

English Bowls Umpires Association

Minutes of an Executive Meeting held on 14 February 2016 at Oxford City & County BC

Present

Mavis Wellington	–	Chairman
Vernon Findell	–	Secretary/Treasurer
Phyl Jones	–	Deputy Chairman
Val Coldwell	–	Area Secretary
Ray Keen	–	Area Secretary
Malcolm Griffith	–	Area Secretary
John Davies	–	Area Secretary
Brain Burton		

1. Chairman's Opening Remarks

Mavis welcomed Malcolm Griffith to the meeting as a new Area Secretary as well as Brian Burton who had been invited by Vernon as this would be his last meeting, having retired as an Area Secretary. She also welcomed all the other Executive Members. She said that as the Committee's pre-AGM meeting it was very important, with a lot of business to get through as no meeting has been held in the autumn.

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies had been received from Allan Thornhill (Development Officer), Jessie Clark (Deputy Secretary), Carol Watt Sullivan (Area Secretary/Safeguarding Officer) and Bob Penny (Area Secretary)

3. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting were proposed as accurate by Ray Keen and seconded by Val Coldwell and duly signed by the Chairman.

4. Matters arising

- i) Taunton Deane – Ray had dealt with this
- ii) Bowls England staff as umpires – Vernon said that although he was still getting queries referred from BE the numbers had decreased considerably.
- iii) Letter to ladies who were formerly markers in the ladies Association. It appeared that this had not been sent. Phyl volunteered to deal with this as it was important we brought these ladies back into the Association as they were both trained and experienced. It was agreed that they would need to attend a markers course etc to refresh their skills.
- iv) Vernon had arranged to have the uniform order form amended to include a membership number to ensure that only members were able to order.

The remainder were items needing to be raised with Allan.

5. Correspondence

- i) Vernon had received a letter from the EIBA Ltd concerning their new competitions for next season and the revisions to the existing competitions. He outlined these to the Committee.
- ii) Vernon had received details of those who had attained the ITO and congratulated those who had been successful.
- iii) Vernon had received a letter concerning markers – It was confirmed that markers would not be allocated jobs requiring travelling long distances being kept within their local area.
- iv) It was also confirmed that markers would be eligible to apply to work at Leamington when they had been qualified for a year.

6. Secretary's Report.

Vernon submitted the following report –

This is my 5th report, and am sorry to say I am still enjoying it, well most of the time. Since the last meeting we have lost the following members:-
Terrence Knight BEM, Herefordshire co-ordinator,
Roy Edwards Dorset, Margaret Johnson, retired Northants ,

As stated in the Treasurer's report, membership is down again, with a total of umpires and markers now totalling 595.

I would like to congratulate all who passed the ITO exams, well done.

I would like to thank Andy Ewens for and his "crew" for all their good work in Cyprus and to Vic Perry and Ray Keen in Israel.

I would like to say a special thank you to all the Area Secretaries, and county co-ordinators for all their sterling work, also Karen Wood, who seems to get more abuse for doing her job voluntary, than the rest of us put together, and Ken Bickley for keeping the web site up to date.

Another thank you, and I feel it must be said is to Brian Burton, who has managed to keep the Midlands in order for nearly 20 years, and also being a friend, and occasional letter writer for me, he is more eloquent than I am!!, but at least we have got Malcolm to carry on, and I am sure with a helping hand from Brian if needed.

The EIBA have got a new competition Secretary, his name is Carl Higgins.

What I have seen of him so far is that he is very efficient, but much more importantly, when he introduces players onto the green he also mentions the marker and umpire by name.

There are some major changes, which they are trialling for the 2016/17 season.

All 21 end, 4 hour games are to be reduced to 18 ends and three and a half hours.

All 18 end 4 hour games are to be reduced to 16 ends and three and a half hours.

New Competitions trialling for 1 year are:-

2 bowls singles which will be 21 shots, yes that is right 21 shots, initially as a 1 year trial for men only, if it takes off it will be brought in for both sexes.

Also again reintroducing the generation pairs, but to call it the Family Pairs.

They have also arranged all National Team competitions on fixed dates, these should be on their web site soon.'

The question of a recruiting drive was discussed and it was agreed that coloured posters would be designed, printed and displayed at events such as National Championships where umpires were working. It was also agreed that as well as the 'advert' that BE had put in their Handbook Vernon would ask the EIBA to do the same and he would approach County Associations to include it in their books. Vernon thanked Brian for the work he had put into the Association for many years and hoped he would enjoy his retirement, but he was sure that he would be there to advise or help Malcolm if he needed it.

7. Treasurer's Report

Vernon supplied the following report and financial statements:-

'No auditors fee for 2014 as paid at end of 2013 {£400-00}

We managed to make a small "profit" of £2662.00 for the whole year, but you will notice xx next to the travel account, and if this had not been reduced to 30p a mile, as from the 40p I increased it to last year [2014] we would have been looking at quite a sizeable loss [approximately £1500-00]

The figures of £35348.00 in various bank accounts equates to difference in sales, balance of subs, after expenses and the 3 donations to funds via EIBA and Bowls England. But more importantly £9900.00 advance subs, so in actual fact we have only £25448.00 belonging to the Association.

I do not see a need to increase the subs next year, but dependent on the number of umpires/markers who drop out, through not re-testing, non-payment of subs, and Father Time taking his share I will have to possibly have to be looking at an increase in 2017.

At the moment we have a total of 595 members, luckily we have the "markers" otherwise the umpires list would look very sick at 471.

34 have resigned through ill health, not re-taking, and uniform issues, plus another 20 who have not paid their subs, after numerous reminders.'

Financial Report (see attached)

Vernon told the meeting that he had discussed with the EIBA increasing the rate of 'pay' for umpires/markers at their Championships, as this was very low and had remained unchanged for many years. This was ongoing.

8. Development Officer's Report

Allan had supplied the following report:-

WIBC Indoor Laws

It would appear that the World Indoor Bowls Council are revising the Indoor Laws for use in the UK. I am not sure if the EBUA will have the opportunity to comment on the changes – I doubt it.

Workshops

3 workshops have been held since the last Exec meeting. 2 of which fell on the same weekend.

Following the course in Bodmin, I sent a communication to Area Secretaries stressing the importance of workshops and examinations being conducted on different days. Bodmin was clear evidence that cramming everything into one day does not work and must not be allowed to happen.

I was also disappointed that my mode of transport for this course was questioned. Perhaps it would be wise to consider the logistics of travel and the commitment of individuals before commenting in such a way. I actually saved the association in the order of £150 that weekend!!

On a positive note I am pleased to say that Brian Burton has offered to assist with the training.

Examinations

Apart from Bodmin, during which my hand was forced into training and examining at the same time, the other examination sessions have been extremely successful. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to the excellent examination team. We have also been fortunate enough to gain some new examiners who I am sure will do an excellent job.

Assessments

Some preliminary work was carried out at Leamington in August and feedback from that was positive. There is still much to do and the next stage is to work up some assessment criteria. I have a small team working on this.

Markers Courses

Since the last meeting there have been 12 markers course held throughout the country. These have been very well received as demonstrated by the excellent feedback from many of them.

The numbers of individuals joining the association as markers continues to increase. I would like to thank all the Marker tutors for their organisation and assistance. The programme is running smoothly in the majority of case.

11 Area Secretaries Reports

Area 1 – Val Coldwell

Val reported as follows;-

I should like to start this report by saying how sorry I was to hear about the terrible flooding of Cumbria Indoor Bowling Club. The whole green was covered by 3/4 feet of river water This is the second time their club has been affected like this This venue has been an excellent supporter of the EBUA. Offering its venue free of charge for assessment weekends and also for markers courses, for many years.

In the northern area the umpires have done a sterling job covering the duties that were required. Another markers course is arranged for Harrogate on 21st February and this course was filled within half a day of the notice being put up, so as a result it wasn't put on the website. However if any clubs in the Northern counties would like

to consider holding a markers course please contact me Val Coldwell and I would be only too pleased to make the arrangements.

When I get the updated members list I will try to arrange venues for assessment for existing, new and upgrading members. County co-ordinations please carry on the excellent work you are doing for our association and try to encourage more bowlers to consider becoming umpires and markers for the EBUA.

Area 3 – Bob Penny

Bob reported as follows:-

There has been little significant change since my previous report.

I am very grateful for the time and effort made by the County Co-ordinators in considering and allocating umpires for local and county games. Umpires who have chosen to impose their influence or inaccurate law interpretation on games will be carefully considered for future game appointments. Preference will also be given to those umpires who have current certificates and have made the efforts to attend the required workshops and so I ask markers and umpires to check the expiry dates of their certificates to make sure they do not lapse.

The trend of umpire membership will be confirmed on receipt of the 2016 membership data but it is anticipated that numbers will be reducing. There are a combination of factors including age, physical ability, uniform requirements and certificate renewal requirements that are influencing umpires' decisions about membership.

Area 3 continues to be without County Coordinators for Beds and Herts. A request has gone out to the Herts umpires for a volunteer without success. The name of a volunteer has been put forward by the Herts County Association. Although not an EBUA member, this may be the best way forward to ensure the coordination between requests for umpires from Groups and counties and the allocation of umpires from the area.

A further training and development workshop is being planned for Riverain IBC Hitchin Herts on 21/22 May 2016 for umpires from Area 3 and elsewhere to complete their development training, to renew their certificates or to upgrade to national grade.

Tony Hatch of Essex continues to be very active in arranging Markers seminars and these have been well supported by other umpires and well attended by players leading to the membership of several new marker members. A sincere note of appreciation for all Tony's efforts. Details about forthcoming seminars are available on the EBUA website including a Markers seminar in Bedford on 5 March 2016.

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.

Area 4 – Carol Watt Sullivan

Yet again a busy schedule within all the counties in South East.

Kent hosted the National U25 singles championship finals at Swanley (White Oak IBC) over the weekend of 6-7 February and a team of 17 EBUA members manned the rinks in a range of umpiring and marking duties enabling the EIBA to run a successful event over the 2 days. It gave some of our members the opportunity to mark and umpire top class matches and hopefully it will encourage some to find the time to work at Leamington in the future (for those who have not already applied).

A number of members due for reassessment attended the Barking Assessment Weekend in early October 2015 and I am trying to set up an assessment weekend at Horsham at present (30 April and 1 May as Allan is free on 30 April and Vic Perry has confirmed he will get a team for 1 May, even though Bank Holiday weekend) before we get too busy this coming summer. I will be inviting 2015 and 2016 candidates along with those wishing to join as Regional and those upgrading in next few days.

Markers courses still prove popular with various courses being held throughout the area throughout the winter and more are on the timetable on the EBUA web-site. Following discrete enquiries (none willing to put head above parapet) to find a replacement for Angela Barker in Sussex a circular email was sent to all umpires in Sussex and hopefully Angela and I will find a willing volunteer (or 2) to manage the county (we have at least one potential candidate with good organisation skills with whom we will be pursuing the matter further). Allocating duties (or lack of them) has not been easy indoors in Sussex with the Sussex Indoor Men allocating (and paying for) their own staffing (therefore we cannot monitor to maintain our standards). The Sussex ladies, both indoors and outdoors relationships continue to work well (so far).

As normal, anno domini etc is creeping up on our members and several have already intimated their forthcoming retirement and have been kind enough to advise me. One of them, whose help and service I will miss greatly is Neville Bedford who has decided that now he is 85 (or so) will be relinquishing his post as one of the Kent Co-ordinators and we are actively looking for a suitable replacement in that part of Kent (sadly as you are aware he lost his wife Jean shortly before Leamington last year). As a result teams in the counties are actively looking at good regional umpires to persuade to upgrade to national grade to ensure successor planning.

Area 5 –Ray Keen

Allan ran a Workshop for me in Bristol in December which was very successful and I have a Workshop booked for Westlecot on 27th/28th February. We have run Markers Courses in Gloucestershire, Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Wiltshire and have Markers Courses planned for Herefordshire, 10th April and Oxfordshire, 15th May. Peter Stewart, Mike Manns and Keith Sawdon run Markers Courses quite regularly in their Counties and all have Courses planned.

I now have more or less appointed Umpires to all of the Johns, Middleton Cup, Walker, Balcombe and White Rose Matches including the loads of halfway houses that tend to finish up mostly in Somerset.

Area 6

John Davies said that he needed to run 3 workshop weekends in this area in the next year, and had tried to find out when Allan or one of the other tutors was available, and it was very difficult to get a tutor and a club with space available at the same time.

9. AGM

- a) Arrangements – It was confirmed that the Naval Club had been booked for the meeting to commence at 11.00am but the room would be available from 10.00am with tea & coffee.
- b) Nominations
 - i) Secretary – Vernon Findell
Proposed - Val Coldwell
Seconded - Bernardette Hill
 - ii) Deputy Secretary – Jessie Clark
Proposed - Peter Price
Seconded – Mary Price
 - iii) National Development Officer – Allan Thornhill
Proposed – Alex Duckworth
Seconded – Ray Keen
- c) Motions – Phyl had drafted the following motion concerning the Association uniform as she had been asked at the last meeting
'Insert at Item 6 of Constitution (and renumber all following items)
The following shall be the uniform for all members undertaking duties on behalf of the Association
Navy Blue EBUA 'approved' shirt
White shoes
White/navy socks
For men
Navy trousers
For Women
Navy trousers
Or Navy cropped trousers
Or Navy skirt
Waterproof outerwear (if required) to be navy'

10. Any other business

- a) The question of the status of the ITOs within the Association was raised. After a discussion it was agreed that Phyl would investigate their position with the other national umpire bodies and report back to the next meeting.
- b) Recruitment. It was noted that no letter had as yet been sent to the former 'lady markers' (latterly club umpires) who had left the Association pointing out to them the existence of the marker course inviting them to return as markers.

It was agreed that Phyl would take that on and Vernon would supply her with the details of their names and addresses

- c) It was noted that the web pages were not being well used. At some times no new entries were being submitted to be 'put up' for several months. For example things of interest to members should be put there e.g. that the allocation of duties for Leamington had been issued. Phyl said we should be using it more as people were stopping looking at it as it did not change! It was agreed that the site should be used for more than just advertising the dates of upcoming training dates.
- d) Future meetings. Although it was possible to set the date for the next meeting this was more complicated for the autumn and following spring. It was agreed that Phyl would (later in the year) send a form out to EC members to find out the best dates for these to take place.

11 Next meeting

The next meeting would be on 21 August at 11.00am at Leamington.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 13.20, and wished everyone a safe journey home and looked forward to seeing them at the next meeting.

M Wellington
Chairman

ENGLISH BOWLSUMPIRES ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	2015 £	2014 £
<u>Income</u>		
Sales – Blazers, General & Manuals	8,660.84	5,642.05
Course/exam fees	6,705.55	3,928.80
Subscriptions received	7,650.00	8,253.00
Donations received – Outdoor/Indoor	640.00	730.00
Raffles		
Grants - EBA	11,300.00	11,300.00
Grants - EIBA		
Interest Received	89.71	115.27
Donations Received - umpires	<u>565.94</u>	<u>1,074.05</u>
	<u>35,612.04</u>	<u>31,043.17</u>
 <u>Expenses</u>		
Purchases – Materials & Blazers	6,225.26	1,466.38
Production of Manuals	2,726.66	2,558.24
Course/Exam Expenses	4,111.30	4,836.54
Development Expenses		1,365.28
Contribution to Expenses		
Umpires Expenses		
Training Costs		
Postage	1,388.44	1,064.04
Telephones	1,407.58	1,272.86
Travelling	12,892.74	13,727.67
Printing	350.00	767.25
Stationary	1,392.18	1,391.44
Computer Costs	658.88	315.22
Audit & Accountancy Fees	250.00	
Insurance	80.50	80.50
Maintenance Costs	153.60	
Donations Paid	88.50	205.99
Bank Charges & Interest		
Friendly Matches		89.95
Depreciation	268.43	368.43
Equipment Hire		
Stock Write Off/Down	954.71	954.71
Profit/Loss on Fixed Assets		
Miscellaneous		<u>20.00</u>
	<u>32,949.78</u>	<u>28,575.08</u>

ENGLISH BOWLSUMPIRES ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	2015	2014
	£	£
Income	35,612.04	31,043.17
Previous Year Adjustment	0.00	0.00
Expenses	<u>32,949.78</u>	<u>29,529.79</u>
	2662.26	1,613.38
Members' Funds brought forward	<u>27,871.80</u>	<u>26,358.42</u>
	<u>30,534.06</u>	<u>27,871.80</u>

Made up as follows:

Current Account	1,536.91	1,063.59
Deposit Account	3,731.37	28,722.72
Deposit Account – 6 Months Fixed	30,081.06	
Deposit Account – 12 Months Fixed		
Petty Cash	50.00	50.00
Cash Float – Mrs K Wood	200.00	200.00
Equipment	220.20	488.63
Stock	4,607.52	7,120.86
Development Investment		
Prepayments		
Creditors and Accruals	9,893.00	9,774.00
Previous Year Adjustment	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>30,534.06</u>	<u>27,871.80</u>

Report to the Members of the English Bowls Umpires Association

I have examined the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2015. My examination included checking the basis on which the accounts are prepared, together with the underlying accounting records and source documentation. This examination has been carried out on a test basis. I have not carried out an audit in the technical sense of formally complying with Audit Standards Guidelines and Regulations as issued by accountancy bodies.

I confirm that the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2015 is in accordance with the accounting records, underlying documentation, and the policy adopted towards equipment purchased (which is to write off the cost over the estimated life of the equipment)

A.R. Busby

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