

# **English Bowls Umpires Association** **Annual General Meeting 2019**

## **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 it will be continuing. I know some of you feel you are never asked; can I just say that if we don't 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 web site. This would give you invaluable experience in marking. at a high level.

The indoor season moved to its close with other competitions (and final stages) around the country. I would like to thank all the 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 Indoor Championships and International Series at Falcon IBC. 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 co-operation.

Phyl Jones  
Secretary