

English Bowls Umpires Association

Minutes of an Executive Meeting held on 12th October 2013 at Goodwood BC, Leicester.

Present

Mavis Wellington	Chairman
Rick Moore	Secretary
Jessie Clark	Deputy-Secretary
Allan Thornhill	Development Officer
Phyl Jones	Deputy Chairman
Val Coldwell	Area Secretary
Michelle Van Putt	Executive Member
Sue Trott	Executive Member
Carol Watt Sullivan	Area Secretary/Child Protection Officer
Ray Keen	Area Secretary
Brain Burton	Area Secretary
John Davies	Area Secretary
Bob Penny	Area Secretary
Mick Langley	EIBA observer
Brian Cunningham	EIBA observer

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Mavis welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Mick & Brian from the EIBA, and not forgetting Bob Penny who would be replacing Trevor as Area Secretary in due course.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Vernon Findell (Treasurer) and Trevor Hackett (Area Secretary)

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

Carol said that the indoor club in her report should have read Arun not Adur. There being no other points, the minutes of the previous meeting were proposed correct by John Davies, seconded by Brian Burton and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

- a) AGM date – Rick said that despite his remarks at this AGM if the Association wanted to change the date of the AGM for future years this would require a change to the Constitution and if passed it would not be effective until 2015. It was agreed that the 2014 AGM would take place on 27 April 2014 at either Leamington or Oxford. Jessie would book the venue.

- b) Electronic cigarettes. Jessie said that Bowls England would be revising their regulations to include a ban on these on the green in with that for 'normal cigarettes'.

5. Correspondence –

- a) Nil with Secretary, although he had received various circulars as well as queries from members.
- b) Allan brought to the attention of the meeting a letter from World Bowls Ltd. concerning kneeling on the green. This confirmed it was acceptable to kneel whilst delivering but there must still be one foot on the mat.

6. Secretary's report

- a) Following a request for views from Bowls England on paying coaches for their work Rick asked for the views of the meeting. It was felt that this was all very well, but there were also Income Tax aspect to be considered.
- b) Funds – The initiative he had undertaken with Bowls England on funding had proved successful so he was now moving to engage in a similar exercise with the EIBA. He was not going to approach the indoor counties, but had written to all clubs asking for a donation of £10 per rink per year. The Clubs seemed to be generally in favour and willing to make such a donation. Whilst the EIBA made a donation to the Association of £2,400 each year this had not increased for 6 years.
- c) Web site. It was felt that Allan had more than enough to do with his Development Officer duties and that asking him to look after the web site as well was unfair. Alan agreed that if a volunteer could be found then he would hand over this task to a new Webmaster.
- d) Vernon is not retiring as Treasurer as he had originally proposed.

7. Treasurer's Report

Vernon had forwarded his report in advance of the meeting:-.

'Again, since the August meeting, there has been very little change in the accounts.

- Current Account £ 6,727-00
- Deposit Account £ 1,037-00
- H.I. Deposit Account £25,000-00, (due out on 29th November) - of which £13,000-00 advance subscriptions.

Membership numbers

Men 414

Ladies 355, - hopefully this number will pick up if Allan's idea of trying to bring back the lady markers works.

While I am on the subject of brought back umpire/markers, I would like their membership fee to be as a full umpire, the thinking behind this is they will want to claim like everybody else so we should not subsidise them at the expense of the umpires.

Another point, which I and the auditor find a bit annoying, area secretaries and county co-ordinators have taken a new line in appointing umpires and markers, but I do not receive a **signed** application form, and as the rate has gone up to 40p a mile I now need same, otherwise payment will not be made.

A rather annoying thing also is to get a big wad of games all on a summary sheet, with hardly any information on, but also a lump sum claim which is a bit of a shock all at once. I am trying to keep the books running and something like that does not help'.

Vernon had also asked that the EC consider where future meetings be held with a view to ensuring that expenditure on those meetings be kept to a minimum. It was agreed that a different venue be found for the February meeting.

8. Development Officer's Report

Allan reported that the Development Committee had gone through the suggested Markers course and the 'Route-map' in detail prior to this EC meeting and he would be publishing the revised version in due course. He would also be recruiting and training Tutors for these courses.

Following his review of the Development programme he would be recruiting and training new tutors and examiners to fill the shortfall.

The pilots of the Markers courses were proving very successful and many of those attending were now applying to join the Association.

He suggested that the letter Rick was sending to indoor clubs include a request for the use of their greens for development courses.

It had been arranged for the membership application to be amended to cover those applying for membership after the Marker courses. It was confirmed that the membership fee for markers was the same as for umpires.

There are now very few manuals left (a box of 20 only) it was agreed that a further supply would be ordered and the relevant amendments made to the text.

Allan pointed out that originally officers had set up the sub-committees they needed for their roles. He felt it was now time that these should be revisited in view of the changes that had and would be taking place to the EC. It was agreed that Rick and Vernon would review this and report back to the next meeting so that appointments could be made after the AGM.

9. Area Secretaries Reports

Area 1 – Val Coldwell

Val reported as follows:-

The north has been host to the PBA in Carlisle, at which seven of our Association members were on duty. Also there has been a Premier3s event at York and Stanley, Co Durham which were covered by 6 members in all.

We have a new co-ordinator for Yorks, Mrs Maxime Groce and Mr Brian Critchlow has announced his intention to retire at the end of the year, fortunately I have someone waiting in the wings to take up that position. The position is still vacant in Durham, but someone has said he will consider doing it.'

Area 2 – Brian Burton

This is a very quiet year, although there have been two Premier3s and the VIBE nationals.

Three county co-ordinators have been lost in the year, but replacements had been found.

Area 3 – Bob Penny

Trevor was shortly standing down as Area Secretary but Bob had agreed to take over as Area Secretary, and was awaiting information on members, county co-ordinators etc.

Bob also pointed out that Trevor had hitherto been responsible for the Newsletter, but Bob did not intend to take on this responsibility with that or being Area Secretary.

Area 4 – Carol Watt Sullivan

There had been a PBA event in Bromley at the end of September.

A pilot Markers course had taken place in Middlesex and another was planned for Bromley in early November.

An Umpire workshop/examinations had been arranged for Horsham, and it was hoped to arrange others in Sussex and Kent.

She was hoping to arrange an area meeting for November, and would publicise this in due course.

Child Protection – nothing to report here, but reminded the committee that juniors should be accompanied by a 'guardian', although she had not heard of any under 18s lately.

Area 5 –Ray Keen

A workshop/examinations weekend had been arranged in January at Taunton Deane and he hoped to arrange another at Westlecott in March.

There were 3 entrants from the area for the ITO exams and another had applied to be re-assessed.

Area 6 – John Davies

The area had covered events at Poole and Bournemouth and PBA and Premier3 events.

The Area meeting had been arranged for 27 October.

He wanted to thank all his co-ordinators for all the work they had put in to make sure all events had been successfully 'covered'.

10. Any other business

- a) The EIBA has acknowledged the work put in by the umpires for the Premier3 events and thanked them via the Association for their help.
- b) Sue had not received an agenda and asked people to note her correct email address.
- c) Alan asked for clarification of how International Umpires were selected. There seemed to be a lot of older ones listed who were no longer appointed to duties. There also appeared to be many more on the list than could be needed.

It was agreed that a selection committee was needed and criteria for selection should be properly established.

It was also agreed Rick would review the current list and notify those who would then be noted as 'not active' on the international list.

- d) Allan had heard that some counties seems to think that the gender of the umpire was relevant i.e. lady umpires for the Atherley and men for the Liberty. It was confirmed that this was not the case and Rick would write to all County Secretaries and remind them of this.
- e) Val said she had been asked to provide umpires for an event for the profoundly deaf and one of the players had enquired about becoming an umpire (they were already qualified as a crown green umpire). There did not seem to be any problem with this as long as they provided a 'signer' if necessary during the workshop and examination.
- f) Phyl pointed out that a lot of 'meeting time' could be saved if Officers and Area Secretaries submitted their reports in advance of the meeting, as they could then just be noted and any questions asked. It would also make the minute taking easier. It was agreed that reports should be circulated before the meeting.
- g) Mick and Brian from the EIBA thanked the committee for the warm welcome they had received as well as the information the meeting had given them. It was agreed that a meeting would be set-up between the EIBA and the Association to review the indoor competition 'rules' with a view to clarifying them especially in respect of the 'competent person' they referred to

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 16.00pm and wished everyone a safe journey home.

M Wellington
Chairman