



Newsletter of the EBUA

Spring 2011

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT FEATURE

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Introduction

In the twelve months since unification a great deal of time has been spent reviewing training practices from both the old EBUA and EWUA associations. Our Development Committee have met on a number of occasions and have ensured that we encompass all that was good in these programmes. It has not been easy and there have been differences, but I believe that what we take forward is a robust programme which meets the overarching requirements of the World Bowls Umpire Training Programme.

Details of the programme and procedures can be found on the EBUA Website under Training.

Umpire Grades

There are four grades of umpire:

Club Umpire

Regional Umpire

National Umpire

International Umpire (by selection)

Please note that the International Technical Official (ITO) qualification is not an EBUA grade and is not recognized as such.

Training Modules

The training programme is divided into ten modules which take a new candidate from their first steps on the ladder through to experienced internationals.

The modules must be completed successfully in order to attain a particular grade and certificate. The modules fit into three categories:

Home Study Workbook Modules

Workshop Modules

Assessment Modules

The Cost

New Candidates: £35

Included in the cost: Home Study Manual, DVD, Law Book, Workbook and Assessment

Upgrade Candidates: £15

Included in the cost: Workbook, 1 day Workshop, Assessment

4 Year re-qualification: £10

Included in the cost: 1 day Workshop, Assessment

There is an additional EBUA membership fee of £10 which will be collected after successfully becoming an umpire and annually thereafter.

Meet the Team

The training and development team consists of the following:

National Tutors – responsible for the training of candidates nationally supported by a team of regional training assistants

National Examiners – responsible for examination of candidates supported by team of regional examiners and regional training assistants

Regional Training Assistants – work with both Tutors and examiners to assist with the administration and training during workshops and the administration of the examinations.

Regional Examiners – the workforce of the examination team.

Training Administrators – responsible for receiving applications, communicating with new and upgrade candidates, receiving and marking workbooks and liaising with National Tutors, National Examiners, Area Secretaries and Zone Reps.

Contact details of the National Tutors and National Examiners can be found on the EBUA Website.

Workbooks

New and Upgrade candidates will be required to complete a 100 or 50 question theory paper in order to complete their first module. The workbook will be sent to the candidate on application. A new candidate will also receive a home study manual, a DVD and a Law Book. An Upgrade candidate can order these items separately if they wish.

Workshops

Upgrade and four yearly re-qualification umpires will be expected to attend a 1 day practical workshop. New Club Umpire candidates may attend if they wish for additional learning. During the day our team of Tutors will guide you through the measuring

exercises demonstrating best practice and allowing you to practice using the range of equipment. There will be discussion on the practical application of some selected Laws as well as some general tips on time management and marking skills.

Assessments

No one likes examinations but, if you think about it, we are assessed every time we step onto the rink to carry out a measure, answer a spectators question or talk about the

allocated for correct use of equipment, wedging, positioning and communication. During the measuring exercises you will be asked a few oral questions which will be based on the exercises you have carried out. You will also gain marks for your umpires' kit so make sure you have all the items of First Choice equipment with you.

Oral questions – In the initial and upgrade modules you will be asked a number of oral

Umpiring Video – all candidates will watch a short (10 minute) video of a game of bowls. During the four ends of the game you will notice some common breaches of the laws of the sport and some umpiring errors. You simply need to watch the video and note these breaches and errors. There is no need to describe how you would deal with them or mention any law numbers.

The whole process should take no longer than two hours of your time and you may be able to complete the assessment on the same day as the workshop.

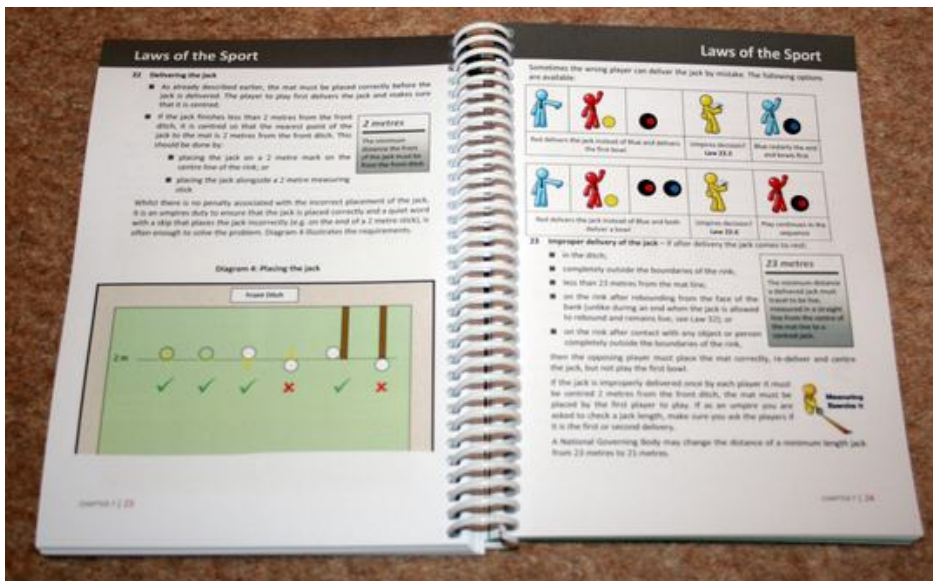
What do you need to do now?

New Candidates
If you know of anyone that wishes to become an

umpire ask them to complete the Application Form available from the Website or your Area Secretary / Zone Rep.

Upgrades

If you wish to upgrade from Club to Regional or Regional to National umpire then please complete the Application Form and return it with the fee and you will receive the theory module to complete at home. You will then be invited to attend a Practical Workshop and Assessment in your area



laws on the phone to a colleague. During the EBUA Assessment you will be expected to do nothing different to that. The assessment modules contain a number of elements. The content of these elements vary depending on the grade being taken.

Practical Assessment – you will be asked to carry out a number of the standard measuring exercises as laid out during the practical workshop. Marks are

questions. You will sit with an examiner in a quiet area and be asked some questions on the laws of the sport.

You may also be shown a photograph or a graphic and asked a question based on what you see.

Theory questions – if you are taking a four yearly re-qualification you will be asked to sit in a quiet area and answer a number of multiple choice questions without the use of a law book.

attend a Practical Workshop and Assessment in your area. Keep an eye on the EBUA Website for dates of these sessions.

Four Year Re-qualification

If your current certificate has expired or is about to expire you will be invited by your Area Secretary or Zone Rep to attend a workshop and assessment in your area when one is available. You may of course attend one outside of your area if the dates are preferable.

So dust off your umpires' kit, practice some measuring exercises at home or at your local club and read the Law Book.

Re-Qualifications

Many people ask why they must be assessed every four years. Many have said "I know all that, I don't need someone to tell me how to measure every four years". It's a bold statement to make. There are no perfect umpires' out there even if we think we are.

Every time we go out on the rink we are being watched by our peers, by players and by bowls officials. If you make a mistake or a wrong decision, players will lose confidence, officials will complain and may

request that you are not used again at their events, and your peers will be tarnished with your dirty brush.

For the sake of twelve hours every four years, why not help prevent these mistakes and poor



judgements.

I can guarantee your mind will be changed when you attend a workshop - there will be something you will take away with you.

Besides, why not welcome the chance to get together with your fellow umpires, practice your skills, assist with the training of new candidates and chat about your recent experiences.

Our aim is to improve the high standard of umpiring in England. Your goal should be to improve your own personal standard for the benefit of the players in the Sport of Bowls.

Remember - this is not about the Badge, but about the players and the sport.

Workshop & Examination Dates

16th & 17th April 2011 - Leicester IBC

14th & 15th May 2011 - Selby IBC

18th & 19th June 2011 - Cambridge Chesterton IBC

Laws of the Sport Crystal Mark 2nd Edition

The new edition of the Laws of the Sport came into effect for outdoor bowls in England on 1st April.

There are very few changes that affect the way the game is played. Many are simply numbering and clarification changes. Below are the major changes that you need to be aware of when officiating.

New Law: Tossing for opening play

18.2.4 If the coin is tossed before the start of the trial end, the option the winner of the toss chooses will apply to both the first trial end and the first end of the game.

Amended Law:

18.4 Play in other ends.

In all ends after the first but apart from in an extra end, the winner of the previous scoring end should place the mat and then deliver the jack and the first bowl. This removes the option to

give the mat and jack away if you win an end.

New Law: Players' Duties – The Skip

37.1.7 The skip should:

37.1.7.1 be responsible for the score card supplied by the Controlling Body while play is in progress:

37.1.7.2 enter the names of all players of both teams on the scorecard;

37.1.7.3 record, on the scorecard, all shots scored for and against the team as each end is completed;

37.1.7.4 compare the score card with that of the opposing skip as each end is completed; and

37.1.7.5 at the end of the game, record on the score card the time that the

game finished and then sign it.

37.1.8 If a Member National Authority agrees to a scoreboard being used instead of one of the score cards, the skip of the team which won the toss for opening play should update the scoreboard and the opposing skip should deal with the score card as described in 37.1.7

37.1.9 Skips can, at any time, delegate their own powers and any of their own duties (except those described in laws 37.1.7 and 37.1.8) to any other members of the team as long as they tell the opposing skip immediately.

In a nutshell, the skip should keep the scorecard in Fours, Triples and Pairs and cannot delegate it to the second player. Note there is no penalty associated with this law.

Leamington Duties

If you have not put in an application for duties at Leamington please do so as soon as possible.

01753 864425 for a form if you have mislaid yours.

Jessie

History of the EBUA - Documents and records available

If anyone has a particular interest in, or is thinking of writing a history of the EBUA I have a considerable amount of information, i.e. original documents of AGM's, Meetings, Policy Documents etc, etc. concerning or about the business of the EBUA. These probably go back to the year of its formation.

Alternatively, (you may consider), if there is no one likely to be taking on this task that these documents possibly need to be 'archived', for future interest / research. That being the case, if anyone has any idea what I can do with them or where they can be safely stored perhaps they would let me know.

Failing that, I will I feel, have to otherwise dispose of them, no doubt by shredding and thus destroy them. I would be reluctant to do that; so, if anyone has any other ideas or suggestions as to their disposal I would be very pleased to hear from them.

Please contact me by way of email:

ColinWHills@zeronet.co.uk

or telephone on

01429 296968.

Regards,

Colin Hills

Eastern Area Report

As you will have seen from reading the Training Feature in this Newsletter, the next scheduled workshop in the Eastern Area is being held at Cambridge Chesterton IBC on the 18th & 19th June 2011.

I have invited 42 umpires to attend for their four year refresher course with the option to attend a course later in the year if this is not convenient. To date 14 people have registered to attend.

The following workshop in the Eastern Area will probably not be until November at a venue yet to be determined depending upon the numbers of umpires requiring the workshop and their location.

It is encouraging to note the level of interest from bowlers wishing to undertake the initial training to become a Club Umpire.

Unfortunately, it seems that a number of the existing club umpires have decided to call it a day and are not going to renew their certificates this year. I hope that future Club Umpires will wish to continue their membership of the Association.

As most of the Lady umpires in the Eastern Area will be aware from my letter to them, Margaret Ashford-Hull has retired and I have taken over her Zone Rep duties. We all wish Margaret well for the future.

Trevor Hackett

Zone 4B Report

By the time this newsletter comes out, we will be outdoors, hopefully enjoying a beautiful summer of bowls.

To those who have attained their National Umpire accreditation, may I congratulate you and look forward to seeing you at Leamington and for those in my Zone, at county events.

Please can I advise all (especially ladies) due to re-qualify this year, you have not been forgotten! The implementation of the redeveloped training process to accommodate the best of elements of ladies and men training programmes has taken a little longer than originally planned. However, the names of all those who are due to re-qualify this year have been noted and you will be invited to an assessment seminar later on (dependent on organising suitable dates and venues in your areas).

Many of you may also have heard plenty of press comment regarding CRB Clearances etc with the Freedoms Bill going through Parliament. Be assured that the situation is being monitored and for the few umpires affected, updates will be provided as the picture becomes clearer when the Bill becomes law and dates for enactment agreed.

My current advice as your National Child Protection Officer is, please continue as normal, conducting yourself in accordance with best practice as advocated by our association.

Carol Watt-Sullivan

EBUA Hon. Secretary's Report

A report on the affairs of the association for 2010/11 is a major task. Mainly because many members seem to be under the misconception that I run the association single handed. For your information I am only the administrator. It's the Executive / Council who actually run the association.

Any thoughts I have had and which you may have heard me speak about has to be agreed by your council. The council are members that represent you at EBUA meetings.

One of the things that has been addressed is that the Executive officers, Regional Secretary's and Zone Reps have become one council. There is a proposition to this effect being put to the AGM; every Area will then be heard at all meetings.

There are other elements to improving our training being delivered over the coming year.

The development committee and the association are indebted to Andy Ewens who with his development team laid the foundation of our training.

We are about to embark on a new training system, which has been very carefully put together by Allan Thornhill and his team. One of the things Allan has done is produce a new manual and a DVD, both of which are worth having and has been

designed to aid continued training for us all.

This year, those attending a course as a refresher will again find themselves being examined. Not quite as it previously was and should be completed during the first day of the course.

The treasurer has managed to keep us in the black even though spending money on development. I work very closely with Vernon during the year, to balance the books and of course he is a very good friend. Over the past year or two Vernon has set aside money and during this year released some to development to pay for the making of the DVD and the manual.

Myself, Vernon and Allan never intended to just spend the money, but rather with very careful planning to make it an investment. Thus we intend to recover our outlay with profit. Allan will in his report tell you more about the manual and DVD, he is very proud of them and rightly so, they are excellent.

On a rather sad note it amazes me that after all the hard work Officers of the association carry out we receive abusive telephone calls to either ourselves or if we are not home the abuse gets directed to our partners. In some cases not so pleasant emails have been received. The officers are like you members of the EBUA genuinely trying to better the association.

During the year I attended

Area meetings when invited, and found them useful in as much as those attending were able to have their say directly to an Officer. I was certainly under the spotlight at some of these meetings and some very strong comments and opinions were directed my way.

As a result we had a different approach to a uniform and we brought the Executive Officers and the Council as one, thus giving representation of all Areas at all meetings.

I realise there are two sides to every coin and it does not always come down in my favour and that can be said for you.

There has to be common ground for us all. Where I have found difficulty this year, I and the Officers are looking at a bigger picture and it conflicts with local Areas and sometimes personal desires of our members.

To close, thanks to all the Officers for their support.

Rick Moore

VACANT SPACE

Your article could be occupying this space.

All members of the Association can submit an article for inclusion in any of the Newsletters that we produce. Simply email your article to

trevorhackett01@yahoo.co.uk

And it will be included in the next issue.

Is this a record?

"Richard Tugwell is still an active umpire since passing his exam in October 1982, can anyone better that?"

Several umpires have been in contact about the above challenge in the last Newsletter.

Brian Bontoft first qualified at Leicester in 1982. He was examined by Henry Backhouse (Hon. Treasurer) and his certificate was dated 29th October 1982 was signed by John Bell (Chairman) and J.R. Carr (Hon. Sec).

Peter Price has been umpiring since November 1979. Mrs Price has been umpiring since 1980 and officiated at the British Isles Championships in 1984.

It has been suggested that Vernon Findell could solve this issue simply by looking at his membership records. Unfortunately, these would just show how many people are still paying their annual membership subscriptions and not whether they are actively umpiring.

So if you can beat 1979, get in touch and we may be able to go back a bit further in time.



Go on - make someone happy today

Treasurer's Report

The accounts show a loss of £3,589-77 for the year, but that is in mainly due to us having to write off the old stock of ladies and men's uniforms.

The total of £10,768-00 was received from the ladies, which has been entered into advance subscriptions for future years.

The cost of the new DVD is being written off over 3 years, and by the time the last one is sold, our funds will again be replenished. The "grants" of £9,600-00 was up as the EIBA have paid their annual donation for 2009 & 2010 in the same year.

The purchases are higher than the sales, due to purchase of manuals at a cost of £3,000-00 +

Travelling has increased, due to extra meetings in the past year.

Everything else, I am quite happy with.



Vernon Findell

A Moral Dilemma over Law 20.1

In rejecting a formal plea last year for a change in Law 20.1 the World Bowls Laws Committee stated it had two objectives when it included the first sentence of that law in the CM

Edition of the laws. " firstly to prohibit players from stepping / running onto the mat and delivering their bowls in one continuous movement" and "secondly, **to improve the chances of the umpire being able to identify players whose position on the mat is not within the laws when delivering their bowls.**"

The Committee insisted that it's objectives still remain, so the Law has not changed.

It further observed that "allowing players to stand with all or part of one foot on the mat before delivery would enable players to deliver from a much wider point and permit extreme stances such as heel only or toe only, thus allowing much greater changes of angle, and potential damage to the green if players persistently have their toe off".

The Committee went on to say it believed that " the first sentence of the law as currently written *achieves its objective of ensuring that all players start their delivery from the same position within the limits of the mat*. It also believes that any perceived breaches of the current law are due either to a lack of awareness of the law's requirements by players and coaches or to failures on the part of coaches to teach players to take up a stance as required by the law. Neither of these are seen to be reasons for changing the current law."

My observations, not

simply in isolation but in concert with some of my colleague umpires, have shown there is a remarkable reluctance among umpires to take any action to enforce the Law Committee's objectives. Perhaps like me they just do not like the inclusion of the first sentence of Law 20.1, but does what we like or don't like have anything to do with anything ? It is clear that for years many bowlers have deliberately and/or habitually taken up a stance (such as that shown in the left hand photo on Chapter 7 page 22 of the EBUA Home Study Manual) but which has only for the last 4 years been designated as a foot-fault. For that period we have somehow contrived not to notice this !! The Laws Committee has effectively told us that it is not inclined to allow any latitude, so when is a foot-fault not a foot-fault ? When there is no advantage ?

What right have we to introduce such ideas as "no advantage" in order to ameliorate an offence which is blatantly obvious ? Am I alone in facing a moral dilemma over this issue? Am I a coward if I choose to withdraw from umpiring outdoors rather than ignoring my duty under the Laws on the one hand or standing aloof from my colleagues on the other?

Jack Sadie
National Umpire