

English Bowls Umpires Association

Minutes of an Executive Meeting held on 3rd June 2018 at Oxford & City BC.

Present

Mavis Wellington	–	Chairman
Phyl Jones	–	Secretary
Vernon Findell	–	Treasurer
Vic Perry	–	National Development Officer
Jessie Clark	–	Deputy Secretary
Carol Watt Sullivan	–	Area secretary
Alexander Wilson	–	Area Secretary
Tony Hatch	–	Deputy Area Secretary (for Bob Penny)

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Mavis welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for giving their time to the Association.

She especially welcomed Tony Hatch to the meeting who would be replacing Bob Penny in the autumn.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Ray Keen – Area Secretary, and Bob Penny – Area Secretary

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes were proposed as correct by Jessie and seconded by Carol and duly signed by Mavis.

4. Matters Arising

- a) Phyl had put a notice on the web site reminding members that the AGM was in August and that motions and nominations needed to be with her by today.
- b) Phyl was talking to Penny at Bowls England concerning the Portacabin for the umpires at Leamington Champs. There was a discussion about where it should be sited, and it was agreed that the preference was at the end of Green A
- c) The proposed radios had been purchased.
- d) Internationals – Forms had been sent to all those listed as 'international grade' in the membership list asking for their availability for the weekend of events. A list of who was available for what sessions had been assembled and a preliminary duty list compiled for review by the International selection committee so that Phyl could issue letters to those selected.

There are a considerable number of matches over that weekend forming

- British Isles Championships
 - Senior Internationals
 - Tests against the Australians
 - And later in the month Ladies Junior Internationals
- e) Data Protection – Phyl elaborated on the advice she had been given in respect of the new data protection regime. It was discussed whether any amendments were needed to EBUA forms etc, and it was agreed that an additional paragraph was needed in the joining form.

5. Correspondence

The committee discussed some of the items of correspondence that Phyl had received.

6. Secretary's report

Phyl reported as follows

This report covers what is probably the busiest periods of the year for the me. Since my last report I have dealt with the allocation of duties for Leamington Championships, based on the forms from volunteers which were due back just before the last meeting. Issued the first round of paperwork detailing the duties and received back member's confirmations that they will do the duties allocated.

One interesting fact is the number of members who do not look at the Association website and were amazed to find that they had no duties because they hadn't submitted a form detailing their availability! I have been able to find duties for some of these people but finding duties for them is very much bottom of my priorities for unallocated slots. The Sutton Winson competition will benefit from the skills of a lot of members as we need many people to help with that on those days.

Also, of interest is that some members don't seem to think that cut off dates apply to them. They obviously apply to everyone else, but not them! Again, finding vacant slots for these people is not a priority.

It had been known for some time that Bowls Australia were to play some Test matches in Leamington in the summer, but the details remained quite sketchy until after the end of the Commonwealth Games. Those events have been bundled together with the various British Isles events (also taking place at Leamington) giving several days of international competition at the end of June and beginning of July, followed later in July by the Ladies Junior Internationals also at Leamington. I have asked all our International Grade umpires to indicate their availability for those dates, and they will be advised the duties they have been allocated within a few days of this meeting. Hopefully I will have received final details of times etc. of the sessions in the next few days which will make giving out proper information to everyone much easier. I shall be at Leamington throughout the longer of the international events as I feel that we need to ensure that umpires are properly looked after and organized as there are quite a few involved.

I 'dropped in' to the Indoor Championships at Melton Mowbray & Nottingham – to find out how these were progressing for the umpires (and markers). At Melton I was entertained to lunch by the President – thank you! I would also like to congratulate Alison Welsted on joining the presidential team of EIBA Ltd, I am sure she will enjoy her time in that capacity. The visit to Melton also gave me the chance to meet the 'workers' in the EIBA office. I promise next time I 'drop in' I'll bring biscuits!

I've also kept up my participation in the examination process during this period as I feel it gives me chance to meet members, and Vernon gets value for money as I am one of Vic's examiners.

I have raised with Bowls England the possibility of us hiring a 'portacabin' for use as our office and a secure store for umpires' kits etc. This proved much less expensive than had originally been thought and I am waiting to hear the progress of our suggestion, as it will considerably ease the lack of space in the offices in Victoria Park.

The next few months will be getting busier and busier for me and I hope you will bear with me while I learn this new role (Vernon dealt with Leamington Championship last year as most of the work was prior to the AGM).

I look forward to seeing many more members than we have in the past at the AGM (19 August at 18.00 at The Avenue Bowls Club) as we have taken the bold step of taking the meeting to the membership during the Championships rather than expecting them to come to Leamington in April.

7. Treasurer's Report

Vernon reported as follows

Sales, down, but expecting a payment by Karen Wood fairly soon.

Course Exam Fees up, due to a payment by Mike Manns of over £1000-00 for markers courses in his area, well done Mike.

Subscriptions, the balance has been transferred from the advance payments, so this is the true figure of current subs at the moment.

Donations, these are mainly donations by umpires for not claiming the full amount.

Purchases, obviously down due to lack of sales. [Tony Hatch??]

Course/Exam Expenses, keeping in the budget of Income, at the moment.

Post & Phone, as expected.

Travel, this is down, as now received repayment by EIBA for all National finals.

Print & Stationery, as expected.

Computer Costs, as expected.

Bank Charges, always put in credit on accounts, but this is how much we have received, due to my transferring to 6-month loans.

Which, as you can see gives us a Net Profit of £1,426-57. which I feel is very good, thus at the moment see no reason to increase the subs.

8. National Development Officer's Report

Vic reported that there had been no material change since the last meeting. The backlog of examinations had now been caught up with, although the exams at Westlecott had been 'snowed off' and it was hoped they would re-arranged for later in the year. MAC courses are constantly being arranged and we are gaining a few new umpires from those who have attended them.

Some interesting things were arising from the examinations. It seemed that we were now having to more closely supervise the 'tick-box' element of the examination day as some had been using their phones as a source of information.

He was finding the percentages achieved interesting. With the pass mark at 90% he was worried that at retest some were only just exceeding this (including some internationals) whereas the new regionals were achieving 96-97%.

He asked how we should be treating those with Dyslexia as on several occasions he had found the examinees had failed because of this as no one had known. It was agreed that the application form would include a note asking if this applied to the applicant and the person doing the administration would check with all attendees to see if this applied.

9. Area Secretaries Reports

Area 1 – Val Coldwell

Val reported as follows

I have found selecting umpires for the outdoor season very difficult this year. I have the biggest area and probably the fewest umpires. All games played on neutral greens are played in Yorkshire, this means that these umpires are the busiest. I sent out requests to them all and had only five replies. They are being severely over worked. Umpires from other counties have to travel too far to help out. I myself have to do 100 miles round trip to umpire at my nearest club a so-called LOCAL game. I have had a good few markers courses which has resulted in some joining the association. However, I still require county co-ordinators for Durham and for Yorkshire. I have had an expression of interest from a member in Durham which I am hoping to pursue. Keep fingers crossed. If anyone can give me any suggestions on how to encourage more people to qualify I would welcome their input. I think it is a geographical problem in the north which cannot be changed so I will have to just keep trying. Rant over

Area 2 – Colin Wilson

Colin reported as follows

The last few months have been quite hectic, what with arranging 2 workshops (1 month apart) and, as with everyone else, arranging umpires with the help of coordinators in this area's Counties for the various competitions.

We had 18 people attend the 2 workshops at Leicester and Bromsgrove. There should have been more had they not decided not to continue as umpires, or generally not available, all 18 passed. There were 9 sitting their 4 year resit. 7 new Regionals and 2 Upgrades to National. My thanks go to the Examiners and Tutors who carried out these 2 sessions.

I would like to offer my Best wishes to Geoff Thomas (Northamptonshire coordinator), who at this moment, is recovering from a heart defect and will not be active until end of June.

Area 3 – Bob Penny

Bob reported as follows

This has become a period of change as arrangements are being put in place for when I stand down as Area 3 Secretary from the end of the 2018 outdoor season. The previous approach that I had from a member to take on the role of Area Secretary has fallen through due to the person's increased commitments within their own club. I am however delighted to confirm that Tony Hatch has come forward as the new Area 3 Secretary and the various County Coordinators within the area have been notified.

Tony is known to the EBUA Executive and has done a great deal of work in Essex to deliver the Markers Awareness courses, has helped in the provision of umpire's uniforms and has assisted at many Training and Development weekends providing valuable administrative assistance.

I am confident that Tony will be a great asset to the Executive and that Area 3 will be safe in his hands. With the limited number of umpires in some of the Area 3 counties we will be looking at opportunities for umpires and markers working across county boundaries and therefore all County Coordinators should be establishing good communications and liaising with Tony to ensure we are able to meet our match umpiring requirements to the best of our abilities.

When Steve Black stood down as Essex County Co-ordinator Paul Costin took back the role on a temporary basis whilst we sought a replacement. A sincere thank you to Paul from me and all Essex umpires and markers. Mike Birch has come forward to take on the role and has already demonstrated his administrative skills and abilities by sorting out many indoor Area Finals and has successfully allocated match officials to the requirements in Essex.

A successful Training and Development weekend was delivered at Riverain IBC and I am grateful to Vic and his team for all their work. Unfortunately, a proposed Markers Awareness Course at Clacton IBC in May was cancelled due to lack of numbers and the event being unviable but there still remains a healthy interest in the courses in west Essex. Other counties in the Eastern area seem to be less well organised in coming forward with suggested venues and dates.

Area 4 – Carol Watt Sullivan

Carol reported as follows

Summer is certainly upon us and we have started staffing county and national events in earnest. My thanks to all my County Co-ordinators for their organisation in enlisting our members to staff events and also to the umpires who voluntarily give up their time for the progression of the game. Umpire allocations have been made both within county and also for Regional Finals within the Area. Having recently retired from full-time work I also look forward to being more actively involved, particularly in my county and area.

An Assessment Centre took place at Bromley at the end of April with candidates from both within the area also without taking their assessments. My thanks are expressed to the continued support from Bromley IBC who have always been long-time supporters of the Association in enabling the event to take place. Bringing in helpers to act as string holders etc has again proved to be valuable experience and have proved to be successful recruitment tool in encouraging prospective regional umpires to 'take the plunge' and take their first steps on the ladder

Another assessment centre has been booked at Horsham in Sussex in September and already a number of places have been filled for this (both on 4-yearly renewals and also by candidates who have already successfully completed their workbook assessment). More candidates from the area are currently doing regional workbooks and I hope that on successful completion they will be coming to Horsham.

I welcome all our new members (both regional grades and new marker members) wishing them success in their endeavours as they take ongoing training to progress their skill sets and make them better reflect the best that our association has to offer. I also look forward to seeing more from the area at the nationals at Leamington and I do hope they all enjoy / continue to enjoy the experience.

Area 5 –Ray Keen

No report received

Area 6 – Alexander Wilson
Alexander reported as follows

A further Umpire Workshop and Examination weekend has been held in Hampshire in May. Three new umpires qualified, one upgraded to national and four passed their 4-yearly assessment. The time and commitment of Vic Perry and his team of Tutors and Examiners to these Umpire weekends is appreciated. Two Marking Awareness Courses are arranged to be run in Devon this June. The outdoor season's National and County umpiring duties are being covered. My thanks go to the Area's County Coordinators for their work and assistance in this regard and to the umpires who are fulfilling those duties.

10. AGM

a) Arrangements

The Avenue BC in Leamington had been booked for the evening. They would be opening their Clubhouse early so that members could have a meeting before the meeting and would remain open after the meeting to allow members to socialise after the meeting.

b) Nominations

Chairman Mavis Wellington - It was proposed Carol Watt Sullivan, seconded Jessie Clark that the EC nominate Mavis for this position

Deputy Chairman – Ken Bickley - Proposed Vernon Findell
Seconded Vic Perry

Treasurer Vernon Findell - It was proposed Carol Watt Sullivan, Seconded Alexander Wilson that the EC nominate Vernon for this position

c) Motion

The following motion had been received

Insert at 5.4

Selection of umpires and markers for International Games

There shall be an International Panel that will be responsible for the selection of match officials to International games when the Organising Body approaches the Association for match umpires and/or markers. The International Panel shall comprise The Secretary and the Development Officer and one other member of the Association appointed at the Association AGM for a period of 3 years. The International Panel shall be responsible for managing a list of potential match officials for International games who may be selected when opportunities arise. This list shall be reviewed at least annually with the assistance of the Area Secretaries.

Proposed; Bob Penny Area 3 Secretary

Seconded; Ray Keen Area 5 Secretary

As neither the proposer or seconder was present they had forwarded the following explanation

Being appointed to an International game and achieving International grade is the highest accolade for any match official that can be reached by a Member of the Association. It is therefore important that the process is clear for all to understand

and those responsible for the selection are identified and responsible and accountable.

There has been some discussion within the Executive about an International Panel but there is no evidence to support its existence, structure or responsibility. This motion is aimed at resolving that lack of clarity and ensures that the Panel comprises the roles including those of the Executive that are most relevant to the selection of match officials.

The Secretary is included as that role will receive details of the match official requirements and will co-ordinate responses back to the Organising Body and is in accordance with 5.2 of the Constitution

The Development Officer is included as they are responsible for the development of members to deliver the highest standards of service at all levels of the game.

An appointee from the EBUA Membership is to be appointed at the AGM for a 3 year period who will be expected to have a good knowledge of umpiring standards, umpires abilities and will be independent to see consistency in selection and clarity of selection criteria.

The motion was discussed, and it was found to be un-necessary as an International Selection Sub Committee already existed and had since shortly after the formation of the Association. It consisted of the Chairman, the Secretary and the Treasurer. During the period when the Secretary and Treasurer were the same person the Deputy Secretary had been co-opted.

It was unanimously agreed that the EC would not support the motion, as what it was proposing already existed the EC having exercised its power under the Constitution to create a sub-committee for this purpose some years ago. The Secretary would include a statement on the Agenda for the AGM stating the EC did not support the motion.

11. Any Other Business

- a) Val had received complaints that some members in her Area had not applied for duties at Leamington as they had not realised that the application form was on the Association Web site and so had not applied. It was agreed that for future years, to help members, Phyl would tell the Area Secretaries when the application form was put onto the site so that they could advise their members, so they would all see it.
- b) Carol raised the question of whether it was possible to split the County Co-ordinator role between two people. It was agreed that this did not give rise to any problems if this was the way members wanted the job to be done.

12 Chairman's closing remarks

Mavis reminded the meeting that the Association consisted of both male and female members all were capable of doing all the job and should be working together. When allocating duties, the only criteria was to select the best person for the job and gender was not taken into account.

She thanked everyone for giving up their time to come to the meeting and wished them a safe journey home

There being no further business Mavis closed the meeting at 13.20

M Wellington
(Chairman)