

**Minutes of the Eighth Annual General Meeting of the  
English Bowls Umpires Association  
held on 23 April 2017**

Present: 37 members

1. Chairman's Welcome

The Chairman opened the meeting by asking the meeting to stand for a few moments in tribute to Norman Deeprise who had recently died.

She went on to thank those present for finding the time attend, and she was pleased to see so many here.

She then said that she had been very concerned to see an account of a meeting that Bowls England had recently held where it seemed that incorrect and misleading information about the EBUA had been stated. She said she thought of our membership as a 'great bunch of people' and she was greatly upset to hear this sort of thing being said about them.

2. In Remembrance

The meeting then stood in remembrance of those members who had died in the past year.

N Chadwick  
N Deeprise  
J Kirk  
T Knight  
R Moore

3. Apologies for Absence

69 apologies had been received.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM were proposed as a true record by Ray Keen and seconded by Val Coldwell and then duly signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising – not elsewhere on the agenda

The availability of a long-sleeved version of the uniform shirt had been raised. Vernon had checked whether it was possible to get this from the supplier who had stated that they did not make this version.

## 6. Chairman's report.

Mavis said that she wanted to thank everyone for all the help they had given at levels.

It didn't matter whether help was needed for Indoor or Outdoor events the members still volunteered, turned up and did a fantastic job. The only complaints she ever heard were silly ones, often based on a lack of understanding by those complaining! Her members battled on no matter what through rain or burning sun.

There would be changes in the coming 12 months, but she knew that everyone would continue to work together in the way that she had come become used to seeing.

## 7. Secretary's Report

Vernon reported as follows.

This is my 4<sup>th</sup> and final report to you all as members and would like to say I have enjoyed the time spent as your Secretary.

This is more of a big thank you, rather than anything else, which has been mentioned in the previous meetings, and put on the web-site.

I would like to give a big thank you to you all the members who have helped me over the past 4 years, I shall refrain from mentioning you all, as I am sure you know who you are, but I will mention the few that I have had a lot of dealings with.

First of all I would like to pay tribute to Rick Moore [ who has sadly passed away last February ] for all the good work he did for the Association, likewise Andy Ewens, and Allan Thornhill for their sterling work in compiling the original training manual, and to Allan for up-dating and keeping it current.

I would like to thank Mavis and Val, for interpreting, and running my system of duties at Leamington, it is a lot of hard work sorting it all, but it makes it all worthwhile knowing it is in the hands of two reputable and conscientious members.

I would like to personally thank John Davies, Area 6 Secretary, and one of our original committee members, who is now retiring, and I wish him all the best for the future, for all the work he has done for the Association, and all the help and fun we had at Worthing, when he and I ran the office, without hardly any hitches.

Again, also to Allan, for the very good laid out plan for the markers course, this is so straight forward to follow that we now, since starting have enrolled 217 markers.

Whilst on numbers, we have again lost another 43 umpires, so far in this year 2017, due to various reasons, but the main cause is age, so we are down to 462 fully paid up umpire members, on inauguration in 2009 we had 1173 members, so in the last 7 years we have "lost" 711, of which 74 have passed away.

During the 4 years I have seen some changes, not always for the good, and lost a lot of umpiring friends, through retirement, ill health or they have passed away...

I see the forthcoming years as a bit of a struggle for our Association, as I find there is less respect for the ever falling number of umpires, [ No drinks, food or facilities for us ] when we do officiate.

I wish Vic Perry all good luck, he will need it, after following a class act like Allan, but they have worked together, and I am sure Allan will help his old mate out, if needed.

I would again, personally like to thank Allan, even though he is mentioned earlier in my report, for all the help and advice he has given me when I got awkward queries, and wish him well in the future, as now I have retired, he can take over the mantle of the "best" umpire in the Association!!!!!!

I would like to thank my illustrious senior lady, Jessie Clark, who has helped me when I needed it, to Mavis Wellington, who tries to control our meetings, to all the area secretaries, past and present, and to wish Malcolm Griffith god speed for a quick recovery. To all the unsung county co-ordinators, who do so much work, usually being asked at the last minute to supply umpires, mainly for the indoors competitions, well done.

During the last year, there have been some major changes to indoor competitions, which I am sure if you have been around your regions have not gone down to well. There is now "rumours" that some of the games are going to revert back to their original allocated number of ends. But as stated previously, this has not happened, so far, so please await confirmation from the EIBA. It has not happened yet, no matter what people tell you.

Since writing this report, there have been significant changes to many indoor competitions, so please go on to the EIBA web-site, under Competitions, and highlight onto 2017/2018 Rules

I would like to wish all the ITO's who applied for the Commonwealth Games in Australia in 2018 good luck, and possibly by the time of this meeting we will know who have been picked.

There were a few "problems" from some members last year regarding allocations of duties at Leamington, but when you have got over 3000 applications for 850 places you can never satisfy everyone, some, required 2 duties when there are only 9 for the whole day, [ which they were not allocated ] but I did take the comments on board, and hopefully those who were selected will not have too many gripes this year.

I hope you will all give your support to our new Secretary Mrs Phyl Jones, and any queries you may have will be dealt with expeditiously, as she is more than capable of giving you an answer by return.

The acceptance of the report was unanimously accepted.

## 8. Treasurer's Report

Vernon supplied the following notes on the accounts.

### Income

Sales, down £1,800-00

Course Exam fees down £1,300-00, but would have been a lot more if it had not been for the markers courses.

Subscriptions, down £215-00, but not so much, again due to new markers.

Donations, down £120-00, for obvious reasons, due to our levy to Counties.

Umpires Donations, up £127-00 due to the generosity of some of our members.

### Expenses

Purchases down £1,135-00, due to fewer sales.

Course /Exam expenses down £559-00, due to fewer courses.

Training Costs should be in Course /Exam expenses.

Postage, down £438-00, as bought heavily due to impending increase in 2015.

Telephone, down £217-00 less members to contact.

Travelling, down £1,357-00 fewer jobs allocated.

Printing & Stationery, down £376-00.

Computer Costs, down £389-00.

Donations Paid, Main cost is the LOTS for WIBC free to each paid up member.

Bank Interest, up by £174-00.

Depreciation, down £75-00, for ever decreasing value of assets.

### Bank Accounts

Current Account up, £1,014-00

Deposit Account up £4,005-00

6 Month Deposit Account up £258-00 to £30,339-00

Stock, up by £383-00.

Prepayments, [Advance subs] down by £14-00 to £9,879-00.

Excess of Income over Expenditure is therefore £5,721.00.

Membership list, as of today's date, and 2015

Umpires.472, of which 3 are Life Members. Last year, at the same time 498

Markers 177. Same time last year 112.

This shows a very disturbing trend, in 2009 when we amalgamated we had 1180 members, in 2011 we had 950 members, to date, excluding the markers we have got 472.

I do not know the reason, but maybe the length of the courses, and the pass rate may put many off, but if we carry on like this, what with age catching us all up I can see we will be a spent force by 2020.

(For Accounts see end of Minutes)

#### 9. Appointment of competent person with reference to the accounts

Vernon proposed that the meeting confirm Mr A R Bugby in this position again for the coming year. This was seconded by Ray Keen and agreed by the meeting.

#### 10. Development Officer's report

Allan Thornhill reported as follows; -

As you are probably aware by now this will be my last report as National Development Officer to this Association. Before I go into more detail on that I would like to summarise the activity from the past 12 months.

##### Workshops & Examinations

There have been 12 workshops held throughout the country including one here at Leamington where all of the Bowls England staff attended and passed the qualification. I am extremely grateful for the support that Val Caldwell and Alison Welsted have provided as Tutors for these workshops.

Alongside these workshops, examinations have been held at each venue under the expert eye of Vic Perry and his team of Examiners.

It is pleasing to see the commitment that the majority of members show to their continuing development and their support in making the workshop sessions interactive and a pleasure to facilitate.

Counter to that, of course, it is disappointing that some members choose not to attend and become reaccredited, rather hang up their callipers.

I am confident that the training & development workshop and examination process is in a very good place and is of excellent standard.

##### Markers Courses

In the past 12 months 644 individuals have attended one of 25 Markers Courses around the country. Since its inception in late 2013, the course has attracted almost 2300 attendees which means that improved Marking methods have been spread far and wide. The commitment from the many Tutors that dedicate their time to this scheme is incredible and I thank each and every one of them.

These courses have resulted in an increase in membership which our Secretary/Treasurer has already reported and many of those have further progressed to become Umpires. From a recruitment perspective - the model works.

We are now 4 years into the Markers Courses and time has come to review the course and improve on what we already have. I am confident the new National Development Officer will drive this forward as I know his passion for these courses is second to none.

I have enjoyed the past 16 years as a Tutor and 7 years in the role of National Development Officer. It was no walk in the park taking over the extremely high and exacting standards set by Andy Ewens and I am extremely grateful for the support and encouragement he provided along the way.

I believe the EBUA has a strong and robust Training & Development programme which is recognised and revered worldwide and in particular by the World Governing Body [ World Bowls ]..

There are a number of reasons for my now relinquishing the role and handing over the reins to someone with new ideas and drive. Some of these reasons are personal and some of you will be aware of them. However, the main reasons are firstly to allow me more time to honour my commitment to World Bowls as a member of their Laws Committee. I believe there is a potential conflict of interest in holding both positions. But also, I personally believe that I have taken the Training & Development programme as far as I can under the current Association. It is time for new ideas and new commitment and I sincerely hope for the sake of our reputation that my successor is allowed to use his experience and knowledge to progress unhindered.

I cannot leave this role without a few personal thanks. Firstly, to the whole team of existing tutors, examiners, assistants and supporters and to those that have played a key part in the process in the past. I particularly wish to thank Alex Duckworth for many many years of loyal service. The development of new and existing members to make them the best Markers and Umpires that they can be is not possible without you all – continue your excellent work.

Finally, to Vernon Findell, my sincere personal thanks for your continuous support and commitment to the Training & Development programme and also your personal support. Vernon is very much like Marmite, I for one class him as a friend and colleague and despite having our differences he has been immensely supportive throughout my umpiring career as a mentor and supporter. He has made an immeasurable contribution to this Association for what seems like a millennium and his commitment is irreplaceable. It is gratifying to know that even the best Umpires in the country can be forgiven for marking non-touchers at a World Championship – he will know what I mean.

It has been an incredible pleasure and honour working for you all and I wish everyone huge success for the future.

## 11. Motions from the Executive Committee

### Motion one

Amend the description of the uniform in the Constitution as follows to allow the wearing of shorts.

‘In part ‘6. Uniform’, insert between the words ‘socks’ and ‘For’ after lines 7 and 9 the following

‘Navy shorts bearing the Bowls England logo’

This was unanimously rejected by the meeting

### Motion two

Amend Part 7 of the constitution to move the date of the AGM to the summer

‘Delete 17 (Seventeen) and insert 33 (thirty-three)’.

This was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

### Motion three

Amend Part 7 vii to bring the date for the submission of motions in line with the changed AGM date.

‘Delete 06 (six) and insert 22 (twenty-two)’.

This was unanimously accepted by the meeting.

#### a) Election of Officers

Secretary	Phyl Jones	Proposed – Mavis Wellington Seconded – Val Coldwell
National Development Officer	Vic Perry	Proposed Val Coldwell Seconded – Francis Fletcher

The officers were confirmed in post en bloc by the meeting

#### b) Confirmation of Area Secretaries

Area 1 (Northern)	Val Coldwell
Area 2 (Midland)	Alison Welsted
Area 3 (Eastern)	Bob Penny
Area 4 (Central)	Ray Keen
Area 5 (South Eastern)	Carol Watt-Sullivan
Area 6 (South Western)	Alexander Wilson

## 12 Life memberships

The Executive committee asked the meeting to approve the awarding of Life Memberships to: -

John Davies  
Peter Price  
Mavis Wellington  
Max Richards

All were proposed by the Executive in recognition of the long service given to the Association by all these members and unanimously accepted by the meeting. They were all presented with their badges by Vernon Findell.

## Next meeting

The next Annual General Meeting will take place on Sunday 18 August 2018.

There being no more formal business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, wished them a safe journey home and good health, bowling and umpiring and closed the AGM at 13.02 pm

M Wellington  
Chairman



**ENGLISH BOWLS UMPIRES**  
**ASSOCIATION**  
**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST**  
**DECEMBER 2016**

	2016	2015
	£	£
<b><u>INCOME</u></b>		
Sales-Blazers, General & Manuals	6859.80	8660.84
Course/Exam Fees	5397.95	6705.55
Subscriptions Received	7440.00	7650.00
Donations Received-Outdoor/Indoor	520.00	640.00
Grant B.E	9000.00	9000.00
Grant EIBA	2300.00	2300.00
Interest Received		89.71
Donations Received-Umpires	692.50	565.94
	32210.25	35612.04
<b><u>EXPENSES</u></b>		
Purchase-Materials & Blazers	5190.42	6225.26
Production of Manuals	0	2726.66
Course/Exam Expenses	3552.60	4111.30
Development Expenses	0	0
Contribution to Expenses	0	0
Umpires Expenses	0	0
Training Costs	596.88	0
Postage	950.16	1388.44
Telephone	1190.26	1407.58
Travelling	11535.89	12892.74
Printing	420.00	350.00
Stationery	946.04	1392.18
Computer Costs	270.16	659.88
Audit & Accountancy Fees	250.00	250.00
Insurance	138.36	80.50
Maintenance Costs	0	153.60
Donations Paid	1515.00	88.50
Bank Charges & Interest	-263.78	0
Friendly Matches	0	0
Depreciation Equipment	197.10	268.43
Hire	0	0
Stock Write Off/Down	0	954.71
Profit/Loss on Fixed Assets	0	0
Miscellaneous	0	0
	26489.09	32949.78

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**  
**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST**  
**DECEMBER 2016**

	<b>2016</b>	<b>2015</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Income	32210.25	35612.04
Previous Year Adjustment	0	0
Expenses	26489.09	32949.78
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Excess of Income over Expenditure	5721.16	2662.26
Members Funds brought forward	30534.06	27871.8
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Members Funds carried forward	36255.22	30534.06
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Made up as follows:		
Current Account	2550.83	1536.91
Deposit Account	7736.65	3731.37
Deposit Account 6 Months Fixed	30339.56	30081.06
Deposit Account 12 Months Fixed	0	0
Petty Cash	50.00	50.00
Cash Float Mrs K.Wood	200.00	200.00
Equipment	282.10	220.20
Stock	4990.08	4607.52
Development Interest	0	0
Prepayments	-9879.00	-9893.00
Creditors and Accruals	-15.00	0.00
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	36255.22	30534.06
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**Report to the Members of English Bowls Umpires Association**

I have examined the Financial Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016. My examination included checking the basis on which the accounts were 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 the Audit Standards Guidelines and Regulations as issued by accountancy bodies.

I confirm that the Financial Statement for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016 is in accordance with the accounting records, underlying documentation, and the policy adopted towards equipment purchased. (which is to write the cost off over the estimated life of the equipment)

***A.R. Bugby***

A.R. Bugby  
Flat 3, The Grange,  
121 High Street,  
Bembridge  
Isle of Wight PO35  
5SF