

# **English Bowls Umpires Association**

## **Minutes of an Executive Meeting held on 19 October 2014 at Oxford C & C BC, Oxford**

### **Present**

Mavis Wellington – Chairman  
Vernon Findell – Secretary/Treasurer  
Jessie Clark Deputy – Secretary  
Phyl Jones – Deputy Chairman  
Val Coldwell – Area Secretary  
Carol Watt Sullivan – Area Secretary/Safeguarding Officer  
Ray Keen – Area Secretary  
Brain Burton – Area Secretary  
John Davies – Area Secretary  
Bob Penny – Area Secretary  
Geoff Day – EIBA Ltd observer  
Gillian Wonnacott – EIBA Ltd observer  
Sue Trott - Executive Member

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

Mavis welcomed everyone to the meeting especially Gillian & Geoff from the EIBA, And she hoped that when the meeting was over all would have safe trips home and 'winter well'.

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

Apologies had been received from Allan Thornhill (Development Officer), Mich Van Putt (Executive Member) and Tony Allcock (Bowls England).

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

The minutes of the previous meeting was proposed by Jessie Clark, seconded Brian Burton and signed by Mavis Wellington as a true record.

### **4. Matters arising NIL**

### **5. Correspondence**

Correspondence received by the Secretary had been summarised by the Secretary on a spreadsheet distributed to the EC members – the original correspondence was available if members wished to look at it.

It was agreed that any correspondence which might involve the EIBA Ltd would be forwarded for them to see.

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

I am now entering over half way as Secretary and Treasurer.

I know some of you disagree with the situation, but I feel at the moment I am coping very well, and every query from Bowls England, E.I.B.A. and various other sources have been answered on the same day, if possible, or consulted with others to help me reply.

### Leamington Money Next Year.

Due to the high cost of withdrawing vast sums of money, and the security aspect of transporting same, I have decided for next year to pay everybody by BACS at the end of the national finals.

Each person working at Leamington will receive a sheet, which will be filled in by the co-ordinators assistant and initialled by same. There will also be attached a claim form for them to fill in with the attached duty sheets, signed and forwarded both to me, they will then have the amount paid straight into their bank account.

What has brought this about is because the bank has advised me that we will have to pay charges, so I have also opened another account, purely for this.

### Jersey Internationals

We had a good report about our 3 wandering stars, namely Val, Vic & Ray, they did not let us down, not that I expected them to, being of such high calibre...

### Director of European bowls

I would like to congratulate Andy Ewens on being elected to the above post.

### Umpires Advertisement

I remembered from the past that Bowls England and E.I.B.A. were willing to put an advert to become an umpire on their newsletter, so Allan and I knocked up a quick advert, as it was needed for publication, and to date I have been told that they will be in both yearbooks, but better than that it was in the Leamington nationals programme, and 2 people have made enquiries to join.

The advert is totally free.

### Laws of the Sport Crystal Mark Edition 3

I would like to thank Allan, on behalf of Bowls England for all his work up-dating the domestic regulations for this, he had very little time before Bowls England were going to print.

Also Bowls England's new handbook "Guidance for New Bowlers"

As mentioned in Allan's report about displacement cards, I would like, when sending next year's membership card to send a free copy to all who renew their membership, along with the displacement cards, then there can be no excuse of not knowing the new laws. The Association can afford these, otherwise I would not have made the above offer.

### Guernsey Umpires Course

During September Allan and Vic were invited by Guernsey bowls to run an umpires course and exams. From the feedback that I received, all but 1 passed with flying colours. Please note there was no charge on our Associations expenses, as all expenses were paid for by G.B.A.

### National Top Club, Male & Female Finals 2014.

By contrast to the National finals in August, this was run by Phyl Jones, with a little help from elsewhere, using largely "new" markers and umpires who had not worked at Leamington in the National finals before, and everything ran very smoothly, perhaps it was something to do with members being told what to do, and not thinking they knew what to do. It does make a difference.

## National Indoor Finals 2015

Your comments or otherwise on selections please.

### Nottingham

John & Sharon Davies.

Tony Hatch.

Peter Stewart.

Plus 1 local for 25<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> March.

### Melton

Ken Bickley.

Colin Wilson.

Karen Wood.

Ray Keen

With me being odd job man/co-ordinator.

Application forms for marking at both venues are already on the EBUA web-site, so if you know of any who could officiate, even if Regional, if you think they are good enough.

Now a highly controversial item.

I want to reduce the size of the executive committee, as we do not need so many on it, but also the cost of same.

In the last meeting [before the AGM] it cost us £997-00

This meeting will cost £1082.00 to the barest AA googled maps. Plus refreshments and room hire of £25-00.

Also even more so. When I introduced the 40p a mile travel, it was mainly aimed at umpires who do the duties, I know we also do so, but I feel on the long runs, especially over 100 miles we are getting good mpg and I would like to propose for the first 100 miles total we get 40p a mile, and the rest at 25p a mile.

Just as an aside 1 MP covers 98,615 people, we average out at 1 committee member to 48 people.'

The Committee discussed the various items arising from the report, and it was agreed that Vernon would submit a plan and motion for the reduction in the size of the EC for discussion at the next meeting and then to be proposed by the committee to the AGM in April.

It was agreed that the Executive members would not be needed at the February meeting. They were both thanked for their considerable efforts for the Association over the years.

## **7. Treasurer's Report**

Vernon supplied the following report:-

### 'Membership As Of Today's Date.

A total of 681 members, made up as follows

358 men & 20 markers

295 women & 8 markers.

To my knowledge, through being advised by themselves we are losing 5 men & 5 women at the end of the year, I am sure there will be more.

To date there have been 145 deletions, made up as follows

9 deaths. Bob Hutchins. Janet Leyland-Naylor. Francis Newton. Mary Porter. Peter Rowland. Bill Sammons. John Steele. James Weir. Eric York

61 non-payments of subs, after 3 reminders.

59 out of date certificates, after numerous requests.

16 various other reasons

#### Copies Of Accounts distributed

Travel costs up to £12,458-00. \*\* For the whole year of 2013 it was £9963.00. The main reason for this is that there are fewer umpires, so they have to travel further, and also the fact that all counties now pay the £100.00 levy, so do not help the umpires with their expenses, as in the past.

\*\* This includes the payment of £976-00 for Nottingham accommodation, to get best price.

Subs down from £8452.00 to £7972.00

Grant from Bowls England £5500.00

“donation” from each county £3500.00

Donations to date this year £500.00 last year £1875.00 so gain of £2125.00, but claims for travel up by £352.00, but not full year yet

Course/exam fees £2943.00 expenses £4234.00, this had been allowed for as Allan & Vic travelled to each venue, for a 1 off “show how it should be done”

Sales down by £1823.00 -Purchases down by £4009.00’

Vernon explained that the accounts were more complicated than usual as it had not been possible when updating to a later version of ‘Sage’ to bring the previous year’s figure forward

The committee discussed the expenses paid to those attending EC meetings and it was agreed that mileage should be paid at the rate of 40 pence per mile for the first 100miles and 25 pence per mile for miles in excess of that.

The committee then reviewed the figures shown in the accounts in respect of expenses reimbursed to umpires. Vernon pointed out that this was increasing for various reasons including, because we now have fewer umpires they are now travelling further, and it appeared that the donation scheme formulated with Bowls England and the Counties was costing the Association more than had originally been thought.

The position was discussed and it was agreed that we must revisit the agreement with Bowls England. It was proposed Jessie Clark, seconded Phyl Jones that Vernon would work out the current position on a county by county basis and using this information formulate a revised scheme and put this to Bowls England. This proposal was passed with 10 votes for and 1 against.

### **8. Development Officer’s Report**

Allan had submitted his report as follows:-

#### ‘Workshops & Examinations

A number of workshops and examinations were held during the summer

April – Leicester; May – Southampton & Cambridge; June – Poole; September – Eastbourne

All were successfully run with a number of examiners and training assistants being recruited and trained. Vic and I have attended the majority of them.

#### Markers Courses

These have proved to be extremely popular and well received.

A total of 13 courses have been held in 2014. These have attracted approximately 230 candidates at £5 per head. A good number of these candidates have joined the association. The largest course attracted 35 people which is above the maximum that is comfortable to manage.

It was clear early on that the concept of awarding competence by taking the practical exercises at an umpires course was not working. A few exercises do not prove competence and the time added to the examination process was not justifiable.

For this reason the process has been tweaked slightly so that competence is only awarded when evidence of “working” assessment is provided. All course attendees will continue to receive an attendance certificate.

The Procedures Documents have been amended to reflect this and will be distributed shortly.

### Laws of the Sport

Unless one has been living on Mars for the past 18 months, you will be aware that the Crystal Mark Laws have been revised. The revisions were approved at the World Bowls Biennial Meeting in August.

The practical changes are fairly minor but the overall amendments have meant that a complete rewrite of the book was required. The biggest change has been a restructuring of the Law book and in my opinion it is laid out more logically now.

I have been working with Bowls England to produce a summary document of the changes which have now been approved. This will be distributed to all members and published on our website.

I have also been working with Bowls England to revise the Domestic Regulations. These have been trimmed slightly, some being removed and some amended to make sense. There is an additional DR relating to the delegation of the Scorecard by the skip. Bowls England have approved these DR's and we are waiting for World Bowls to approve them. As soon as that is done the Law books will be printed. Copies of the DR's will be circulated with the summary of changes.

### Training Manual

Of course the implication of the Law changes means that the Training Manual requires a rewrite. I will be taking the opportunity to revise other sections of the manual as well as the Laws section which will need restructuring in line with the Laws. I am also taking the opportunity to re-shoot some of the photographs to ensure they are up to date.

I am yet undecided how we should make the laws section available to those that have already purchased a manual. My gut feeling is that we could publish just that section on the website for people to download and print themselves. It would not be cost productive to print and bind just that section to sell separately. Of course the full revised manual will still be available and I do not anticipate the cost changing.

The DVD will remain unaltered.

### Displacement Cards

With the law changes we will need to amend the training materials. This includes the Displacement cards which are extremely popular with our members.

Currently Alex Duckworth prints and laminates these for us at his expense. I would like to record my thanks to him for doing this over so many years. I would like to propose that we now get these printed professionally at the same time as the manual. Vernon has agreed that we could send the revised version to every member of the association in the New Year, when they renew their annual membership. This will mean that only new candidates will require them at the workshops.

## Examination and Workshop Documents

The examination papers have now been updated to include the new laws.

The Workbooks are close to being completed and will be ready by the end of this year.

The workshop material will be amended next and the content will commence from the New Year.

## Personnel

It is with deep regret that I must inform you that Alex Duckworth has decided to discontinue his role as Training Administrator. Alex has meticulously carried out this role for over 12 years and has been a great asset to both Andy and myself whilst carrying out our roles. I have no idea how many examination papers he must have marked in that time but it must be significant and I would like to record a huge vote of thanks for his service.

During the winter I will be seeking a replacement and Alex has agreed to shadow this individual until they are up to speed with the role.

## Future Workshops and Markers Courses

Please ensure that you inform me at the earliest opportunity about dates for Workshops and Examinations and future Markers Courses. The earlier I know the easier it is to arrange the right people to be in the right places.

We have a written process now to help with arranging workshops and the steps to follow. This way we have the papers produced on time, the certificates issued and the right people attending.

On a personal note I must inform you that my working commitments are currently significant and will continue to be so through too approximately next March. I am also committed to the World Bowls Tour season. I will attempt to attend any workshops where I am available.'

The Committee unanimously asked Vernon to write to Alex and express their thanks for the considerable amount of work he had done for the Association over the years. Arising from the report the Committee had the following queries for Allan to respond to

- Did he have any candidate in mind to recommend to the committee to take over from Alex?
- Could he please confirm how he was progressing with the appointment of new tutors and Examiners?
- Could he please confirm his plans for the use of examiners and tutors locally, and who they were?

It was unanimously agreed that Alan should be complemented on the good job he was doing as Development Officer as well as appreciating the amount of both time and effort he put into this work.

## 9. Championships

The Secretary had asked for reports following the Leamington Championships.

Gareth Willcock submitted the following report;-

### 'National Finals 2014 – Men's Section

Overall I was satisfied with the Finals of 2014. Given all the issues in the build up to them going ahead at Royal Leamington Spa for the first time.

However there are a number of areas for improvement within the current arrangements.

1. Application process.
2. Appointment system.
3. Day to day event management.
4. Event finalisation.

There were no major issues raised during the men's section of the Finals which would reflect poorly upon the Umpires Association. However there were minor issues which identify a further training requirement for individuals.

I was pleased to be involved and am currently willing to accept any offer of future involvement.'

Jessie Clark submitted the following report;-

### 'LEAMINGTON 2014

I have been in the umpire's office at Leamington for 13 years. So I believe my knowledge, particularly with regard to the Women's Championship, is significant.

- In knowing how the Championship office works.
- A good knowledge of how the Umpires and markers work
- In having the confidence that people who work at Leamington could rely on me. This year I was perturbed at the lack of names submitted and then was concerned when it emerged that many who had submitted their names had been missed off the list that I had to work from. After allocating the duties from the names available, there were many duties still to fill. My knowledge of members helped me to make telephone calls to fill in some duties but I was going to Leamington with some 40 duties vacant. On top of this as the Nationals got nearer there were several withdrawals from those already allocated duties, through sickness, family commitments or just being clever enough to win through to play.

I then followed my normal practice and attempted to fill the vacancies from spectators who I knew were qualified to mark, and some who had been markers but had not re-qualified, about two people were on this category. As a last resort on the day that 80 duties had to be filled, the JVP of Bowls England stepped into the breach.

I am always gratified how everyone joins in and accept late duties occurring because of double-ups, and will always leave their telephone numbers, which I can use as an

emergency. I believe that as far as the Women's Championships were concerned we again gave a good service to Bowls England.

There have been whispers that the standards were lower than acceptable, that chalk was being used instead of puffers, etc. If the people looking from the outside making these comments were to get actively involved in the organisation then I think their attitudes would change. We are at Leamington to assist the players and to help Bowls England; by making sure that an Umpire or marker or in the last resort someone who can centre the jack and keep the scorecard is available on request. This is the reason for our existence, the players only require people who help their game and are reliable. These requirements we do fulfil.

I would mention the Sutton-Winston junior singles. A competition completely outside the Nationals involving 128 under 18's we were only asked to provide Umpires who were paid from sponsorship money. Players were asked to provide their own markers, which many did, but the dreadful weather made life difficult and I am grateful to Umpires, Markers and general spectators who volunteered of their own volition. They all deserve a big thank you and should certainly not be criticised.'

The Committee then discussed various issues arising from the championship Vernon had produced various documents showing how he wished Leamington to be run in 2015 (see attached) together with information and forms that would be issued to members when they were advised of their duties. Most of the items in the advisory information had arisen from the lack of information and misunderstandings that had happened this year.

The Committee discussed the various documents (and forms) and broadly accepted them.

It was agreed that they should be issued to those awarded duties together with a letter congratulating them on being selected.

It was also suggested that a similar document of 'hints & tips and best practice' for markers be produced to be sent to those members selected to mark.

## **10. Area Secretaries Reports**

### Area 1 – Val Coldwell

Val reported as follows;-

'Not much to report all the outdoor games were covered with help from my coordinators. We are looking for a venue for an assessment weekend I have 6 new people waiting for their exam and a good few to re qualify hoping to find venue before Christmas '

### Area 2 – Brian Burton

Brian reported as follows;-

'Most of the area information was covered in the last newsletter, so I shall not go over that again.

We played a Midland Counties team at Nuneaton on Thursday July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014 and won comfortably.

Just shows that even as umpires, we can still do the business.



We ran the VIBE (Visually Impaired) National Championships at Leamington in June which was very successfully handled by Gareth Willcock.

Also, the EALABA Championships were covered successfully at Tamworth.

We held our Annual Meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September, which was well attended and at which the current Secretary was unanimously elected for a further year.

A number of issues were raised.

- Should we run training for ITO's as they do in other areas.
- Could an element be added to the Marking course to cover V.I. marking (We use more markers for VIBE Championships than we do at Leamington!)
- Many people commented on the constant schedule changes by BE at Leamington
- Info on a public forum was incorrect re Markers.

Our next Workshop will be held on the weekend of Sat 11<sup>th</sup> April 2015 & Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2015 at Leicester – Slater Street.

We are also covering a Marking course at Shrewsbury IBC on Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2015

Brian Rees has resigned as County Co-ordinator for Northamptonshire and his place has been taken by Geoff Thomas – we wish him well in his new role.

We are haemorrhaging umpires at the moment, with more going than joining.

Unfortunately, it's the more experienced umpires we are losing in the main.

Currently, we have around half the number of active umpires than we had prior to amalgamation. The uniform issue has been a major factor, although this should be the last year for this, but many of our members are of a mature age and feel that they no longer leap up & down with the alacrity which they used to.

We are striving to get more umpires in, but it's only a trickle. Many are put off by the cost as nowadays it is about £200 to become an umpire by the time you have paid for the entrance fee, membership, uniform and a reasonable set of equipment.

Additionally, you don't get rich from the proceeds of umpiring!!

I have kept out of the Leamington issue as I was not there, but having discussed it with those who were; believe that the majority of Marking and Umpiring was well handled, but that there were certainly a number of below par performances.

If I may paraphrase Edmund Burke who famously said

"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Why did people feel necessary to contact Allan who was more than 100 miles away, when we had loads of EBUA executive members, county co-ordinators and senior Nationals/Internationals on the spot who could have dealt with the issue at the time had they been advised? Does he have magic powers??

What we now appear to have is a number of complaints (or is it whingeing) without detail and the umpires concerned are still going about their work in a "sloppy" fashion without knowing it and probably mentoring others.

Is there a pattern from which we could improve the training or was it incompetence on a broad front. We just don't appear to have any facts – or none that have come my way.

Every Area Secretary should be made aware of the problem members so that they can be instructed to attend the next Workshop and not be allowed to mentor new umpires.

Allan certainly needs to be made aware of problems, but in a structured and constructive way, although I feel that to be the laughing stock is somewhat unsubstantiated from the very positive reports I have had.

We must have people at these major championships that are able to deal with poor performance on the spot. We missed the opportunity to have Assessors there, let's not miss it again

I am pleased also to report that I have received some complimentary comments on the performance of our umpires during the various County finals, BBA Finals & the Civil Service Championships, which would indicate that not everything in the cookie jar is rotten'.

### Area 3 – Bob Penny

Bob reported as follows;-

'My report starts with my appreciation for the time and effort made by the County Co-ordinators in considering and allocating umpires for local and county games. Without their assistance the allocation of markers and umpires would be a slow and ineffective process with a real possibility of umpires being given duties which may be beyond their scope and abilities.

The number of umpires on the books is diminishing and it is becoming increasingly challenging to meet all umpiring requests with the number and calibre of markers and umpires desired.

In spite of training opportunities a significant number of umpires have expired certificates and have not attended the previous training workshop held in Cambridge in May. Several umpires have commented that travel distances to the training venue is unreasonable and are not prepared to commit to a training event on one occasion in 4 years. There is also a significant body of umpires who have indicated their continuing displeasure of the uniform and an implied intention not to renew when their membership expires. In spite of such comments umpires have been renewing their certificates but attendance does not lead to automatic delivery of umpiring duties in line with the training manual and DVD. The need to provide active umpires with constructive feedback is essential if they are to iron out their faults and develop approved techniques as a matter of habit. This is perhaps a plea for a consistent assessment structure whilst recognising the resources that may be required.

There remain some active members of the Association who consider that the way they have always done things is the correct approach. Feedback from some players and Team Managers suggests there remains a mixed level of performance. There are some exceptionally good umpires and markers in Area 3 but there are also some who feel that the umpire's uniform gives them licence to control and influence the game.

I am hoping to arrange another event in late 2014 or early 2015 for those who wish to become umpires, upgrade to National or have their certificates renewed. It is

simply not possible with an area as large as Area 3 to find an available venue that is convenient to all including the volunteer examiners and tutors who come from other parts of the country. Having held the previous training session in Cambridge which is reasonably central to Area 3 I am investigating future training sessions at Acle Norfolk or Tye Green, Harlow Essex.

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 but without the continued (and increasing) involvement of volunteers, participation in the sport may have its challenges.'

#### Area 4 – Carol Watt Sullivan

Carol reported as follows;-

'It has been a busy summer throughout the south east with staffing events throughout the counties as well as dealing with the inter-county competitions.

Opportunities have been taken, wherever possible to mentor new regional umpires and develop them and give feedback using our new log books.

Premier 3 events have continued to be held, staffed locally as have local tournaments and also the Visually Impaired events at Worthing.

The number of requests for Markers courses continues to grow, with demands increasing in Middlesex following on a recirculation around the county by the County Bowling Executive. A course for the Coaches in Kent also was well received as were courses run in Surrey and courses are being arranged at various venues in Sussex and Kent throughout the winter season (Horsham already booked for 13-14 December with Eastbourne also likely to host a course). We can only hope that the continued development of this course will 'drive out' the number of 'county markers' being used.

We now face a dilemma in allocation of mentors to non-established EBUA marker members to ensure their continued training and development (particularly where we have no Umpire presence in the area).

An Assessment weekend was held at Eastbourne on 20-21 September with all candidates getting through, some with excellent results. The weekend of 28-29 September had Vic Perry and Allan Thornhill journey to Guernsey to assist them. We now face a task of trying to sort out at least one (if not two) weekends to cope with the backlog of those due to re-qualify in 2014 and also those for 2015, given Allan's very busy schedule and demands on his time and rink (and club availability).

The appointment of Andy Ewens to World Bowls as European Director to replace John Bell will mean that the EBUA executive should seriously consider the strength of our tutoring resource, particularly in view of the extra tutorial workload we face following Leamington this summer.

A PBA event was also held at Bromley over the same weekend, with more planned over the winter months

The move of the men's national championships from Worthing, coupled with the imminent demise of the old reds/ air force blues/ maroons from 1 May 2015 has

caused a number of 'retirements'/ members deciding not to renew their membership, but we have had problems with some former members still wearing their old uniform while acting as competent persons, when appointed by non-EBUA officials to events. This does not reflect well on the EBUA, particularly as the assumption is often made that they are still members if their standard of marking is not up to scratch!

I am also trying to fit in a Area Meeting over the winter season and before the AGM, in either Kent, Surrey or Middlesex at a suitable venue where people can get to'

#### .Area 5 –Ray Keen

No written report received

#### Area 6 – John Davies

John reported as follows:-

Since our last meeting we have conducted two seminars. A third was cancelled because of the small number of candidates.

Four Markers Courses course have been run, with a reasonable number choosing to become EBUA Markers as a result.

We continue to lose senior umpires who are not prepared to buy the new uniform.

### **11. Any other business**

#### i) EIBA meeting

Val submitted the following report of the meeting she attended;-

'EIBA Meeting July 15<sup>th</sup> at Ely

- 1 EIBA wished to know what EBUA wanted to say at the meeting
- 2 EIBA do not wish to remove the words "competent person" at this moment in time, they feel that a more structured arrangement with the EBUA could be put in place first.
- 3 EIBA made a suggestion that umpires could make themselves known to clubs in their area and become FRIENDS of these clubs, so the secretaries know who to contact when they need umpires.
- 4 Can clubs possibly be informed and made aware of qualified umpires in their area?
- 5 EIBA were embarrassed that they had not been made aware of the letter Rick sent to individual clubs asking for £10 per rink. They only were made aware when they heard it from their own club members. In future can correspondence go through the correct channels, through their association secretary? I said at this point it was not Vernon's wish or idea that this letter be sent.
- 6 EIBA were also disappointed that they were not informed that our Jan meeting had been cancelled, their representative travelled to attend this meeting.
- 7 I was asked if the EBUA had encountered any problems with this year's National competitions. I said I was not aware of any and the EIBA also felt that they went well.
- 8 EIBA will send an invitation for a representative of the EBUA to attend future meetings and they ask the EBUA to inform their secretary of dates and time of our EBUA meetings.

9 Peter asked the position regarding stock of uniform shirts. He may have to put an event sponsor's logo on the officiating umpire's shirts. This will be at the sponsor's expense, but need to know if we have to allow time for shirts to be ordered. Peter also wants to discuss future finance with Vernon and says he will contact him next week.

10 the EIBA understand that the negative points in 5 and 6 were done by our previous secretary who is no longer in office, and they feel that out two associations can move forward into the future with better communication between us and help each other to further improve the sport of bowls.

11 EIBA said maybe there is a possibility of EBUA giving more input and involvement regarding EIBA competition rules.'

The report and items arising from it were discussed, especially the suggestion that umpires 'make themselves known' to indoor clubs which was endorsed as a very good idea.

ii) Carol asked for confirmation that the date of the AGM in 2015 was that shown in the minutes of the 2014 meeting. This was confirmed. Jessie would make the relevant booking for the venue for the meeting

iii) Bob said he had concerns about the declining membership of the Association, and what we were doing about it. It was agreed that members were not renewing their membership when it came time for their re-examination, although often this was being 'disguised' as an issue with the revised uniform. It was also pointed out that as the number of people playing bowls was declining this was bound to reflect on the numbers coming forward to be umpires.

It was agreed that this issue would be discussed at the next meeting.

iv) Mavis had received a fleece in a design matching the uniform shirts from Tony Hatch asking if the Committee could accept it. It was agreed that it be accepted.

Next Meeting Sunday 15 February 2015 – Phyl was to book the committee room at Oxford City & County if this was available.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 14.15.

M Wellington  
Chairman

## **Items arising at Leamington 2014 that need review ready for 2015**

*This list is simply various problems/actions that arose this year. The plan is that having agreed how they will be treated they will be turned into an 'advice sheet' to be issued to umpires with the list of their allocated duties for 2015*

It is suggested that the notes say that

1. Reporting for duty  
Those officiating must report to the umpires' office **at least one hour** before the start of their 'session'
2. All greens are to be measured before the first 'session' every morning, and afternoons if not used previously. They can be "walked" after the 1<sup>st</sup> session.
3. All matches will start 'at the road end'
4. Equipment
  - At the beginning of each day (and each session if the green has not previously been used) the umpire will take to the green
    - 2 metre sticks
    - Jacks
    - Put the 'county boards' into the scoreboards
  - At the end of the session the umpire will
    - Return the county boards to the Tournament office and the jacks to the umpires office
    - Return the 2 metre sticks to the umpires' office at the end of the day.
5. When checking bowls umpires will 'dress' the green, as attached
6. Markers will be given their respective cards by the umpire for that green according to the allocation shown (unless there is a reason why they cannot mark a particular match). Changes to be notified to the Umpires office
7. At the end of matches umpires will check time and sign the card(s) (unless regulations for the competition say otherwise) and return them to the players to take to the Tournament Office
8. Umpires will also ensure that the green is left tidy – i.e. mats removed from the rinks and placed on the bank
9. When 'off duty' Umpires will change out of, or cover up their uniform top – i.e. no sitting or standing around the greens in uniform when 'not working'
10. When in full uniform umpires **will not smoke**

**DRESSING THE GREEN BEFORE GAME STARTS**

LAY MAT APPROX 2 METRES FROM EDGE OF GREEN  
AND PLACE JACK ON MAT, AND SETS OF BOWLS BY SIDE  
AFTER THEY HAVE BEEN CHECKED.

WHEN ALL THE SETS HAVE BEEN CHECKED PLACE THE JACK  
ABOUT 1 FOOT IN FRONT OF MAT.

YOU WILL THEN NOT HAVE TO KEEP WALKING UP  
AND DOWN TO SEE IF ALL THE BOWLS ARE THERE  
**DO NOT AT ANY TIME PUT THE STICKS ON THE GREEN AFTER  
DRESSING**

