

English Bowls Umpires Association

General Meeting held on Sunday 18 August 2019 at Avenue BC, Leamington Spa, CV31 3PG,

Number attending 25

Number required for quorum 34

1. Chairman's Welcome

Mavis opened the meeting and explained that there were not sufficient present to form a quorum. She asked the meeting if they wanted to continue

For continuing 23

Against 1 Abstaining 1

The meeting therefore continued.

Mavis thanked those attending for taking the trouble to come and allowing the meeting to continue. She said she was disappointed that more had not come, but it was not fair to lecture those that had.

2. In remembrance

The meeting stood in silence in memory of those members who had died since the last meeting

3. Apologies for absence

Thirteen apologies had been received

4. Minutes of previous meeting

Proposed Jackie Elkin

Seconded Steve Alway

Signed by the Chairman

5. Matters arising

The 'improvements' in the facilities for the marker & umpires at the Championships were reviewed and the plans for future years outlined.

6. Chairman's report

Mavis told the meeting how proud she was of the membership and how hard they worked throughout the year to deliver the marking and umpiring requested. She saw everyday here at Leamington how hard those who volunteered for duties worked in all weather conditions. She then reported on the meeting she and Phyl had had the previous month with Bowls England. Tony Alcock had suggested that our standards for passing examinations were too high, which had come as rather a shock. It had been forcibly explained to him that the standard would not be lowered. Gradually the facilities were being improved to, suit the needs of those working and she hoped that this would continue with Bowls England playing their part, not the least in providing the banner that had failed to materialise this year, despite their promise and the arrangements made!

She finished by thanking the Executive Committee for the work they put in throughout the year, but she particularly thanked the membership for their support of the Association, emphasising how proud of everyone she was

7. Secretary's report

This year has been one of those years where there seems to have been constantly things requiring my attention! At times I felt like proverbial 'hamster in the wheel'!

There always seemed to be something big and important coming towards me.

The planning for one season starts while the other is still running, for instance we will be starting to think about people, hotels etc for the Indoor Nationals (at Nottingham) during

Leamington! We have also had preliminary talks with Bowls England about the 2020 Leamington Championships.

Last Autumn we put together the teams for the Indoor Nationals both periods were at Nottingham this time. After discussion we stayed with the 'two by two' formula with two men and two women on each occasion. The men being 'in charge' on one occasion and the women on the other. This has proved a success and will be continuing. I know some of you feel you are never asked; can I just say that if we do not know this is something you are keen to do then it won't happen for you. Remember though that you are committing to being part of the team which means that you must be there throughout the period you are appointed for.

Later I asked for volunteers for marking at those events, although sufficient numbers of you volunteered, I would like to see more of you putting yourselves forward when the 'advert' appears on our site. This would give you invaluable experience in marking. at a high level. The indoor season moves to its close with other competitions (and final stages) around the country. I would like to thank all my Area Secretaries and others for their help in organising umpires and markers for these various competitions. In March of this year we had The Senior Men's British Isles Championships and International Series at Falcon BC. This gave us the opportunity to add two to the International grade (Paul Costin & Ian Vanns). The event was hard work for everyone concerned and thanks to everyone for the huge effort they put in. Then inevitably the run up to Leamington starts in earnest with those applying being notified of the duties they have been allocated, and away we go again! I'm pleased to say that this year we have more members working at Leamington than in previous years - both umpires and Level 3 markers. Can I remind all the markers, once you have reached competency level 3 you are qualified to work at Leamington so please apply, you have worked to reach that level so don't be afraid to apply - the volunteering form shows the sessions that you can apply for.

I think we should thank Vic (our NDO) for all the hard work he has put in, the increase in the numbers of members as well as those who have volunteered to work at Leamington is to a great measure due to his work and that of his tutoring and examination team, as is the acknowledged high standard of our umpires and markers.

We are continuing to work from a Portacabin at Leamington which I think is a great improvement on our previous facilities and this year we have added a tent for changing and storing clothing (umpire kits continue to be stored in the Portacabin) which has given us more space, making things considerably more comfortable. Can I thank everyone who has volunteered to work at Leamington? I appreciate that some of you travel quite some distance and stay for several days. Some of you make yourselves available for those duties which inevitably become available at short notice, this flexibility is really valued.

Next month we have the finals of the national Top Club competitions for both men & women here at Leamington. Thanks to Ken Bickley for undertaking the organisation of this.

The same weekend is the Junior Men's British Isles event in Essex. This has also enabled us to promote two more umpires to the International grade (Greg Brown and Sue Mates). Congratulations to both.

This has been a successful year for the association, thanks to the efforts of all of you members. I'm sure we can continue this progress into the future with your cooperation.

The report was accepted by the meeting

8. Treasurer's report

Although I took over as Treasurer at the General Meeting held on August 16th last year, it was not until the beginning of October that I was fully able to carry out my duties, and there was

no handover from my predecessor. I had to await the transportation of paperwork etc from the Isle of Wight and the transfer of bank accounts into my name.

I will make no comment on the accounts from 1st January to 30th September, as these accounts were closed by the previous Treasurer, however one point of note concerns subscriptions. Payments in advance were previously shown as £9,153.00 whereas there were only £2,590 outstanding advance payments noted on the database and this was corrected with my auditor by means of a journal entry. We have since discontinued payments in advance as being too unwieldy to operate, and these will gradually be phased out.

There was little movement on the accounts during the 3 months which I have had audited and which are displayed on the E.B.U.A. website. I have set up a new accounting system, which I hope will identify items of income and expenditure more clearly, and this will be presented at the A.G.M. 2020.

As at December 31st, the deposit accounts totalled £ 35,885.77 and the current/cash accounts totalled £ 4,998.62 Giving an overall total of funds equalling £40,884.39. After discussion with the Officers and Executive Committee, the mileage rate has been increased to 30p per mile and a standard subsistence rate of £60 per night has been introduced for members who need overnight accommodation. Payments under £6 or 20 miles for umpiring/marketing duties have been discontinued. My grateful thanks to Ken Bickley who formulated a policy document which outlines the system for payment of expenses, and which is available on the E.B.U.A. website for your information.

The Officers and Area Secretaries of the Association are being paid an annual amount commensurate with their duties to cover out of pocket expenses which are not easily categorised.

I have been working for some time so that the bank account will have four signatories instead of one – any two of whom can sign and authorise payments, also all payments are now authorised before being input to the payment system. The other part of my duties involves membership and I can report that we currently have 412 umpires, 265 markers, 34 Non-active and 6 life members – Total = 717. I recommend that there is no change in the current membership fee of £10 and that uniform costs remain static, and further, ask that this report is accepted by those present.

9. Appointment of competent person with reference to the accounts

The Treasurer proposed Andrew Milward for this position, and it was unanimously agreed by the meeting

10. Development Officer's report

I arranged a MAC in Ipswich because I was informed, they were running their own, there is only one Marking Awareness Course and that's ours we had 30 names for the course. Already this year I have been to Cumbria, North Cave in Hull for workshops and exams. Whilst I was there, we have trained and put in place a Workshop tutor Bernie Hill also trained Greg Brown as a National Examiner, so the North is now covered. We also went to Blackpool to carry out a MAC course and trained Bernie Hill as a MAC tutor due to a family bereavement Greg could not make it, one of the most enlightening courses I've ever ran as 7 of the candidates were deaf, everything we said went through a signer any questions came through a signer.

I meet up with Greg Brown at Ipswich for MAC training.

We then went to Hull for a workshop and examinations carried out by our new team all went very well, I am happy that we have the North covered, with a MAC Tutor and workshops and Examinations team with registered helpers.

The development team have been working very hard to get a Road to International

Paper on the website so everybody can see what is expected of them to become an International Umpire the paper has had the backing of the Association Officer's We have set up an International Selection Committee consisting of Hon Sec, Development Officer, and one from the floor Frances Fletch.

We have increased the performance of our Markers considerably so much so that for the next year I would like all Grades of Umpires to volunteer to get them self's assessed by their County Markers Mentor on their Marking ability

11. Motions - Nil

12. a) Election of Officers

Deputy Secretary Jessie Clark Proposed – Mary Price

Seconded Julie Skerry

Member International Francis Fletcher Proposed Executive Committee

Confirmed by the meeting

b) Confirmation of Area secretaries

Area 1 (Northern)

Bernie Hill

Area 2 (Midland)

Colin Wilson

Area 3 (Eastern)

Tony Hatch

Area 4 (South Eastern)

Carol Watt-

Sullivan

Area 5 (Central)

Steve Alway

Area 6 (South Western)

Alexander Wilson

Confirmed by the meeting

13. Next meeting

Sunday 16 August 2020, timing to be confirmed but depending on the Championship schedule for that day

It was hoped the same venue would be available,

Closing remarks

Mavis closed the meeting by thanking those who had managed to come but was disappointed that more members had not mad the effort to attend.

She said that there had been difficult times in combining the two associations, but she had hopes that these were now behind us and we would continue to be the leading umpire association in the world.

The meeting closed at 19.15

Mavis Wellington
Chairman