

## English Bowls Umpires Association

**Minutes of an Executive Meeting held on 3 December 2017 at Oxford & City BC, Oxford.**

### Present

Mavis Wellington	Chairman
Phyl Jones	Secretary
Vernon Findell	Treasurer
Vic Perry	National Development Officer
Ray Keen	Area Secretary
Carol Watt Sullivan	Area secretary
Alexander Wilson	Area Secretary
Bob Penny	Area Secretary
Val Coldwell	Area Secretary
Colin Wilson	Area Secretary

### **1. Chairman's Opening Remarks**

Mavis welcomed everyone to the meeting – especially the Colin Wilson who had taken over as the Areas Secretary for Area 2. She wished Alison well in the future and thanked her for taking on the Area when she had in difficult times and carrying it through those times.

### **2. Apologies for Absence**

Jessie Clark – Deputy Secretary

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

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

### **4. Matters Arising**

- a) Website Ken Bickley had done a great deal of work on the website, the redesign and updating of the information. There had been a 'pause' in his work (other than uploading items sent to him) but he would be resuming work on it shortly.
- b) Match against the EIBA. This had been played over 8 rinks. The EBUA lost!
- c) Photos of EC for web site. It was agreed that these would be taken at the next meeting (4<sup>th</sup> March) and as Bob would not be at that meeting he would supply a photo to Vernon before that date.

## **5. Correspondence**

Phyl outlined to the meeting the sort of routine correspondence she receives. Many came via Bowls England and dealt with things from why we didn't use lasers for 'normal' measuring to why umpires used both right & left hands to hold the measure when measuring.

She had also had an enquiry from a foreign umpire wishing to qualify under our system.

## **6. Secretary's report**

Phyl reported as follows: -

At the very beginning of September, I helped Mavis & Val pack up the 'Umpire's Office' at Leamington, all part of my education in how our part of the Championships work, and quite an education it was! I suspect that most of us have no real idea of how hard they work during that period (taking their required rest days, of course) and the hours they put in. Thank you both.

Then I was off to the Isle of Wight to help with exams there, no 'day at the seaside' though, a long hard day, but it was a good opportunity to meet umpires from 'the Island' that I wouldn't have normally had the chance to meet.

I thought I could then slip away for a few days holiday. Even that didn't prove easy! The very morning, I was due to go I had a call from the EIBA asking for umpires for televised matches, the first at the end of September! Thankfully those with experience of television work (and some who didn't but wanted to learn) rallied around and I managed to supply all the umpires they wanted in the various venues. Thank you all of you.

But before those matches took place there was the Top Club at Leamington. As usual the 'crew' consisted of largely 'newbie' markers and umpires (and on this occasion Steve Alway who stepped in to help me out, thanks Steve). Ken Bickley helped me throughout the weekend and as I chose those few days to go down with a very heavy cold I am very grateful to him for all his help.

In October I helped Vic with the Marking Awareness Course at Avon Valley, held as a consequence of the Bowls England regional meetings in the Spring which we discussed at that time, but no doubt Vic will include this in his report.

Very recently went to the Bowls England 'Counties Meeting' at Solihull, where the revised expenses regime proposed by Vernon at the last EC was due for discussion. This was presented to the meeting by Margaret Docherty so effectively that that there were no questions either to her or me! Other items of interest were a segment on the new Data Protection Regulations and minor changes to the competitions for next season which will result in revised Regulations.

One piece of news that will have a practical effect on us is that the Naval Club will close in March. That was the proposed venue for the AGM in August, so I will have to look for another one.

And then there was that article in Bowls International!.....

Phyl added to her report that she had recently heard that Nigel Hewitson had passed the exams to become an ITO and she congratulated him on that.

## 7. Treasurer's Report

Vernon reported as follows

### **ACCOUNTS FOR PERIOD ENDING 3<sup>RD</sup> DECEMBER 2017**

The figures of this set of accounts is put against a full 12 months from last year, and does not make very good reading.

**Sales, up by £828.00**

**Course Fees, down by £121.00**

**Subs, down by £920.00** Due to loss of members.

**Grants,** at the moment we have not received the EIBA amount of £2,300.00 This will be arriving next week, to do with their accounting period. [Happens every year]

**Donations, down by £48.00** This is mainly reduction by Counties, as the remainder are donations by our members, in the form of partial claim for travel.

**Purchases down by £360.00**

**Course Exam expenses up by £2710.00**

**Gross profit is therefore £18,554.00**

**Postage & Phone, up by £550.00** payment being made to Area Secretaries, and Secretary.

**Travelling up by £2,000.00** This will be discussed and sorted at the meeting.

**Printing & Stationery. Up by £328.00**

**Computer Costs, up by £238.00** program for Secretary.

**Insurance & Accountancy, down by £27.00**

**Maintenance & Equipment Hire.** "Bugs" in Treasurer's computer.

**Flowers & Donations, down by £654.00** But the figure of £1,515.00 last year was for log book for all, this year we sent a "markers" manual to all markers.

**Bank Charges,** [Always shows as credit] but the sum of £101.29 down by £162.00, due to tight bank rate received.

**Depreciation,** to be added at year end.

So at the moment we have made a loss of £1,158.94, but this does include the Executive meeting travel.

I therefore have some things that will have to be sorted out at the meeting.

The committee then discussed the revised expenses scheme Vernon had outlined at the previous meeting and had now presented to Bowls England in a letter (see Appendix A). This proposal had since been accepted at the Bowls England Counties Meeting.

It was agreed that Vernon would send copies of the letter to all the County coordinators.

Vernon stated that it was his intention to introduce a similar framework for 'indoor' work for the 2018/19 season and he would outline this to the Committee at a later meeting.

The committee thanked Vernon for all the hard work he had put in to put this new arrangement in place for the 2018 season.

Date: 29/11/2017

**ENGLISH BOWLS UMPIRES ASSOCIATION**

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Time: 18:00:31

**Profit and Loss**

From: Month 1, January 2017  
To: Month 12, December 2017

Chart of Accounts: Default Layout of Accounts

	<u>Period to Date</u>	<u>Previous Full Year</u>
<b>Sales</b>		
Blazers, General, Manuals & Training DVD's	7,687.10	6,859.80
Course/Exam Fees	5,276.00	5,397.95
Subscriptions Received	6,520.00	7,440.00
Grants - E.B.A./E.I.B.A.	9,000.00	11,300.00
Donations Received	1,164.05	1,212.50
	29,647.15	32,210.25
<b>Purchases</b>		
Purchases	4,830.38	5,190.42
Course/Exam Expenses	6,262.00	3,552.60
	11,092.38	8,743.02
<b>Gross Profit/(Loss):</b>	<u>18,554.77</u>	<u>22,082.23</u>
<b>Overheads</b>		
Training Costs		596.88
Postage & Telephones	2,699.09	2,140.42
Travelling	13,535.61	11,535.89
Printing & Stationery	1,749.00	1,366.04
Computer Costs	508.99	270.16
Accountancy & Insurance	361.00	388.36
Maintenance & Equipment Hire	100.00	
Flowers & Donations Paid	861.31	1,515.00
Bank Charges & Interest	(101.29)	(263.78)
Depreciation		197.10
	19,713.71	17,746.07
<b>Net Profit/(Loss):</b>	<b>[1158.94]</b>	<b>4,336.16</b>

Please note, we have not yet received the £2300-00 from EIBA, which will be in our account on the 10<sup>th</sup> December [to do with their financial affairs] so we will at the moment end up with a "profit" of £1141.06"

But there are adjustments to be made for stock, write downs/off and depreciation, so the loss could be greater/smaller.

## **8. National Development Officer's Report**

Vic said he had not submitted a written report as the actions he had outlined at the last meeting would have formed the meat of it. Everything he had suggested was now in place.

23 marker mentors were now in place (this represents 90% of those needed). Some areas were struggling to find the necessary mentors, but progress was being made. All the mentors had the necessary paperwork.

The examinations continued to go well, and he was visiting Marking Awareness Courses (MAC) to ensure that they were being delivered to the required syllabus and were of a proper standard.

There were 200 odd markers who are now all at level 1 competency. He will be informed when their competency level is raised, and he will in turn inform Vernon. It was also agreed that Vernon would let Vic know who the 200 are. The Area Secretaries would all prompt the markers in their areas to act proactively to get themselves reviewed and updated from the basic level one.

## **9. Area Secretaries Reports**

### Area 1 – Val Coldwell

Val reported as follows

Since the last exec meeting, the rest of the outdoor duties were covered well, this is with the help of my co-coordinators, Jim Holmes, Anthony Little and Bernie Hill. I am still searching for co-ordinators for Durham and Yorkshire. We had the England v Scotland test matched at New Earswick in York. These were all day televised events and were very hard work but enjoyable. Thanks to Vic Perry, Graham Gibbins, Colin Wilson and Eric Tomlinson. The indoor season is well under way now and so far there have been no problems!!!!!! We have organized re-assessment exams in a couple of weeks. Hartlepool have offered their facilities free of charge so thank you to Carl Higgins who is also being assessed and hopefully will be an umpire after this assessment. (much needed in the northern area) then at the end of January there is a Markers Awareness Course in Harrogate, and I am hoping that we may recruit more members from this.

### Area 2 – Colin Wilson

As Colin had recently taken over he did not deliver a report, and was assured by the rest of the committee that if he needed help or advice all he had to do was ask.

### Area 3 – Bob Penny

Bob reported as follows

The Eastern Area encompasses the following counties; Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire, Essex, Suffolk and Norfolk

It has been a busy outdoor season in the Eastern Area and I am eternally grateful for the hard work and selfless commitment that has been shown by the County Coordinators in responding to the requests for umpires, often at short notice, and for sharing the allocation of duties as evenly as possible amongst those who make themselves available to support the sport of bowls.

Albeit infrequent, but we continue to experience the cancellation of games or withdrawal of counties from competitions without any consideration to inform the markers. Fortunately, a potentially embarrassing situation was avoided but only thanks to chance conversations, an arrangement which is not good enough and competitors, be they individuals or counties need to give more thought to informing match officials such as umpires of any game changes.

Requests for umpires have been met by a core of committed members and there appears to be an increasing number of members who do not make themselves available to support the game but continue to be members of the Association. Umpires whose certificates have expired are being asked to confirm their umpiring intentions. It is not acceptable, or fair on those umpires who make the effort to renew their certificates, for members who have expired certificates to be appointed to games as representatives of the EBUA. It is accepted that qualified umpires and markers will have competing commitments but there are some who are seldom seen on the green and do not respond to requests. Members join the Association knowing that there is a commitment to renew certificates on a 4-year cycle. One weekend away every 4 years is not an onerous commitment and is important for the Training and Development team to see that “experienced” umpires are not developing bad habits and are carrying out their duties in accordance with the training.

A training and development weekend is being held on 21/22 April 2018 at Riverain IBC in Hitchin Herts. This has proven to be a very successful venue and I thank Alan Warren for making the excellent facilities available. This training event is on the EBUA website and I ask those who seek to become umpires, to upgrade to National umpire or to renew their certificates to put this date in their diaries and to let me know of their attendance.

As previously indicated, the County Coordinators for Cambridgeshire/Hunts and Essex have stood down. I make a special note of thanks to Peter Hartwell and Paul Costin respectively for their hard work, leadership and administration. They will continue to be active members of the Association and I wish them well for the future both on and off the green. Steve Black has been appointed Essex County Coordinator, but I have had no volunteers from Cambs/Hunts to take on Peter’s former role. This will make requests for markers and umpires difficult, but I will do my best under the circumstances to deal with the allocations.

Area 3 continues to be without a Bedfordshire County Coordinator. These vacancies undermine the profile of the EBUA and unless volunteers are prepared to come forward, the future is bleak. Arrangements for a representative of Herts County Association, has worked reasonably well, although the limited communications are an area of concern.

Tony Hatch of Essex and Gordon Adams of Suffolk have been active in arranging Marking Awareness Courses which have been well supported by other umpires and well attended by players leading to the membership of several new marker members. Details of future Marking Awareness Courses are available on the EBUA website.

The introduction of a more formalised approach to marker development has been welcomed and is a testimony to Tony Hatch who, prior to the introduction of the Association wide procedures, has been overseeing the development of new markers. A fine demonstration of good practice that is being rolled out across the country.

I am grateful to those umpires who have come forward to act as Marker Mentors. There are still counties who are yet to come back to me with the names of potential mentors. This is an important role to ensure that those who wear the EBUA uniform when acting in the capacity of a marker do so in a competent and effective way. The Markers role is an important route in to umpiring and we certainly need more umpires of a good standard to respond to the requests from county associations. Competent markers will be allocated certain Levels subject to their performance and this creates the opportunity to participate at national competitions as markers without having to go down the umpire route.

I am very grateful to those who come forward and make themselves available to assist at games. We are all volunteers who have a love for the sport of bowls. We are there to support the players and make it enjoyable for all. It is important however that Association members are prepared to be more involved and I would ask members to give further consideration to the County Coordinator vacancies if the Association is to be able to continue to support the sport of bowls in the Eastern region. It is not an onerous role and one which helps the umpires, markers, players and County Associations have a much more constructive relationship.



## Area 4 – Carol Watt Sullivan

Carol reported as follows

The changeover from summer to autumn to winter has flown past and the first frantic weeks of the indoor season have come and gone and with it the unrelenting demand for umpiring services. My thanks go to the local and county co-ordinators for their sterling work in finding and trying to find people to staff demand.

Surrey held a County meeting at Donyngs on 1 October and my thanks to those who made the effort to attend to enable a wide ranging discussion on a variety of topics and exchange of information. Surrey County Executive have asked Ken Bickley and myself for a meeting on marking and we are still awaiting a response on tentative dates to meet with them.

Markers Awareness Courses (having been rebranded) are underway again and all counties in the area now have Marker Mentors in place. My thanks to those who have volunteered their services for this important task in progressing our markers to higher standards of excellence. Those whose requests were put 'on the back-burner' pending the rebranding are now under consideration in order to rearrange.

Assessment Centre venues are now in place for several venues – Middlesex (Century IBC) on 25 & 26 November and Surrey (Donyngs IBC, Redhill) on 3 & 4 February. Hopefully another assessment centre at Bromley (for Kent) will be arranged for end of April 2018 and later on a venue in Sussex. As ever, our membership levels are subject to the increasing number of retirements as older members find they have not the mobility etc and feel unable to take on the 4-yearly renewal process. It is such a shame that too few of the younger players want to commit to starting the career path of umpiring, citing playing commitments etc (it is not for want of trying and asking suitable candidates).

PBA events have been held in the Area in September and again in November, but unfortunately one of the November events clashed with U25 Ladies events arranged by EIBA. Although the season is now so cluttered with demands on weekend dates, it was a great shame that, so many had to withdraw from the PBA event.

Due to the refusal of some EIBA area competition secretaries to deal with some gender competitions, we are still getting requests directly from EIBA HO and dealing with them accordingly.

## Area 5 –Ray Keen

Ray reported as follows

We managed to cover every duty that was asked for during the Outdoor season, but I am really struggling Indoors in every County.

I have someone considering taking over as County Coordinator in Oxfordshire but have not had any success in Wiltshire.

I am going to run a Marking Awareness Course in Wiltshire, Westlecot, on 24<sup>th</sup> February and another, Five Rivers, on the 14<sup>th</sup> April. Hopefully I can get a couple of the Umpires down there to take responsibility for running the courses and carry out the Mentoring. Keith in Berkshire and Mike & Alan in Gloucestershire have Marking Awareness Courses booked during the Winter.

I have a Workshop Weekend booked for 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> March in Westlecot.

I have two potential Markers from the Bowls England course that I have started Mentoring in Oxfordshire.

Keith Sawdon in Berkshire held a small get together for his Umpires/Markers which he felt was fairly successful and is now going to run two a year for a trial period.

## Area 6 – Alexander Wilson

Alexander reported as follows

The remaining umpiring duties during the outdoor season were covered successfully, thanks to the work of and assistance from the Area's County Coordinators. While we were able to provide umpires for duties through the season, I am conscious that a few are not continuing. Thankfully we do have new Regionals who have qualified this year, and this should enable the status quo to be preserved.

To date there have been no problems with covering duties in the indoor season. As well as EIBA competitions, these have included PBA Qualifiers at Dolphin IBC and Open Singles Circuit competitions.

An Umpire Training Workshop & Examination was held on the Isle of Wight in September that, in addition to enabling a number of 4 year assessments, enabled 2 new regional umpires to qualify on the island. I am working with the National Development Officer to arrange to weekends in Hampshire in early 2018 for Umpire Training Workshops & Examinations. We are also working to recommence Marking Awareness Courses.

## **10. Any Other Business**

- a) Phyl raised the question of the location for the AGM as it had been intended to use the Royal Naval Club which would not be closed by then. Several venues were discussed, and it was agreed that Phyl should approach the Avenue Bowls Club in Leamington to see if they would make their facilities available that evening.
- b) Phyl also asked the committee members to bear in mind that she would be asked to put forward umpires for various events at Leamington in the coming season. She would rely on them to put forward umpires from their areas. She said that she did not want to hear about the 'same old faces' and expected to hear about lady as well as men umpires!
- c) She also reminded that it had been announced that there would be International matches in England in September 2019 and now was the time for us to be thinking about whether new international grade umpires would be needed and who the 'international committee' should be considering. Again, area secretaries ought to be thinking about who amongst their members they wanted to be considered.
- d) Carol said that at the recent Surrey members meeting Allan Thornhill had intimated that nothing had been received by the World Bowls Laws Committee requiring a revision of the Laws of the Sport.

## **11 Next meeting**

The Executive meetings for the year would be held as follows; -

4 March 2018 at Oxford City & County BC

20 May 2018 at Oxford City & County BC

The AGM would be on Sunday 19 August 2018 at Leamington at 6pm

## **12 Chairman's closing remarks**

Mavis thanks everyone for coming to this meeting and hoped that Colin had found it useful and would not hesitate to take all the help he was offered. She wished everyone a safe journey home.

There being no further business Mavis closed the meeting at 12.50

M Wellington  
Chairman



## Appendix A

# ENGLISH BOWLS UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

National Treasurer:

Vernon Findell 75, Stephenson Road, Cowes, I.O.W. PO31 7PR

Tony Allcock MBE  
Chief Executive – Bowls England  
Riverside House  
Milverton Hill  
Royal Leamington Spa  
CV32 5HZ

16<sup>th</sup> November 2017

Dear Tony,

### **PROPOSAL FOR FUNDING OF OUTDOOR UMPIRING & MARKING EXPENSES 2018**

On behalf of the English Bowls Umpires Association, I am pleased to submit the following proposal to Bowls England. This proposal will replace the current set fee of £100 per unified County Association that has previously been collected by Bowls England (on our behalf) as part of the affiliation process.

#### **Inter-County Events**

All fees below to be paid for by the participating counties (equal shares) to the umpire/s in attendance on the day. The 'daily fee' for each umpire will be set at £15 per umpire (up to 60 miles round trip) or £25 per umpire (more than 60 miles round trip).

#### ***Middleton Cup and Johns Trophy (All rounds up to and including quarter-finals)***

One fee to be paid to each umpire, paid between the two counties [£15 or £25 per umpire depending on distance travelled]. Refreshments to be provided by host county (if home and away basis) or jointly (if played at neutral venue). A maximum of two umpires per match will be supplied on request.

#### ***White Rose Trophy, Balcomb Trophy & Walker Cup (pre-Regional Finals)***

Fee to the umpire to be split and paid by the two participating counties [£15 or £25 depending on distance travelled]. Refreshments to be provided by host county (if home and away basis) or jointly (if played at neutral venue). One umpire will be supplied on request.

#### ***White Rose Trophy, Balcomb Trophy & Walker Cup (Regional Finals)***

One fee to be paid to each umpire, paid by the four participating counties [£15 or £25 per head depending on distance travelled]. Two umpires will be requested by Bowls England for each Regional Final venue. Lunch will be provided by Bowls England

### **County Championships leading to National Championships**

The EBUA will make the following payments directly to Umpires & Markers who attend the Final Stages of County Championships leading to National Championships:

#### ***Quarter-finals (if played as a single round)***

No payment from EBUA

#### ***Quarter-finals and semi-finals (if played on same day at same venue)***

£5 for first 20 miles plus 20p per mile thereafter – round trip

#### ***Semi-finals***

£5 for first 20 miles plus 20p per mile thereafter – round trip

#### ***Finals***

£5 for first 20 miles plus 20p per mile thereafter – round trip

Funding for this will be taken from the current Bowls England donation to the EBUA (£5,500 per annum) plus income from EBUA sales and subscriptions.

Appendix A highlights the proposed payments structure. I trust this meets with your approval and that we may introduce this new payments system for the 2018 season.

Yours sincerely

Vernon Findell  
Treasurer  
EBUA

**Appendix A: Summary of EBUA Proposed Charges for Inter-County Events and County Championships 2018**

***Inter-County Events***

<b>Event</b>	<b>No. of Umpires</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Payable By</b>
Middleton Cup (up to and including quarter finals)	1 (2 on request)	£15/£25 per umpire*	Participating counties – equal split
Johns Trophy (up to and including quarter finals)	1 (2 on request)	£15/£25 per umpire*	Participating counties – equal split
White Rose Trophy/Walker Cup/Balcomb Trophy (pre-Regional Finals)	1	£15/£25 per umpire*	Participating counties – equal split
White Rose Trophy/Walker Cup/Balcomb Trophy (Regional Finals)	2	£15/25 per umpire*	Participating counties – equal split

\* *The charge for the umpire for inter-county events will be £15 (up to 60 miles return journey) and £25 (over 60 miles return journey)*

***County Championship Events (leading to National Championship Finals)***

<b>Event</b>	<b>No. of Umpires</b>	<b>Fee</b>	<b>Payable By</b>
Semi-Finals & Finals ONLY	On request – including markers for singles events	£5 (first 20 miles) then 20p per mile	EBUA (Bowls England donation)