

# English Bowls Umpires Association

Minutes of an Executive Meeting held on  
Saturday 3 December 2011 at Leamington Spa.

## Present -

Mavis Wellington – Deputy Chairman

Rick Moore – Secretary

Jessie Clark – Deputy Secretary

Vernon Findell – Treasurer

Phyl Jones – Executive Member and Zone Representative

Val Coldwell – Zone Representative

Michelle Van Putt – Zone Representative

Carol Watt Sullivan – Child Protection Officer and Zone Representative

Ray Keen – Area Secretary

Brian Burton - Area Secretary

John Davies - Area Secretary

Trevor Hackett – Area Secretary

## **1. Chairman's opening remarks**

As acting Chairman Mavis welcomed all to the meeting, deliberately keeping her remarks brief as time was limited

## **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Allan Thornhill – Development Officer (and Area Secretary), Mary Taylor (executive member) and Sue Trott – Zone Representative

## **3. Minutes of previous meeting**

Subject to the amendment of the PBS to PBA in paragraph 9a) of the minutes the minutes were proposed as correct by Rick and seconded by Phyl Jones and duly signed by Mavis

## **4. Matters Arising**

Pauline Capon had unfortunately died as a result of the stroke, the Association has sent an card and donation to the nominated cause. Members (in uniform) had attended the funeral.

The Secretary had sent a card to Ray White, who had resigned as Chairman thanking him for the considerable amount of work he had put in as chairman during all stages of the Association.

## 5. Correspondence received

Rick reported that he had received a letter from Joan Mason notifying him of her retirement. He had written to thank her for years of service to umpiring.

## 6. Secretary's report

Rick had already issued a report to the members of the committee in the form of his proposals (see appendix A). This was discussed with Rick answering questions and clarifying some of its contents. Proposed Jessie, seconded Val the report was accepted by the committee.

## 7. Treasurer's report

Vernon reported

- He had now received a donation of £2300 from EIBA Ltd, having already received £5500 from Bowls England in May.
- Donations of a total of £2470 had been received from various indoor and outdoor clubs
- .So far £10 has been received as interest so £10,000 had been deposited in a 6 month fixed term account to give a return of £ 54.85 and further £10,000 had been deposited on a 12 month fixed account giving a return of £155.85. The total returns of £210.70 certainly exceeded the £14 he had expected from the other account. Approximately £4000 is split between the current and deposit accounts.
- £13,641 had been received from the sale of clothes and equipment
- £5543 had been received from the sale of manuals and DVDs this did not include those given to those new entrants
- Prepaid subscriptions total £16,384, but £4385 deducted from that figure for 2011.
- Membership at present is as follows

Male active members	469
Female active members	478
Male in-active	139
Female in-active	91

He had recently deleted 181 members for various reasons including non-payment of fees resignation etc, and proposed that if a member refuses a re-test 3 times they should also be deleted.

- He asked that all outstanding expenses claims reach him by 18 December so that he can finalise them before the end of the accounting period (31 December)

- He has included a charge of £1090 for development expenses as well as £1106 for training costs

In connection with expenses claims he thought that there was some confusion over what could be claimed so he had prepared a schedule outlining this to avoid any future confusion (see Appendix B). This proposal by the Treasurer was seconded by Phyl and agreed. It was also agreed that it would be published not only in the minutes of this meeting but also on the website and in the next Newsletter.

## 8. Development Officer's report

Allan Thornhill had submitted the following written report for the meeting

### **Training Materials**

Home Study Manuals and DVD's continue to sell well and are proving very helpful to both new candidates and existing umpires in their qualifications. It is quite clear that those candidates who have read the manual are more prepared.

A reprint of 400 manuals was ordered and received in September.

### **Workbooks**

Again a huge thanks goes to Alex, Cheryl and Bob for the excellent work they are doing in marking the workbook papers.

### **Training Workshops**

A number of workshops and assessments have been held around the country and the majority have been successful. The most recent at Bromley catered for 38 candidates and was a huge success.

### **Assessments**

Assessments have been held at the same venues as the workshops and again have proved largely successful. A number of new examiners have been recruited to assist with the workload in some areas.

More work is to be done on the Umpire Assessment video but time has been against me in getting this filmed.

### **National Development Officer**

It is with regret that in October I announced that I would not be standing for re-election at the 2012 AGM. This has been a tough decision as I have enjoyed the role immensely, however work and family commitments have taken over and I am no longer able to dedicate the time to the role in order to do it justice. My involvement from the end of this year will be minimal as a new work challenge is taking most of my time. I hope that a replacement can be found and I will ensure that everything is handed over in good order

Allan Thornhill -National Development Officer

Rick said that Allan had put in a considerable amount of time and effort as Development Officer and the Association owed him a considerable debt. The committee unanimously expressed their appreciation of his work and thanked him for all the effort he had put into creating the current training programme.

Rick said he had been seeking a new development officer and Bob Penney had agreed to take on the role. As Allan had effectively relinquished to role from the end of the year Bob would be co-opted as soon as possible.

Rick said that the manual was getting much praise, and a DVD was planned on 'marking'. The decision had been taken to 'pull' the video section of the examination as it was not up to the required standard.

It was envisaged that the training scheme when revised would entail a lot more 'home-study' with the results of the workbook questions being 'evaluated' to enable the trainers to concentrate on those areas in which the trainees were showing weakness, and put much more of the limited time available to them into working on the practical areas, including marking.

It had emerged that 'assistants' were need at all courses and arrangements were being made to create a special course for them. The marking course was also to be produced.

The Treasurer said that the cost of the training and courses so far had been £2908 to date and the income £3140. The costs included those of the manual, DVD and Laws of the Sport. A new applicant for 'Club Umpire' costs £29.70 (manual, DVD, Laws of the Sport, welcome pack and postage) leaving only £5.30 of their fee to 'cover' all exam expenses, and he did not feel that this was enough. He proposed that the course fees payable by potential examinees be increased from 1 January 2012, but that individual items prices be left under review by the Development committee when they met again. This was agreed.

## **9. International Technical Officers**

Rick had circulated an email asking the Association to make proposals for this. It was agreed that we should put forward 6 people, who would receive training when it was known when the examination would be.

## **10. Regional Secretaries/Zone Representative reports**

### **a) Eastern- Trevor Hackett**

Trevor reported that an examination day and recently been held for 17 people with only one failure. The main problem he had encountered was the lack of jacks, as none of the 'association sets' seemed to be available.

Vernon had recently issued a spreadsheet to find out who had equipment and where it was and he asked that this be completed and return to him so that he could sort it out.

It was also reported that a local supplier was producing 'our' clothing complete with our badge. It was agreed that the Secretary would contact them.

### **b) Midland – Brian Burton**

Brian reported that workshop had been held in October and all participants had passed. His big training event was scheduled for April (at present he thought there would be 54 attendees)

He was already receiving requests for umpires for the outdoor season and from the PBA. The Civil Service Bowls Assoc was giving some problems, but he would sort that out

c) South West - John Davies

John reported that 2 training courses had been held in the area which resulted in 9 new umpires, and another course was scheduled for 31 March.

Rick had attended his annual meeting and had been well received.

He had lost his co-ordinator in Somerset through retirement, but had arranged a replacement.

Two PBA events had been held in the area, umpires had been supplied for both and their efforts had been well received.

d) Northern - Val Coldwell

Val reported that since her last report the northern area had held examinations in Carlisle. She had been apprehensive because this was the first group of ladies who were to re-qualify under the new examination scheme. The ladies weren't used to using their own equipment, and had not attended a tutorial before, however her apprehension was misguided as the ladies were 'up and at it'. They went home having thoroughly enjoyed the experience with 2 ladies achieving 100%.

A 2-day PBA weekend was also successfully covered at Carlisle.

The next event will be the examinations at York on 11 December, then another PBA one day event on 17 December at New Earwick.

Her main aim for the New Year is to try to get a venue in Durham or Northumberland for examinations and also to find a suitable venue for an area meeting to make contact with a lot of the men who do not yet know her and try and make herself known to them.

e) Allan Thornhill

Allan had sent the following written report:-

The start of the indoor season has been a busy one for South East umpires as always. The majority of fixtures have been covered but the early rounds of the Nationals really do stretch the resources.

A very successful meeting of the South East Area umpires was held on 25<sup>th</sup> September. It was well attended and there were good discussions on topics such as Area structure, Laws of the Sport and Training.

Our members are seeking clarification from the Executive on the payment of expenses.

The South East members would also like to see a restructure that is clear to all and would like to propose one person per county plus a regional representative from each area.

A workshop and examination was held at Bromley IBC in November and was very well attended with 38 candidates passing through the system.

My sincere thanks to all of those that were involved especially the examiners and training assistants who managed to process 24 examinations in 1 day – fantastic organisation.

f) Carol Watt Sullivan

Most of the information had been supplied in Allan's report, but Carol added that they were looking for a venue for the spring for a training weekend, Wey Valley was a suggestion

Child Protection

Carol reported that there had been some problem getting CRB clearances through for some umpires but a solution to this had been found. It was agreed that Rick would ask Bowls England what the problem had been.

g) Ray Keen

Ray reported that the annual meeting had been held in the area, where a question had been raised over the uniform. It appeared that this had also been raised at other meeting so it was agreed that it should be clearly explained in the forthcoming newsletter that new uniform for all occasions was:-

Navy top

Navy trousers

White shoes

Blue/white socks

The question of whether there could be an Associations tie with the new badge had also been raised at Ray's meeting. The Committee discussed this and it was agreed that a cost for this would be found and the result reported to the next meeting.

h) Michelle Van Putt

Michelle reported on the examinations that had been held in her zone

#### **11. Any Other Business**

- a) Val said that she thought she had seen assessment of umpires going on at Worthing. Rick said that this had been a pilot and the first time that this had been tried. It was still being developed and what she had seen was now being redesigned.
- b) Val asked if it were possible to arrange 'one off' unpublished examinations if necessary. It was confirmed that this was not possible as everyone had to have the seminar as well as the examination.
- c) Trevor asked why there had on some occasions been only 1 umpire 'covering' 6 rinks at Worthing. It was pointed out that Bowls England only pay for one
- d) Vernon confirmed that umpires at Leamington would receive £15 per session for marking or umpiring next year
- e) Rick said that he had reached an agreement with the EIBA Ltd that they would remove the provision allowing a 'competent person' from their rules in future
- f) Rick said that there would be a need for umpires for the men's' 2-wood singles competition, but it was not possible to say yet what the actual requirement would be as the original suggestion would not work.

#### **12. Next Meetings**

There would be another executive meeting on Saturday 17 March 2012, the venue the Avenue Bowling Club, Leamington Spa between 10.30 am and 2.00pm.

The AGM would take place on Sunday 22 April 2012 at 11.00 am at Leamington Spa

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 14.15 pm.

Chairman

## Appendix A

### Where do we want to take the E.B.U.A?

In this report I hope I can make it clear. Some may have heard me mention some of the items contained here. I have held back from promoting this part of the plan for us, mainly because of the issues we had to resolve during the first year.

This is of course not singularly my ideas, I have listened to you all which has helped me formulate my thoughts. I work closely with Vernon so that what I ask the association to achieve can be funded and sustained.

For the final stage before I put pen to paper I have talked about it at area meetings when invited, and I met with Jessie we talked through my thoughts during which Jessie through her experience had a huge input on the final report.

### Funding: A major problem to us

What I intend to do following agreement at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> Executive meeting is to write to all counties both indoor and outdoor and where there are still Ladies and men's associations write to them separately. Asking them to include 15p on their capitation and forwarding that to us as a donation, I will also ask for the opportunity to meet with county secretaries and treasurers to put our case and work out a long term satisfactory plan. I realise this will be a lot of work but we are only going to get one serious chance to change things to a business structure. It maybe that some counties offer another way of supporting us we need to know this, waiting for donations to arrive is no longer an option. I have set aside 2012 to get this into place, if we don't meet with County Officials we will never know how we can benefit each other. In the communication with counties I will tell them our preferred way of getting umpires to cover a match, this will be by contacting a county co-ordinator or area secretary.

Continuing the business theme at the E.B.U.A I want to promote a radical plan.

At the moment we have 6 regions and 8 zones, this commonsense tells us is not working, and probably never will.

December 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 I intend to disband all zones and regions and basically sack all officers within those regions and zones. We will then go to 6 areas (not regions) this is in line with both indoor and outdoor who have areas not regions. I have looked at how to divide us into 6 areas and it is simple, we already are in 6 areas. It's important that the areas have a fluid boundary quite obviously there will be umpires from one area living closer to a duty in another.

For the remaining period from Dec 31 to the AGM in 2013 I intend to ask the current area secretaries to remain so they can help organise nominations for officers of the area to be voted in place at an area meeting prior to the AGM. The area secretary will by position have a seat at the executive committee, for 2012 there will be no area meetings used for election but could be used promoting this plan, I would be happy to attend any such meeting.

Each area will become autonomous having an Area Secretary, Tutor, Examiner and County co-ordinators to form the committee. It is the intention

to encourage the use of email to keep each officer informed of requirements, such that if one committee member communicates with another on bowling or umpiring the email should automatically go to all committee members (in each areas loop should be county co-ordinators). Ideally it would benefit us if County co-ordinators were to become assistant examiners. The area will be funded by receiving £3 per head from the subscriptions and the capitation money that may be collected from counties in their area will also be given to them kept in separate internal account. An area secretary will submit on a monthly basis an account sheet so monies can be paid to their area umpires by the treasurer. The donation that I ask for from the county will go to the main EBUA account.

Some of the balance of monies (up to 50%) an area does not use will transfer to the main EBUA account which will be held by the treasurer to enable each area to support the other using the money for such things as projectors for courses to name but one.

It should be realised that it will be within the interests of each area to work with counties to maintain the support/funding from them.

Also I would expect to develop putting an umpire in every club, asking the club to sponsor their umpire £15 per an um. There are specific duties for this role which will not include covering duties that a full umpire would do. I do realise that not all clubs will take up our offer a lot will slowly take it up some never will. Reasons for the effort is it will give us a steady flow of umpires a good few of them will want to take up umpiring. The sponsor money will help us as will the £10 membership subscription from the club umpire.

We are guilty of never having taken ourselves to counties or clubs before, so by doing this with a club umpire scheme will get our association known at all levels. Club umpires in conjunction with co-ordinators will offer a service by running marking courses, law discussion groups and generally help new members in clubs understand measuring and basic laws. Through our efforts when these new players get to a level that has umpires present they will automatically use them, (saves us standing there without being called). Officers of Counties and BE started as new bowlers, at present current officers hardly understand our association but officers of the future will with our club umpires scheme. I think by offering a service clubs or counties will be more likely to go along with us.

Nationally the scheme would be very difficult to operate but individual areas should be able to develop this with counties and clubs who will identify with their own area umpires association.

I will ask each area in turn to supply umpires and markers for National finals as by then Leamington and Worthing will be largely mixed so finals etc at Leamington one year and Worthing another this way you get something every couple of years, added to this would be national indoor finals a little more complex to share but not impossible. This has no bearing on all other duties at nationals other than finals; umpires would apply for Leamington and Worthing as they do now. It would be within umpires interests to become better and an area to encourage them to do so if they want to be involved with finals.



## **Appendix B**

The Association will cover funding from Bowls England for National finals at Worthing & Leamington.

### **Regional Finals**

The Association are prepared to fund travelling at 25p a mile for:-

1. Major County Competitions finals day.
2. Major Q/Final to Semi-Finals days, with complete use of the greens, which result in playing in the National Finals.
3. Middleton Cup & Johns Trophy, all rounds 2 for each.

**ALL COUNTY GAMES, WHICH ARE USUALLY PLAYED ON VARIOUS GREENS, ON VARIOUS DATES UP TO THE QUARTER FINAL, LOCAL UMPIRES TO BE USED**

## **INDOORS**

### **Regional Finals**

The Association are prepared to fund travelling at 25p a mile for:-

As per numbers 1 & 2 above.

All "Cups", "Plates & "Trophies" from Quarter Final up. Up until then local umpires to be used.

Atherley & Liberty Trophy, all rounds 2 for each.

### **The Association will not fund the following**

All Inter County competitions [County matches, as we all know are only glorified friendlies.]

All "local" county leagues made up of "Associate Members" These should be financed by the Associate Members themselves, which I understand is in the majority of cases done.

## **EXAMINATIONS**

The Association will pay 25p a mile for examiners, tutors and any assistants used, also a lunch and reasonable amount of tea or coffee.

**I**f the course goes over 2 days, and it is necessary to stay, the Association will pay for the Examiner and Tutor if they have to stay the night at a rate of £42-00 all inclusive of evening meal.[Receipts will be required.]

## **MEETINGS**

The Association will pay 25p a mile for examiners, tutors or anyone else who is requested to attend any Committee "based" meeting.