this schedule and therefore if you miss the bus you must take a taxi.

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. 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. There will be people who can speak various languages at the registration point. Make sure you know you're playing times before the Championships commence.

Each bowling centre will be open from approximately 07:00 am and can supply a standard continental breakfast for those playing in the early squads.

Scoring System

All team and player names will be entered into the scoring system prior to the Championships commencing. Any changes to this **MUST** be at the registration point at least 1 hour prior to playing. When you need to change players during play (reserves) this must be done via the registration point (control desk only)

Any issues you have with scoring please contact one of the referees or helpers who will be clearly identifiable by the colour of their shirts.

Practice Time for Each Squad

As normal a short practice time (10 minutes for team, 6 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 France, but nevertheless **we still 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 Upstairs at the Bowling van Gogh Bowling centre at 10:00 so please arrive in time (09:30). 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. If you are attending the meeting and playing, please ensure you talk to the French Organizing Committee to select the correct playing schedule.

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 at the Planet Bowling Centre - Lomme on the Thursday at 12:30. 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 of their country.

Closing Ceremony

This will be held upstairs at the Bowling van Gogh centre and is scheduled for 17:00.

Semi Finals and Finals.

It is important to note that the semi-finals of teams (24) and ladies doubles (12) are being played at the Planet Bowling – Lomme and the semi-finals for mixed doubles (24) and **ALL** finals will be at the Bowling van Gogh. Busses will be available to take players to the Bowling van Gogh from Lomme. There is only about 70 minutes between semis and finals so please ensure you get to the relevant bowling centre in plenty of time. Again, **priority to the players who are bowling in the finals** should be given when taking the busses.



Bowlers Party.

The Bowlers Party will be held at the Bowling van Gogh centre.

Bus shuttle services from the Lomme hotel area and Villeneuve area hotels to the venue and back (return is at 00:30 and 01:30). Gala dinner is served at the table. The menu can be found on the website (this is being translated to English as well as french)

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 French committee with details of your ticket requirement and monies. You must do this before you come to Lille so as to allow the Committee to organise the relevant numbers. DO NOT BE DISAPPOINTED – BOOK EARLY.

The party starts at 20:00 and will finish at 01:30

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

Designated tables (20 persons/table) will be arranged for each country/teams. You will be escorted to your table on arrival so please ensure you wait until you are called for seating before entering the Party venue – YOU MUST HAVE YOUR TICKETS WITH YOU.

Memorabilia

T-Shirts and other souvenirs will be available at the Bowling van Gogh.

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

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

Please let everyone know of this so we can build up the membership. Until now we got 600 total likes. 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. 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 Lille where we can all meet again during May.

Jeff Davis

B.E.C. General Secretary