



Newsletter of the EBUA

Spring 2014

## Secretary's Report

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This being my first report, do not expect too much "reporting" as I have only been in the job a couple of months.

I received from the Competition Committee Chairman of the EIBA a glowing praise for all the umpires and markers who officiated at the National Finals at Northampton, Melton and all other venues.

In this day and age it is nice to be complimented, and hopefully I have passed the thanks on to all concerned, apologies if not received.

I would like to congratulate Allan Thornhill, Andy Ewens and Graham Gibbins for their selection for the Glasgow Commonwealth Games later in the year; they are so popular it is almost impossible to buy tickets for the Bowls, not sure if it is to see them perform, or the bowlers!

Also Vic Perry, Ray Keen and Valerie Coldwell for officiating at the Ladies British Isles and Home Internationals in Jersey early next month.

Whilst on about Internationals I would like to thank all who applied to officiate at Leamington Spa later in June for the Men's British Isles and Home International s.

I have been in contact with Bowls England about the thorny subject of electronic cigarettes, and their answer now makes up part of the "Championship/Competition Rules from Bowls England, Approved 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2013" of which all competitors must abide by, or risk disqualification, and it is this ;-

### 7. Smoking and Anti- Doping

7.1 Smoking on the green will be prohibited during all rounds of National Competitions.

Failure to adhere to this will result in disqualification. This includes all electronic cigarettes.

### International Technical Officer

If anyone is interested in applying for an I.T.O. please send initially to me for details. The main criteria is that you have officiated at the National finals for at least 3 years, have performed 20 hours duties in the 3 years and must be physically fit. I would add that the chance of officiating at this grade is very remote, as there are no World Bowls Tournaments in England for the foreseeable future. It is also not a short cut to becoming an E.B.U.A. International Umpire, as I.T.O's are for World Bowls.

Vernon Findell.

If anyone has any articles that they think would be of interest to their fellow umpires please submit them to the editor for inclusion in the Winter issue by November 10th to: [trevorhackett01@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:trevorhackett01@yahoo.co.uk)

### Treasurer's Report

As usual I do not have much to say [No rude comments please]

We still have a healthy set of books, and I would once again thank all who pay their subscriptions by standing order. If you do not, would you please think about doing so, it is very painless; no records of account numbers are kept by me, at home or on the computer.

We have lost 62 members due to non-payment of subs, and another 52 for various other reasons.

There seems to be a problem sometimes about claims for travelling expenses, so below is the table of fees that we pay.

#### **Funding for Indoor & Outdoor Expenses as at 1st December 2013**

**The Association will pay funding from Bowls England for National finals at Leamington, and Indoor finals at various venues as per EIBA schedule.**

#### **OUTDOORS**

##### **Regional Finals**

The Association are prepared to fund travelling at 40p a mile for:-

1. Major County Competitions finals day.
2. Major Q/Final to Semi-Finals days, which result in playing in the National Finals.
3. Middleton Cup & Johns Trophy, all rounds 2 umpires for each.

**ALL COUNTY GAMES, WHICH ARE USUALLY PLAYED ON VARIOUS GREENS, ON VARIOUS DATES UP TO THE QUARTER FINAL, LOCAL UMPIRES TO BE USED SO NO CLAIMS ENTERTAINED.**

#### **INDOORS**

##### **Regional Finals**

The Association are prepared to fund travelling at 40p a mile for:-

As per numbers 1 & 2 above.

All "Cups", "Plates & "Trophies" from Quarter Final up.

Up until then local umpires to be used and no travelling will be paid.

Atherley & Liberty Trophy, all rounds 2 umpires for each. When National "Finals" are played as per EIBA schedule, the sum of 30p a mile will be paid for all the mileage, even though they only pay 25p after the first 30 miles.

As I mentioned at this year's AGM I see no reason to increase the subs for the foreseeable future.

Vernon Findell.

### Area 4

Welcome one and all to our summer season and I hope that you are faring well with the outdoor greens and conditions (including weather) for those venturing outside.

The area had a successful workshop assessment weekend at Horsham in February with nearly all candidates passing – well done! I am still trying to sort out more workshop events to enable us to allow those due to be reassessed and those upgrading to come to a local venue.

Keep watching the Training Calendar on our national EBUA web-site for further details and if you are due to requalify this year and can get to a venue outside the Area please do not hesitate to apply for that venue – there are a number of other venues booked along the southern coast of England and also at Cambridge. Locally, we have to work around things like Commonwealth Games, National Championships, PBA events etc and the availability of our National Tutor and also the availability of venues in our area.

A successful Markers course was also run on 26 April and 3 May at Horsham with some 30+ attendees comprising a mixture of umpires, coaches and general players, with the quiz element causing quite a bit of banter. Due to demand another course was held at Worthing Pavilion on 11 May. The opportunity was also taken to ensure training on the delivery of the markers course took place to enable 'accredited' trainers to extend the roll-out of the Markers Course.

The course has also generated a great deal of interest resulting in new EBUA members and we welcome them to our organisation, whether they be the Markers Grade or new Regional Umpires. I ask existing umpires in the area to assist our area co-ordinators etc in mentoring and providing opportunities for these members to develop their skill base at a local level, allowing them time to grow in confidence.

My thanks to the team of trainers, examiners and organisers of all the events for making all the events run in the area so enjoyable and successful. It is a lot of hard work - they are the unsung heroes who make things happen!

For those coming to the outdoor national championships (first year amalgamated at Leamington) I hope to see you and enjoy the experience!

Can I also remind you that if you change address or move area or even change email address to advise Vernon Findell and your existing Area Co-ordinator so we keep in touch and ensure that newsletters, correspondence etc go to the right place.

Carol Watt-Sullivan

## Area 2

It's been a weird year to date. Up to early January was the quietest on record with relatively few requests, but since then I have been busier than a one armed paper hanger with requests coming in hourly on some days & they are still coming in!! Still, it's better that way than the other.

With very few exceptions, we are now getting requests for umpires from both the men's and women's match secretaries and seems to be working well.

In January, an EBUA team played an exciting match against an EIBA team. Whilst we technically lost on points, we only lost on three rinks, so I declared it a draw!! The match was played in the real spirit of the game and was enjoyed by all. My sincere thanks go to all those who played or supported us especially Val Coldwell & Ray Keen who were able to provide an area team each.

Next time it's our turn to host it, so we will have a chance of revenge.

We are due to play a Midland Counties team at Nuneaton on Thursday July 3<sup>rd</sup> 2014. Anyone interested, contact me ASAP. We are entering a mixed team as the challenge is to the EBUA. Last year we whopped them so let's do it again to show them that not only do we understand the Rules, we can play a bit as well!

This year, we are losing a number of umpires, many due to the uniform issue - mainly men, but some women - plus those who feel that "anno domini" has caught up with them. Unfortunately, these are all experienced National or International umpires and it has really hit hard with the number of high profile matches. We now have a real shortage of National grade umpires across the board.

I was advised by a couple of members that players could not see the umpire easily nowadays, but this is baloney. Coloured shirts are a relatively new innovation and for years, a team of 24 players in white has played another 24 players in white and the umpire was also in white as he had taken his jacket off in the heat. I don't recall any problems then. Anyway, a half decent umpire should try to be there or thereabouts when required.

I am aware that we handled the uniform issue ineptly, but there is a limit to how long we can keep ringing the hands. We are where we are, warts and all, so let's just get on with it.

I am pleased also to report that I have received some complimentary comments on the performance of our

umpires during the various Indoor County finals, which is always nice – usually it's only complaints!

We have run a couple of Premier 3 events and provided umpires for the Planet Bowls meeting at Nottingham.

On March 9<sup>th</sup>, we ran a very successful Marking Course at Erewash to the new format with 38 attending.. A number of existing umpires were also in attendance in order to improve their own marking and to help disseminate the information to others.

The course was led by Allan Thornhill and very ably assisted by Vic Perry and Ian Gilbert. Their input was invaluable and impressed all attending

We ran our first Workshop of the year on April 12/13 at Leicester Slater St. This was one of the first new style Workshops and was led by Allan Thornhill as Development Officer to make sure that all Areas deliver to the same high standard.

Due to the poor showing of a number of Markers and Umpires at the recent National Championships, the Development team felt it necessary to lengthen and intensify the Training element, a side effect of this was that we were unable to handle any examinations on the Saturday even though earlier we had advised some that it may be possible. This led to one or two people being unable to attend. My apologies for this, but I agree with the action, we cannot have mediocre umpires. We have the reputation of being the best in the world and it is important that we maintain that status.

Congratulations go to all those who passed, Including:  
Ron Forster ( Leicester) – Upgrade to National  
Gillian Lamprey (Eastern Area) - Upgrade to National  
Norman Dixon (Northern Area) - Upgrade to Regional  
There were no retest or upgrade failures.

Our sincere thanks go to Harold Palmer & the Leicester club for their assistance and great food. Our thanks also go to Graham Gibbins (National Examiner) and his examination team who did a splendid job.

Our congratulations also go to Francis Fletcher for being appointed to officiate at Potters for the World Match Play Championships and to Graham Gibbins who has been selected for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow.

We are again handling the VIBE (Visually Impaired) National Championships at Leamington during the week commencing Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2014 through to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2014. We have around 200 matches on three greens and nearly all of these will require a

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## Area 2 (Continued)

Marker. Anyone interested should contact Gareth Willcock (01926 748517) who will be only too pleased to hear from you. For those who have not Marked a Visually Impaired match before, it is quite interesting and much more involved in the game than normal, plus one or two accepted Rules are turned on their head. Training will be given, but it only takes about 10 minutes.

Enjoy your summer bowling and umpiring – they are projecting a heat wave but some people still believe that the world is flat!!

Brian

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## Area 3

My report follows a recent training workshop and assessment held at Cambridge Chesterton IBC at which a number of umpires from our Area attended to become newly qualified umpires, National upgrades or to have their 4 year certificates renewed. Congratulations to all those who were successful. Let's all remind ourselves that the aim of the event is to ensure umpires have a consistent interpretation of the laws of the sport and can carry out the duties of a marker and umpire with competence and confidence. Some of those attending commented on the difference of approach compared with courses when there were men's and ladies Associations. The intent is for people to pass the course and whilst the EBUA makes no apology for the course to be challenging, all the requirements for success are found in the EBUA Training Manual and DVD. I cannot emphasise enough the importance of familiarising yourself with the contents of this training material.

Having organised my first training event for Area 3 I am indebted to the National Trainer and National Examiner for gathering together their team of helpers that is required for the weekend event. Delivering these events across the country is a significant call on volunteers which is why the frequency of these events is not as high as umpires may prefer. 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. I will try to get a venue confirmed as soon as possible so you can keep the dates clear in your diaries.

I still feel that I am finding my feet in the role of Area Secretary and there are a number of processes that I need to improve regarding the handling of information and allocation of duties for National competitions. I am eternally grateful to those umpires who have come forward as County Secretaries to assist me but there are still some counties such as Norfolk where I need some help. It is not an onerous task when the jobs are shared so any volunteers would be welcome. Sometimes it feels like trying to keep a number of plates spinning at the same time and so I appreciate the patience of Area 3 umpires whilst I settle in to the role and get those processes improved and am able to provide you with the support you require.

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.

Marker training is seen as one way to encourage new participants in to the umpires ranks. The National Development Officer is working hard at rolling out Markers training and the Association will need volunteers to come forward to spread the word.

I continue to be open to suggestions and ideas so feel free to email or phone with any thoughts on how we can continue to improve the Association in Area 3 and retain its reputation for the quality of the service we provide.

Bob Penny

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## Area 1

It has been quite busy in the northern area

We are as I speak at this moment hosting the PBA event at Carlisle. There has been a Premier threes at York and this year Darlington hosted the semi final and final of the Denny cup And the Yetton trophy which was very well supported.

We were very fortunate to again host the ladies and men's home international and British isles event at Stanley co Durham.

We have a few people who have successfully answered their questions and are now waiting for their practical assessment we have not yet arranged exams these are planned for the autumn.

Val Coldwell

## **Area 6**

We have conducted one workshop at Banister Park, with another to follow at the Dolphin IBC on 7/8<sup>th</sup> June. Unfortunately the published workshop at Tiverton has had to be cancelled because the small number of candidates made it completely unviable.

Numerous requests have been received to run the new EBUA Marker Course. The priority now is to train the trainers to run the Courses.

John

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## **Leamington Spa**

Leamington this year will be a new experience, even for those of us who have been visiting or working for many years. My first visit was in 1983, I had passed out as an Umpire in April and duly volunteered, I was called on to do a feeler gauge measure on the old green B, with the green running along side the green keeper's hut, on the rink by the footpath. I was nervous but stuck my backside into the spectators faces and measured so they could not see.

Nothing after that seemed so bad. I am sure that everyone who works will thoroughly enjoy their duties. This year Bowls England are staging an under 18 singles competition on 9th and 10th August, this is outside the Nationals, but Umpires are being arranged and the youngsters or their families will do the marking. There are over 100 entries so there should be plenty of noise and excitement and unpredictability. See you at Leamington.

Jessie

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## **Top Club Finals**

The Top Club finals are being held at Leamington Spa on September 13th and 14th this year. If anyone would like to umpire at this event, application forms can be downloaded from the web-site.

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