



Newsletter of the EBUA

Winter 2015

Secretary's Report

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It does not seem a year ago since the last Newsletter came out, but that is how time flies, especially if you are old like me.

Before I write anything else, I would like to thank you all for the duties you have done throughout the year, and showing bowlers that we are trained properly, contrary to what some think.

Believe it or not I still enjoy being your Secretary, and hope to do so for a few more years, as the nice comments etc. that come my way.

I would like first of all to thank Brian Burton, for many years of sterling work he has put in for the Association, and he has now retired as Area 2 Secretary.

I hope someone out there will take over his reins, he will be a hard act to follow, but knowing Brian, I am sure he will give the new Secretary [whoever you may be] lots of help in assimilating the job.

I would also like to thank all the other area Secretaries, and County Co-ordinators the same, but you are silly enough to carry on!!

Thanks also to Allan, who with his high power job, and other duties still seems to come up with a lot of work for the Association, and since the "Markers" course started we have a total of 117 new members.

Also Vic Perry and his band of "merry men & ladies" for all their time given up as examiners.

Leamington this year, was the first real, joined up finals, and they seemed to go very well, I do not seem to have had any complaints from Bowls England, or the players, so we must be getting something right.

The Top Club was just as good, but there is a report later from Phyl Jones.

Congratulations to Vic Perry and Ray Keen for being selected for the European Championships in Israel, and also to Graham Gibbins, Ian Gilbert and Alison Welsted for their trip to Cyprus for the Atlantic Rim.

Thanks to Alan Harvey and Moira Horriben for officiating at the Disability Bowls England Test match between England and Scotland at Gedling.

Congratulations to all who passed their ITO exams, and now waiting to see if they are selected for Christchurch next year, good luck.

We now have 5 new umpires. Why I mention this is because they are all the Bowls England staff, which also makes their job, and mine easier, as they can now answer more of the "silly" queries that used to come to us, so well done them.

Some of you may have noticed on the new EIBA competition rules [we all read them each year, don't we?] that the Vivienne Trophy is now 4 Triples.

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Also while I am on about the Indoor Competitions I would like to say, it is not the Umpires job to be chasing round on the telephone for the away team score when umpiring, it is the manager’s job. There has been a case where the umpire, who is a nice person, helping out doing so, and then got moaned at by the opposition because they did not tell them the score quickly enough. All we are there for is to UMPIRE.

We have lost at least 7 umpires to Father Tyme, and I on behalf of the Association have sent our condolences to their families.

Vernon Findell

Treasurer’s Report

We have lost a total of 158 umpires in the past 11 months; some of the reasons are as follows:

- Fed up with uniform,
- Not taking the re-test,
- Old age,
- Non-payment of subs , and
- Illness.

A great shame, but it makes it harder for us as more jobs have to be covered by fewer members.

The system that I introduced for the payment of duties performed at Leamington seemed to work very well, and not one person complained, so it must be ok.

At the beginning of January 2016 there will be on the web-site an application for Leamington National Finals duties for next year, do not be scared to apply, there are plenty of duties to be covered, and you will enjoy the experience.

There will also be forms for marking at Nottingham and Melton which are held earlier in the year.

You will receive the grand sum of £15-00 a duty at Leamington and £5-00 for marking at Nottingham or Melton. There is no travel paid for.

Also while on about travel, this year anyone officiating at the Atherley or Liberty Trophy, the teams will share green fees and Umpires expenses. So although you may get an appointment form from your Area Secretary no payment will be made by our Association.

There also seems to be new wave of claims against the Association, and I know most of you are not doing so, but creeping in are claims for paltry amounts, and I mean from £1-00 up to £5-00, surely we are not that poor that we have to claim such small amounts? I thought we did it for the enjoyment and love of the game.

Again, whilst on about money, I would like to say the

following:-

There are some of you that have,

There are some of you that do.

AND there are some of you who have not.

What is this I am sure you are wondering, but it is the same old chestnut.

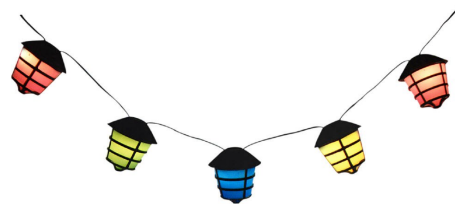
Those of you that have, have paid their subs for 4 years.

Those of you who do, have filled in a standing order for their subs, a big thank you.

AND there are those that pay annually, so may I remind you that subs [£10-00] are due on the 1st January 2016 .

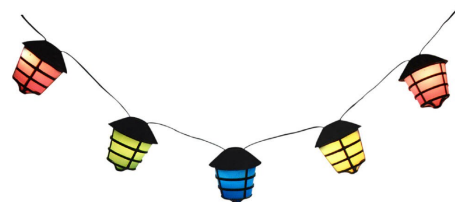
If you are not sure if yours are due, please look at the expiry date on your membership card.

Vernon Findell



As your Chairman I would like to wish you all a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year, and thank you for all you do for the Association.

Mavis Wellington.



After the Lord Mayor's show

Once the hurly burly of the Championships at Leamington have died down there are still important events that take place in Victoria Park

In mid September the Ladies and Gents Top Club competitions reach their final stages and not surprisingly the EBUA are needed to supply not just umpires but markers as well.

The finals run over two days (Saturday and Sunday) and several years ago we took the decision that this was a very good opportunity for us to give experience of working at national final level to umpires and markers who may be 'new' to their grade or who are not able (for various reasons) to work at Leamington during August, to encourage them to take that big step forward.

Over the years we have had several people who have enjoyed the experience and volunteered in following years to work at the Championships 'proper'. This year was no different and we had several new umpires and markers take part and I have hopes that these will move on to make themselves available for August next (and in following years) to help us provide the excellent service and standards we are credited with providing for the Championships.

I (and Vernon) would like to thank all those who put themselves forward to work that weekend. Everyone worked very hard and well. We really appreciate how you put yourselves out to deal with crises that arose and provide the quality of marking and umpiring that Bowls England have come to expect from us.

Those of you who didn't join us this year, think about it when we ask for volunteers next year, it is good experience and a chance to get your initial 'stage fright' at the 'big stage' out of the way! And it is a chance to give your partner an autumn break in Leamington!

Phyl Jones



Beyond the Call of Duty

In October I went to Israel to watch the European Team Championships which were being held in two bowls clubs north of Tel Aviv. Also going out to officiate at the event were those two well-travelled fellows namely Vic Perry and Ray Keen.

The occasion is well worth commenting upon. All the teams and officials stayed at an Hotel in Netanya, a very modern seaside resort which is twinned with Bournemouth. We travelled daily, firstly to Ra'nana (I remember the name because it rhymes with banana.) and secondly to Raman Gat, both towns were about a 45 minutes coach trip away, given a clear route and following wind, unfortunately even on some of Israel's seven lane highways, it was nose to bumper, I have never seen such traffic jams, the M25 is a country lane in comparison. The bowls clubs were very hospitable, well-appointed and air-conditioned. Raman Gat is 65 years old and is the oldest club in Israel having been founded by a man who played in South Africa before he went to live in Israel.

12 countries, each sent four players, two men and two women, to play pairs and a mixed fours, and our two umpires, together with a home produced umpire and an Australian one, were charged with keeping the competition in order. Countries such as Germany and Switzerland only have a couple of clubs, but hopefully this competition will enable them to encourage more players. The competition was played out in temperatures of 33 degrees and having to officiate with little or no shade made things very difficult for the umpires, They were required to do far more measuring than they would usually do in England, which helped with concentration but not the heat. Luckily the air conditioning gave a lot of relief during the breaks. An ample supply of water was on hand and both club bars were well stocked.

Nearly all the players and Vic and Ray, on the rest day, went on a day trip provided by the Israel Lawn Bowls Association, to some of the well-known sights of Israel, a tiring trip but everyone declared it was well worthwhile.

Most of us dined at our hotel but others found their way to an establishment called The Scotsman, which provided good food and liquid refreshments. The liquid refreshments were an attraction to all after the evening

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meal and if there was need to find anyone at night, then we all knew where to go. The Scotsman was situated in the main traffic free square, and it was pleasant to sit with temperatures still in the high seventies and people watch.

It was a good trip, England sent four young players, to gain experience and they ended up by winning three Gold and one Bronze medal and were a credit to England, and if I may say so, so were Vic and Ray, who suffered the heat with their usual cheerfulness.

I of course watched through the windows in the air conditioned clubs.

Jessie Clark

Northern Area 1

In the Northern Area since the last newsletter, we have had four of the new EBUA courses for markers. These are very well attended and very successful for which we owe our thanks to Allan Thornhill and his development team. Two have been held in Carlisle Cumbria, in which a total of 66 people enjoyed. Other venues have been Harrogate and North Cave both in Yorkshire, where 41 people took advantage of the course. If your club or county want to hold one of these courses, they are for club members as well as umpires and a certificate of attendance is issued, please contact myself Val Coldwell on 07507999138 and we will see what can be arranged.

The northern area has also hosted several PBA events.

The home internationals held at Stanley in March were very successful and exciting; however they have now been moved and will be in Wales next year.

The test matches against Wales and Scotland in October and November were excellent and very close; the men's weekend had six games of tie breaks out of eleven games played.

I should like to thank all my county coordinators for the good work they are doing on the Association's behalf Northumberland Jim Holmes, Durham Pat Armstrong, Yorkshire Maxine Groce, and Lancashire Bert Wilkinson also can I thank Christine Wharton who has retired as Cumbria co-ordinator for all the help she gave me and welcome Anthony Little who has stepped into her shoes.

Hope you all have a good indoor season happy umpiring

Val Coldwell

Midlands Area 2

After around 17 or more years as Area Secretary, I decided that it was time for someone else to pick up the reins and continue to drive the EBUA forward and resigned at the Annual Meeting in September. This way, I will be on hand to assist a newcomer into the job Therefore I have mixed emotions in writing this which will be my last report for the EBUA Newsletter.

Over the years I have got to know and work with an awful lot of really genuine highly motivated people within bowls and I am grateful for that experience.

Much of any success I may have had has been down to the unstinting co-operation and help – often at the last minute – from not only the dedicated team of County Co-ordinators (I've got through 34 of them!), but the members themselves and I could not have wished to work with a greater bunch of people. They all have my eternal gratitude and I shall miss our regular bantering's.

Additionally, I must thank our Treasurer, who not only stepped into the breach to prevent a major disaster & took over the Secretarial role without even pausing for breath. Under his shadow and with his guidance, I have been able to develop my skills. There may be better umpires & mentors in the world but I have yet to find them.

You have not completely lost me as I may devote more time to the tutorial side where I may be able to pass on some of the lessons that I have learnt over the years.

Taking over, effective January 1st 2016 will be Malcolm Griffith of Leicestershire and I wish him well and know that you will all give him the support that I have received.

The year for me has been saddened by the sudden death of Peter DGLISH (Warwickshire County Co-ordinator). He was one of the nicest guys to meet and nothing was too much trouble. He will be sorely missed and we send all our best wishes to young Jean, who is also a National umpire.

Bill King (Worcs) who served for many years as Worcestershire County co-ordinator also died earlier this year.

Onto more pleasant items. Congratulations are due to Phil Thake, Colin Wilson & Trevor Wootton who gained their International flash this year.

Our annual match against a Midland Counties select team, resulted this year in a turnabout and for the first

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time we lost (but not by much). Is it a co-incidence that Ken Bick was unable to play this year?

Thanks go to Gareth Willcock and all of those who so gallantly gave their time to officiate at the Visually Impaired National Championships at Leamington in June. We have their undying thanks and it really is a pleasure to be able to assist such a cheerful bunch of people to whom life has not dealt the best of cards.

Gareth will be unable to handle this event in 2016 & Alison Welsted has kindly volunteered to run the June 2016 event.

We hosted the World CP Games in August at Nottingham and for those who have never handled such an event will not realise just how demanding these events are for the umpires

We have also handled a number of other National Finals in the Area

We ran a successful Workshop in April at Leicester, where we welcomed Allan Thornhill as Tutor. He made it run very smoothly & we only had one retest failure. All the new members were successful and they are already being mentored in local matches. We have also run two Marking courses, both oversubscribed, so we shall need to run others. From both of them we picked up members, one of whom has already become a Regional Umpire and already working.

We will be running another Workshop in April 2016 (final details to be arranged) and those of you who are due for retest will be notified before the end of the year. A reminder also for those of you who wish to upgrade, either from Marker to Umpire or Regional to National, now is the time to get moving as it takes a little time to complete all the requirements.

The reduction in umpire numbers is starting to bite and we will not be able to support the early rounds of the Denny, Yetton & probably Egham matches in the coming season at all clubs for the first time, which is sad!

We are finding more & more demands for Umpires / Markers from disadvantaged groups which tend to be resource hungry. Usually, we are expected to provide officials for free and although they generally look after us well, there is a limit on how many times we can go to the well especially with our reduced numbers.

I will be taking this up with some of them in the near future as we want to do as much for such groups as is practical and training some of them may be an option.

Brian Burton

Area 4

As it is now coming close to the Christmas festive season again may I start by wishing you all a good and healthy festive season and a wonderful New Year as we have adapted back to indoor conditions and remember the differences in indoor and outdoor laws of the sport!

It has once again been a busy summer season and my thanks to all who volunteered their services to mark, umpire at the Nationals in Leamington, County Competitions and any duty done for local tournaments, local leagues or associations, and indeed your own clubs!

The markers course continues to be in demand and a number have been run over the summer and early autumn in all parts of the Area – more are ‘in the pipeline’ with some dates actually booked (and advertised on the national EBUA web-site). Again, I ask existing umpires in the area to assist our area co-ordinators etc in mentoring and providing opportunities for any new and existing Marker members to develop their skill base at a local level, allowing them time to grow in confidence.

There have also been a number of PBA events in the region at which our members provided their services either as markers or umpires. My thanks to you all for this – it is always much appreciated!

My thanks must also go to the team of trainers, examiners and organisers of all the events (assessment workshops and markers courses) 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!

I am currently looking at potential venues within the area and dates for assessment workshops based on those of us whose 4-year cycle of licensing is up for renewal as well as accommodating those people who are doing their regional workbooks and coming up for their first assessments. If any club can offer facilities for the Saturday workshop and Sunday timed assessments I would be pleased to hear from you.

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 always to the right place

On that note, Angela Barber in Sussex is retiring as Area Co-ordinator for personal reasons. She has done an excellent job in that county making alliances with

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with the county executives (both ladies and men, outdoor and indoor) and being fair in allocation of umpiring duties in the county. It is fair to say that I will miss her 'prodding' to keep me on track and her unstinting hard work. However, she still wishes to be involved to some degree and is willing to mentor.

So, anyone interested in taking on the role, or even job sharing the role please contact me direct for job description of what is involved.

Carol Watt-Sullivan

South Central Area 5

In the last two years we have held 3 Workshops, 1 in Taunton Deane and two in Westlecot, with 1 due in Bristol at the end of November. A further Workshop is booked for Westlecot at the End of February 2016. Our Area still needs personnel to help run our workshops, if anyone is interested please let either their County Coordinator or me know.

Again in the last two years I have held New Markers Courses in Buckinghamshire, Berkshire, Wiltshire, Somerset and Gloucestershire. I am in the process of arranging one in Herefordshire for the New Year and will hope to have one in Oxfordshire in the near future.

With similar results to the rest of the Country we seem to average around 30 candidates per Course and have a fairly reasonable conversion into Markers and Umpires from these candidates. My people in Berks., Bucks., Glous., and Wilts are doing a great job now running these Courses on a very regular basis.

We had an Area Meeting on 1st November at Westlecot with 16 Umpires attending which was a little disappointing but I tend to think that meant that there was no great grumbles within the Area. I am absolutely certain that if there was a lot of discontent we would have had a lot more attendees. Quite a number of, I think, very good suggestions came from our meeting which I will pass on to the appropriate people.

We have 17 Umpires in Berks (down 4 since the last meeting), 27 in Bucks (up 9), 20 in Glous (down 1), 9 in Herefordshire (down 2), 9 in Oxon (up 2) and 9 in Wilts (down 3) and 27 in Somerset but I do not have their past totals.

All has changed within Wiltshire since the last Newsletter when Peter Stewart had retired due to Ill Health and Dan Bluett had taken over as County Coordinator. Dan has now moved down to Area 6 and Peter has taken over again. Many thanks to Dan, we wish him well down in his new Area.

I would like to personally thank all of my Coordinators, Keith (Berks), John(Glous), Terry (Hereford), Duncan (Oxon), Mike (Somerset) and Peter (Wilts) for all their efforts, they do a great job, save me a lot of worry, seem to come up with Umpires out of the blue often at very short notice and nothing ever seems to be too much trouble.

I would also like to thank all of my Marker/Umpires within the Area who seem to fill every duty, don't think we missed one last year, again sometimes at very short notice.

Lastly I would like to offer our congratulations to Andy Ewens on his appointment as World Bowls Director for European Development and wish every success in his new role.

Ray Keen

South Western Area 6

Allan Thornhill very kindly travelled all the way to Bodmin to conduct the retests of all the Cornish Umpires. Markers courses have been held in Hampshire, with great success, and one is to be run in Dorset in February.

Happy Christmas to all EBUA members.

All the best

John Davies