

Minutes of the Ninth Annual General Meeting of the
English Bowls Umpires Association
held on 18 August 2018

Present: 59 members

1. Chairman's Welcome

Mavis thanked everyone for coming to this meeting. There had had to be a change of date due to Bowls England calling a meeting concerning 'Umpiring Services' on the evening when our AGM was due to take place, so the Executive Committee had taken the decision to move this meeting one day forward to give the membership the opportunity to attend that meeting.

Mavis continued that there was no information about what had been raised with Bowls England or was going to be discussed at that meeting.

Some members were still working on the greens and so had not been able to get to this meeting yet, so she would endeavour to see that they were not disadvantaged.

Mavis said that she felt that the membership may not know who the Executive Committee were, so she introduced Vic Perry (National Development Officer), Phyl Jones (Secretary) Jessie Clark (Deputy Secretary) and Vernon Findell (retiring Treasurer). She also introduced to the meeting those Area Secretaries who were there.

2. In Remembrance

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

3. Apologies for Absence

41 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 Jackie Elkin then duly signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising – not elsewhere on the agenda.

NIL

6. Chairman's report.

Mavis reminded the meeting that the date of the AGM had been changed to enable those working at Leamington to attend and save members traveling especially to be there. She felt that because of the last-minute change of date this year could not be treated as a true test of the success of the change, the AGM in 2019 would be the first indication.

Umpires are used by both the EIBA and BE on various duties throughout the year and she always heard good reports of their work. She was pleased by what she had seen so this year at the Championships.

After a difficult period, we are beginning to build a good Association following the unification, and she was very proud of this. New Regional umpires are starting to come through again, partly as a result of the Marker Awareness Courses which Vic has worked so hard to cause to happen all over the country. She thanked Vic for all the effort he has put into creating those courses.

The number of members had declined just after unification for various reasons ranging from an unwillingness to take the re-qualification exams to a dissatisfaction with the change of uniform. Numbers were now starting to recover.

She thanked all the members of the Association for all the hard work they put in, everywhere, not just at the big events but throughout the year and all over the country.

7. Secretary's Report

Phyl reported as follows

For some of you this year will seem to be very long, this is because it is! This report covers from April 2017 to now! I will keep it as short as I can!

This year has been a learning time for me, and I must thank everyone for their help and forbearance while I have blundered my way through the arrangements! Vernon for his help with the general arrangements (and fitting these around the finances) and Mavis & Val on how the Leamington office works and some of the 'tricks of the trade'!

The autumn saw the arrangements for the Indoor nationals at Melton Mowbray, Nottingham and the events across the country begin. My thanks to those who worked (including marking) through the weeks at those venues as well as those who worked at the other venues across the country.

There was also, around this time, the beginning of the arrangements for the Leamington Championship 2018 with the receipt of the schedule, followed by the forms for members to indicate their availability being prepared and made available. When returned these were analysed for daily availability so that in the spring the duties could be allocated, and those volunteering informed.

Early in the new year we supplied umpires for the Junior Internationals at Nottingham and I was complemented on the quality of the umpiring over that weekend, so congratulations to those who were on duty there.

For the Melton Mowbray and Nottingham national finals we sent two teams, a team of ladies to one venue and a team of men to the other. They were joined by markers for the various singles. Again, thank you to all of those who took part. I appreciate how hard you all work while you are there.

At the end of June in the run up to the Championships there were various international events at Leamington. We provided umpires (and markers) for the Men's British Isles Championships, and the Men's Senior International series. Immediately followed by a Test match versus Bowls Australia. All the umpires worked very hard in extreme heat and certainly earned the praise that I received for their work. Personally, I would like to thank those who stepped in at the last minute to help out. In July the Women's Junior International Series was also held at

Leamington with the umpires (and markers) working very hard in the heat over the two days.

I have talked here about the 'big' events that have been happening throughout the year, but more important are the events you all work so hard at in the counties and regions. It is here that the really hard work is put in by so many of you, often without thanks or recognition (or even a cup of tea) from their organisers. I would like to thank you all for this. You turn up, whatever the weather, and just get on with what needs to be done. Thank you!

One last thing, please don't forget to volunteer for duties at Leamington (or to mark at Nottingham indoors) I would like to see many more of you there

8. Treasurer's Report

Vernon supplied the following notes on the accounts.

INCOME

Sales are up by £1,128-00.

Course/Exam fees up by £99-00

Donations from Clubs, down by £920-00, but this is due to the fact that the PBA, who used to give us £1,000-00, have with our mutual agreement done away with this, and will pay umpires and markers direct at the venue they officiate at.

Umpires donations, thankfully we had a very generous set of umpires on our books, and these are up by £992-00.

EXPENSES

Purchases are down by £365-00.

Course/Exam Fees, up by a massive £2,830.00, this needs to be looked at and rationalized, as we cannot keep carrying a debt like this.

Postage, up by £298-00, mainly due to me purchasing extra stamps in 2015, due to massive price hike by GPO in 2016.

Telephones, up by £306-00, mainly due to the new secretary and NDO being paid for same, which is acceptable.

Travelling, up by a massive £3,800-00, due to much more claims for single jobs. This will change in the year of 2018, as I have had to re-appraise the whole system, also due to falling numbers, we cannot keep paying the original rate, it is awful to say, but many more are claiming, for what was once a straight-forward job of officiating.

Printing & Stationary, up by £458-00 which I feel is acceptable.

Computer Costs, up by £250-00, which is the cost of the programs for the new secretary's lap top computer.

Audit and Accountancy fee, no change here, and would like to note my thanks to Mr Alan Bugby for continuing to do the job.

Insurance, down by £27-00, totally out of our hands, we are advised by Bowls England each year what it is to pay.

Donations paid, these are down by £654-00, the actual "donations" are £325-00 the balance being the cost of the new marker's manual, sent to all the previous marker members free of charge, as it was felt it would help their development having a copy of what they were taught.

Bank Interest down by £160-00, for some unknown reason the auditor puts this in expenses as a minus expense, do not ask me why.

Depreciation is up by £85-00 this is on the new secretary's lap top.

Equipment Hire, was actually for the treasurer's computer being de-bugged, due to loss of all the information and programs.

Financial Statement Page 2.

Income for this year, £3,2467.00

Expenditure £3,1760-00

Making an excess of income over expenditure of £707-00, which may appear ok, but when compared to last year's figure of £5,721-00 is not so clever.

There are some disturbing figures in the above, but hopefully I have made changes to the problems, but we will still have to have a look at the training costs, as I do not really want to put up the cost of these any further, maybe the NDO and I can sit down and try and hammer out the problems sensibly, with no extra cost to the members.

9. Appointment of competent person with reference to the accounts

Vernon proposed that the meeting confirm Mr A R Bugby in this position for the accounts to the date of transfer to the new Treasurer. This was seconded by Ray Keen and agreed by the meeting. It was agreed that new treasurer would make arrangements after the handover date.

10. Development Officer's report

Vic Perry reported as follows

This is my first AGM report.

I agreed to take on the post of Development officer, because I was on the committee with Andy and Allan for many years, who I regard as the best people to carry out the training of Umpire/Markers. With Andy's Marking course, which is now known as the MAC this covers all we need, and Allan's Umpires Manual with the DVD's are brilliant, and following Andy and Allan will be a daunting task.

I was very fortunate to have worked with Andy, Allan and Vernon and I must thank them for all their help and encouragement over the years.

I have been fortunate to have Marked and Umpired around the World including the World Championships in New Zealand but not a Commonwealth Games and watched many Markers and Umpires in action and believe me we are the best and it is that standard I'm aiming to keep.

The MAC courses are only the old Marking Course renamed and up graded.

For those who wish to take it further are put in touch with a personal Mentor for one to one tuition. They then receive their certificates of Competence to work at their own club up to Level three. They are then able to work at County and National finals. [Indoor and out]

All this can only be carried out with the help of our Area Secretary's and County Co-ordinators who have helped put the County Mentors in place. Many thanks for doing that.

I must thank Ian Gilbert for all the help he has given me with Tutoring workshops and examinations, also a big thank you to all the Tutors, Administrators and Examiners who travel to all locations to assist with exams.

We won't have to travel so much now that we have set up a Tutorial team led by Fred Purse and an examination team led by Mike Davis for Somerset, Devon and Cornwall areas.

We have also set up a Tutorial team for the south of England led by Dave Buttle.

We already have Tutorial and Examination teams in the Midlands with Alison Welsted doing Tutorial and Graham Gibbons the Examinations.

The North is in the capable hands of Val Coldwell who has very few Umpires

Val has been running MAC course to encourage people to go further. It seems they are reluctant to travel and the problem in getting new people interested.

There are MAC courses being arranged all the time and they can be viewed on the web-site.

If there is anyone here from Norfolk or Suffolk interested in organising a MAC come and see me afterwards I can bring a team up and run one to get you started.

We ran a MAC in Warwickshire after being asked by BE, 33 people turned up including a BE representative it was very successful and BE were appreciative of what we were doing to increase the standard of Marking. It was a complaint from Tony Allcock about the standard of marking at the National finals that has led to the increase in marker training.

There have been delays with workshops in some areas because of circumstances that have happened, a change of area secretary's, and club availability to run courses. Some Umpires certificates have come close to running out, I don't mind you contacting me but it's the Area Secretary that need to know.

Since taking over there has been a lot of catching up to do and we have not managed that yet, we are working hard to achieve this. The original Markers course were on a 4 yearly certificate which started running out shortly after I came to Office, so we decided that the 4 yearly workshops were enough exams, so we put County Mentors in place of which there are 40 countrywide, which means one visit to your local mentor could get you a Level 3, hopefully.

We believe that everyone should attend a MAC course.

Anyone can mark a game, but players deserve the best at any level.

11. Motion

Item for inclusion in the EBUA Constitution

Insert at 5.4

Selection of umpires and markers for International Games

There shall be an International Panel that will be responsible for the selection of match officials to International games when the Organising Body approaches the Association for match umpires and/or markers. The International Panel shall comprise The Secretary and the Development Officer and one other member of the Association appointed at the Association AGM for a period of 3 years. The International Panel shall be responsible for managing a list of potential match

officials for International games who may be selected when opportunities arise. This list shall be reviewed at least annually with the assistance of the Area Secretaries.

Proposed; Bob Penny Area 3 Secretary

Seconded; Ray Keen Area 5 Secretary

CARRIED

For 21

Against 16

a) Election of Officers

The officers were confirmed in post en bloc by the meeting

Chairman	Mavis Wellington	proposed by the Executive Committee
Deputy Chairman	Ken Bickley	proposed Vernon Findell Seconded Vic Perry
Treasurer	Sandi Cooper	proposed Allan Thornhill Seconded Ray Keen

b) Confirmation of Area Secretaries

Area 1 (Northern)	Val Coldwell
Area 2 (Midland)	Colin Wilson
Area 3 (Eastern)	Tony Hatch
Area 4 (South Eastern)	Carol Watt-Sullivan
Area 5 (Central)	Position vacant
Area 6 (South Western)	Alexander Wilson

12 Life memberships

The Executive committee asked the meeting to approve the awarding of Life Membership to Vernon Findell.

This was proposed by the Executive in recognition of the long service given to the Association by Vernon and was unanimously approved by the meeting

13 Other matters

a) The resignation of Karen Wood as merchandising officer from 28 September had been received that day and the Executive Committee would be looking for a volunteer to take over that job.

The meeting was reminded that there were shirts etc for sale from the Umpires Office

- b) The adequacy of the GDPR actions by the Association was discussed and it was agreed that further review was necessary. David Skeats kindly agreed to help rectify the problem.
- c) It was confirmed that the position brought about by the motion passed earlier could not come into effect until after the AGM in 2019 when nominations for the post created would have been received.
- d) Ken Bickley reminded the meeting that the EIBA would be adopting the Crystal Mark Third Edition Laws of the Sport of Bowls from October 2018
- e) The Bowls England meeting would take place at 18.00 on 19 August.

Next meeting

The next Annual General Meeting would take place on Sunday 18 August 2019.

There being no more formal business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending, wishing them a safe journey home and good health, bowling and umpiring and closed the AGM at 20.05 pm

M Wellington
Chairman