

English Bowls Umpires Association

Minutes of an Executive Meeting held on Sunday 1 March 2020 at Oxford & City BC, Oxford

Present

Mavis Wellington – Chairman
Phyl Jones – Secretary
Jessie Clark – Deputy Secretary
Vic Perry – National Development Officer
Bernie Hill – Area Secretary
Carol Watt Sullivan – Area secretary
Colin Wilson – Area Secretary
Steve Alway – Area Secretary
Alexander Wilson – Area Secretary

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Mavis welcomed everyone to the meeting. Saying there was a long agenda to get through, some of which was quite detailed.

2. Apologies for Absence

Nil

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Vic Perry had had the draft minutes removed from the site (without consultation). Phyl said that she felt that she had written an accurate account of all of the 1 December meeting, and had not even been consulted or told of the removal of the minutes and had only found out when asked why they had disappeared from the site. It was agreed that Jessie would review/revise the minutes

4. Matters Arising

a) Shorts

The inclusion of shorts in the uniform for members had previously discussed when Bernie had agreed to do some research concerning the possible price of obtaining shorts with the Association badge on them that we could sell through our website She confirmed that the design she had had priced included

- Dark navy in colour
- Knee length & fitted
- Deep pockets
- 2 pockets at the front and back
- Belt loops

She said that it seemed that the 'sale' price would probably be £32. Some of the committee felt that this would be too expensive for member as they could be bought for approximately £6 at their local market.

It was agreed

- everyone would contact their local suppliers to find what a price they could supply for
 - Phyl would draft the amendment to the Constitution necessary to include them in the uniform for review by the committee at the next meeting in June.
- b) b) Copywrite etc

It was agreed that Bernie would investigate the position concerning the perceived copywrite position of our various items and relay the information to Alexander to who would check our position on this and whether our badge was a 'trademark' and the costs of making it one if necessary.

The question of whether our shirt design should be registered with BE and EIBA and if it should be and had not how this was done would be taken up with them.

5. Correspondence

A letter had been received from Mike Manns about expenses, and discussion of this had been deferred from the last meeting due to lack of time. It was agreed that Phyl reply to him pointing out that the payments were a recompense of expenses incurred by umpires and markers in their duties not a payment for their time and highlighting the changes being made.

The meeting then reviewed the schedule showing expenses now on the website and modified the amounts and classifications. This would replace the current version.

6. Secretary's report

Phyl reported as follows

This has really been the quiet time of the year since the last EC meeting – the lull before the work on the summer season starts.

Once the application forms for Leamington are on the site so that members can volunteer then there is always a bit of a quiet time, while I wait for the forms to come back. And to enjoy Christmas & the New Year!

Vic chose his umpiring teams for Nottingham earlier in the year from those of you who had volunteered. Thank you for helping try this new idea which I hope to continue for the 2020-21 season. I keep saying that if we don't know you want to, we don't know to ask you! The forms to volunteer to mark at the 'Nationals' also went on the site as usual, and you helped out by volunteering for that. Again, Vic chose his markers from the list of you who said you were available, and you have all be advised of the sessions you are doing. Enjoy those duties. I will drop in, as usual, to see you and check everything is OK.

Prior to the Nationals I know you all work hard in the run up with area finals etc. This is an intensive time, with a lot of travel in the dark to the venues. Please be careful.

I'm now starting work on the mass of preparation for Leamington, not yet making the allocations but preparing the paperwork I need to do that! This year we will be working with a Bowls England in a period of change but I'm sure you will deliver everything they ask, as you always do. I will get your allocation of duties to you as soon as I can, but it is a process which takes a lot of time and concentration, so I

don't rush it. For your part please be prompt in confirming the duties you are allocated it makes my life much easier if you do that.

You will probably need to be even more flexible than usual this year as due to the work on the Leamington Greens some events may have to be moved away from Victoria Park, especially as we don't appear to be having the best grass growing season so far! Fingers crossed all will be well, but we all need to be prepared for changes maybe even at the last minute.

In June we have the Women's 'British Isles' event scheduled for Leamington. This will involve quite a lot of work for the International grade umpires, and the Selection sub-committee before it even starts! We had the first meeting of the revamped sub-committee in February and began to establish how we (Vic Perry, Francis Fletcher and me) would go about not only reviewing members to join the International grade, but also selecting for events requiring International umpires.

We now have a new Treasurer, Ian Higon, his contact details are on the site and he is working hard to get membership cards out to you, to keep order in the 'books' and make sure you receive your expenses payments as promptly as possible. Thank you, Ian, for stepping into the role if it is possible enjoy it!

Said she had not included the names of the two new umpires who had been awarded the International Flash as she had expected Vic to include this in his report, but he had not. They were Mandy Simpson and Martyn Page. It was also agreed that two further new members of the international grade could be appointed if it was found that there were not enough volunteers for the Ladies Senior BI in the summer.

She had also been considering the position concerning personnel for the umpire's office at the Championships and the problems getting men to volunteer. She was constantly being told that the 'perception' was that this was a job only for women, despite pleading for men to put their name forward over the last couple of years not one had. She wondered if the only solution to that would be for the men on this committee to set an example by doing a day each in the office this August. None of the men present raised an objection to this suggestion so she said she would try and pick out a day for each of them when she was working out the Leamington duties.

7. Treasurer's report

Ian reported that he had after a lot of hard and detailed work managed to construct profit & loss accounts and a balance sheet for the year to 31 December 2019 ready for audit. He handed out copies to the committee. This had been extremely hard work as the laptop when it reached him had been missing all the necessary information, so he had had to revert to paper records. He would be looking to appoint a 'competent person' to audit the accounts.

He asked the committee's permission to have the laptop professionally wiped and the programmes reinstalled as in its current state it was unusable then he could use it rather than his own. This was agreed

He was now working on the membership list and verification of payments by members. This too was taking a lot of work as the records did not seem in good order. He had ordered the membership cards for issue and hoped to start the process of posting them out to members in the near future.

The committee reviewed the expenses paid to officers, area secretaries etc to cover their incidental expenditure. It was agreed that this should be increased for 2020 by £50 per head and to include the merchandising officer and Webmaster. This was agreed.

It was also agreed that the pricing of the items being sold would be reviewed at the June meeting.

8. Development Officer's Report

Vic reported

I have done nothing different from the last report just preparing MAC certificates and carrying out exams Cambridge and Horsham.

9. Area Secretaries Reports

Area 1 – Bernie Hill

Bernie reported as follows

I am pleased to be able to report that all the duties in Area 1 have been covered to date.

Ten people attended the MAC at North Cave IBC on 8th February, this was a very productive day with several members already joining the Association and wanting to move on, either as Markers or starting the process as a Regional Umpire. Maxine Groce is prepared to mentor these members.

We have a fully booked MAC at Cumbria IBC on March 21st and I have 2 National Umpires helping Greg and myself.

I organised the umpire allocation for the National Finals of the Mixed Fours and Mixed Pairs at Hartlepool Indoor Bowls Club. The team worked well throughout the event and received lots of positive feedback. I was extremely grateful to Ted Atkinson (Northumberland) who was able to step in at 7.45 am on the final day of the Mixed Pairs when a team member was unable to make the trip due to adverse weather.

We remain challenged with falling numbers and I currently have some ideas for promotion within the North. I will trial these over the coming months. The Area Coordinators continue to work hard.

Three County Coordinators and myself are attending the BE Regional Meeting at Appleby on March 21st.

Area 2 – Colin Wilson

Colin reported as follows

We had a very successful weekend at the Men's and Ladies Under 25 National Singles held @ Spalding I B C on 25th and 26th January. It was well supported by Parents and local club members. I would like to thank the Umpires that did all the marking and umpiring duties, some of whom travelled long distances to support the event.

We are now trying to organise, and appoint umpires, for the Yetton, Denny and Egham Finals, along with the Under 18 Singles all being held in Northamptonshire during March. A big thank you goes to my coordinator Geoff Thomas for his hard work in bringing all these events together.

We have organised a Mac course for Leicester I B C on 7th & 8th March with 35 people attending. Also, an Umpires Workshop @ the same venue on 18th & 19th

April which is full. Looking to the future, we have another Mac Course on the books @ Nottingham I B C on 5th & 6th September 2020

At present, we are very busy traveling long distances, trying to cover all the appointments for Area Finals. Along with Men's and Ladies County Semis and Finals. Not to forget National semi Finals being played on Neutral greens in our Area,

Area 4 – Carol Watt Sullivan

Carol reported as follows

My thanks to all my umpires who have made themselves available to do umpiring and marking duty, not only within their own clubs, but also at inter-club level (for counties and nationals) and also for inter-county events throughout the long winter months. A heartfelt thank you!

Congratulations are due (as advertised on the EBUA web-site) to Ian Vanns and Sue Mates in being awarded their international flash and also congratulations to Sue Mates in passing her ITO exam (after a lot of hard work and study)

The work of reassessment of umpires and also work in qualifying new umpires continues apace. Having been delayed from September an assessment centre was held at Wealden (Maresfield) – a first outing for the club to host one and produced considerable interest from club members – hopefully a first step in firstly introducing some members to the MAC courses and possible recruiting new umpires. It was a very wet weekend (with flooding in neighbourhoods) just before Christmas, but the brave souls who arrived and participated in the weekend were rewarded with requalification and new qualifications. My thanks to them for braving the weather and also to the examiners for volunteering their services to enable the students to pass.

A Second assessment centre was held in late February at Horsham (due again to the kind hospitality of the club concerned – who generously offer their premises on a regular basis) with again 100% success rate, including 2 new regional umpires who will be one of the first to avail themselves (should they choose to do so) of the new Bowls England bursary. Again my thanks to the examiners who gave their time to do assessments.

My thanks also to my county teams and their assistants, without their help, these arrangements could not be put in place. You do make the area secretaries job so much easier. My thanks also to the local umpires acting as mentors to our new recruits.

The interest in Markers Awareness Courses continues apace with courses booked for East Kent and Worthing in late April

We need these new recruits to replenish our numbers as inevitably we lose members due to death and infirmity.

Area 5 – Steve Alway

Steve reported as follows

A big thanks to all the umpire for their duties during the indoors season and congratulations to Keith Sawdon & John McKenzie on there first time umpiring at national championship. It being a very hard 2 months with all the areas final being played 38so farAll the mac when off very well all nine of them a thank you for the helpers and the one that run the courses Cheer

Area 6 – Alexander Wilson
Alexander made no report

10 Area matters

Carol and Colin had been temporarily 'covering' the absence of an area secretary for this area and ensuring that all requirements were covered. They had 'put out feelers' in respect of someone to take it on, but no one had as yet come forward.

It was agreed that a note be put on the site 'advertising' the vacancy and asking for volunteer(s)

11 Leamington Arrangements

Phyl ran through the arrangements for the Championships at Leamington. Confirming that she could book the Portacabin etc. It was also agreed that she should ask BE to provide the banner that had not appeared last year, and if they did not intend to do this she would arrange for one to be made.

12 AGM

Phyl ran through the arrangements for the AGM, which were basically the same as the proviso year, with the venue as Avenue BC and a start time of 18.00.

The committee discussed the problem of getting members to attend as the meeting in 2019 had not had a quorum. Phyl reminded the committee that last year she had asked for a volunteer to deal with publicity, but as no one had volunteered Jessie had taken on that role.

The committee reviewed the number attending needed to attain a quorum and it was agreed that Phyl should review records of numbers of those attending and propose a revision to the Constitution to be proposed by the EC.

13. Any Other Business

- a) Facebook - Bernie asked if the committee felt that it would be good for the Association to have a closed group for members to discussion. This was agreed.
- b) Sutton Winson – the revised letters had been sent to the Area Secretaries with a separate letter for Jessie to use to notify duties allocated
- c) Bowls England bursaries for new umpires -These were now underway with a maximum per person of £100. The details were included in the 'welcome pack'. It was believed that some applications had already been submitted.
- d) Match at Ross on Wye – it was agreed that a note asking for volunteers be out on the site. The closing date for applications was 26 April.
- e) The minutes of the Special EC meeting were agreed as correct (proposed Jessie seconded Ian) and added to the record

Mavis closed the meeting at 15.40 thanking everyone for coming and wishing them a safe journey home

14 Next meeting

Probably 21 June 2020

AGM should be 16 August 2020

M Wellington
(Chairman)