



Newsletter of the EBUA

June 2010

Inaugural AGM—25th April 2010

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Make up of sub-committees & info...

The minutes of the meeting are not available at this time but will be published in full on the EBUA web site in the near future.

One or two of the salient matters that were deter-

mined were: - The Association to be know as: -

English Bowls Umpires Association.

Motions submitted in respect of Membership and Area / Zone Representatives, which following vot-

ing failed to be accepted.

Appointment of Executive Members (as below), nominated by the steering committee went through 'on the nod' there being no other persons proposed.

ENGLISH BOWLS UMPIRES ASSOCIATION

Executive Meeting

Held immediately after the Inaugural Annual General meeting
April 25th 2010

Present: Ray White (in the Chair) Rick Moore, Jessie Clark, Mavis Wellington, Vernon Findell, Alan Thornhill

Gender Balance:

After general discussion, it was decided to offer the two women vacancies to:

- Phyl Jones 2a Zone Rep, she has been involved with the constitution and regulations, and these will be a major part of the committee's work during the coming year
- Mary Taylor, who was assistant secretary of the EWUA

New Association Badge:

Val Coldwell was called into the meeting and asked to place the proposed design of the new badge on the needlework programme of her computer.

Sub Committees:

Development;	Alan Thornhill Sue Hawksworth Val Coldwell Mich Van Putt and other men to be decided.
Finance	Vernon Findell Sue Trott and Ray Keen
International and National Selection	Rick Moore and Jessie Clark
Child Protection	Carol Watt Sullivan
Constitution	Brian Burton and Phyl Jones
Match Secretary:	Eileen Haddleton
Stock Controller	Still to be decided

Matches:

It was agreed that matches should continue as a PR exercise. Eileen should arrange to give Colin Hills a list of next year's fixtures to go out with the newsletter, with a tear-off slip for applications for games.

It was further agreed:

- The officer of the day can claim travelling expenses.
- The match secretary can claim administration expenses.
- A match fee of £3.00, above the cost of meals, should be levied.

Leamington Administration: Ruth Howes Jessie Clark Mary Taylor Mavis Wellington

Worthing Administration: Vernon Findell

Next Meetings:

Executive meeting at Oxford City and County on the 2nd June at 11am.

Council Meeting at Leamington Spa, Sunday 8th August at 2.30pm (in the Cricket Pavilion).

News From the Areas

Eastern Area

The Eastern Area has just run a successful training seminar at Tye Green in Harlow.

Three National and six county refreshers were awarded their Certificate for another four years. One potential umpire qualified at County Grade and I would like to welcome George Thoday of Essex into our Association.

Peter Hartwell from Huntingdonshire passed his Upgrade examination so congratulations to him. Finally Geoff Trigwell passed his oral and practical upgrade and is just awaiting his theory results before qualifying at National Grade.

I would like to thank Rick Moore the Tutor for his time

and efforts on our behalf in the Eastern Area. I would also like to thank Allan Thornhill for his time at the seminar on Saturday 5th June. Ray White, Brian Fairchild and Eddie Hall gave up their time as examiners on Sunday 6th June. My thanks to all of them.

Our next training seminar will be held at Acle on 27th and 28th November. Would anyone not due to attend a refresher course but wishing to do so contact me please? Those due to attend will hear from me automatically.

Ray White the Eastern Area Examinations Officer is standing down this year and Brian Fairchild has volunteered to take over. His application will be processed by Allan Thornhill later in the year.

Whilst still on the subject of Examinations, we could do with more examination assis-

tants in the Eastern Area. This entails being available to undertake oral examinations, practical examinations and to act as an assistant to the candidate being assessed for string measures, etc. If any one would like to be considered please let me know.

In the Autumn each year the County Co-ordinators are appointed for their respective counties. There is not usually a rush of applications for these positions but if anyone is interested in undertaking this role please let me know. There may not be any vacancies at the moment but the existing incumbents may welcome the chance to stand down if an opportunity arises.

I wish you all well with your bowling and umpiring and look forward to the future of our unified Association.

Trevor Hackett

".....Thanks to all at Training seminar.."

"... any persons interested or keen to help ..."

Midlands Area

Well, the sun still rises in the east, the sky has not fallen in and the world has not ended. So much for amalgamation then!

We held a very successful training / refresher course at Leicester in April which was attended by 25 people.

Congratulations to all those new &/or upgrade umpires who successfully attended, including a lady from County Durham.

The message covering the new method of collecting umpiring expenses on the day has not permeated through to the clubs and counties and will take a little time to sink in.

In the case of the Midland

Counties (Indoor) & Midland Seniors Competitions, it has gone down like a lead balloon, but more of that in my Midland Area AGM report.

Whilst at a personal level, I prefer the donation system, with the Umpires Association in control of finance; such donations have been very few and far between of late. In simple terms only a small number of counties & clubs are donating and bear no relationship to the constantly escalating fuel prices.

Also, as a consequence of amalgamation, as the EWUA have been using this system for some time, it would be illogical to have two different methods of payment dependant upon who was the controlling body for the match. This would cause such confusion. Who would pay in mixed

matches? This would require more research than passing the original Umpires exam!

On a personal level, I have been privileged to serve as EBUA President for 2009/10 and have thoroughly enjoyed it.

The EBUA played a team from Bowls England at Leamington where we narrowly lost on the last end.

Additionally a mixed EBUA team played a mixed team from the EIBA at Tamworth. Having heard of our exploits, they spiced their team with numerous International bowlers. Whilst we scared them, they eventually ran out worthy winners.

We were instrumental in the organisation of the most successful English National Visually Handicapped Bowlers As-

"....new method of collecting expenses"

".... Mixed EBUA team at Tamworth...."

“English National Visually Handicapped Bowlers Association ... August 2010 at Leamington....

sociation Championships (their words not mine!) at Leamington in August 09. To see the standard of bowling of some of these people, acting so cheerfully with a fairly serious disability makes you want to go and burn your bowls.

We organised over 200 umpiring / marking duties during the week and must take this opportunity to thank all those dedicated members who took part in this event. The praise for the performance of the EBUA members was overwhelming.

“.....unable to amend rules once printed?”

We are running a similar event in August this year again at Leamington commencing Sunday August 22nd to Friday August 27th inclusive. If any one who has not yet notified me would like to

help in Marking &/or Umpiring at this years event, please let me know ASAP. There are no expenses, just food and drink and the eternal gratitude of a group of disadvantaged but extremely cheerful group of bowlers.

Congratulations to the six EBUA umpires who have been selected to officiate at the Commonwealth Games in India in October. Thanks also are due to Mary Price for sponsoring them with their new Comfort Pro shoes for the event.

A point that concerned me was that following the discovery of an error in the EIBA Rules of Competition last season, I was informed that they were unable to amend Rules once they had been printed even if they were wrong.

Whilst I can understand the problem with the handbook, I cannot see why the Rules cannot be corrected on the web site, which would only be a few moments work. This would give the umpires & players clearly defined instruction.

The outcome at present presumably for an umpire is that we would have to implement the rule of the written word if challenged and leave it to the Controlling body to sort out the appeal, which is a nonsense scenario. Let's hope they change their mind on this issue for the next season. A verbal rule is not worth the paper that it is not written on!!.

Brian Burton
Midlands Area Secretary

Northern Area



Tony Alcock, Pam Wise, Susan Drew, Rachel Proctor, Paul Proctor, Brian Critchlow.

Sponsorship for Northumberland's bowls umpires. (With acknowledgment to News Post Leader. Thursday Nov 5th 2009)

A group of bowls umpires have become the first in the country to be sponsored through the qualification process

Officials at Bowls North of the Tyne are celebrating after the four passed their qualification exams with flying colours – with one of them, Rachel Proctor, now the youngest umpire in the country.

And the five can now be found on greens throughout Northum-

berland and North Tyneside, helping to ensure matches run smoothly.

Bowls North of the Tyne was able to secure a grant from Sport England to promote the sport in the region, and also to help increase the number of officials.

Jim Rennie, bowls development officer, said: "This is the first time in the country where an organisation like us has sponsored umpires. As a result, Bowls International is interested in what we did and is following it up. Bowls North of the Tyne is going from strength."

He added that as well as umpires; they had funded 11 coaches up to grade two, and were now looking to run both initiatives again if they could find

the funding.

The loss of Bob Nicholson will effect many aspects of Bowls here for some time to come. Not least in EBUA Tutoring where fortunately there were currently no 'Refreshers' needed this year.

It was hoped to run a course this autumn but Allan Thornhill asked that it be put on hold pending a proposed National Training Seminar and the anticipated changes in 'Laws'.

Thanks to Brian Burton and his 'Training Team', our one new candidate Beverley Turnbull, was able to get to Leicester and pass the initial course. Well done Beverley!

Catch—up for 'Refreshers' is going to be a huge task next year, 19 current members to my knowledge!

Many thanks to all.
Colin Hills. Area Secretary.

"....loss of Bob Nicholson...."

"..... 19 current members for 'Refresher Course' in 2011....!"

Training & Development

I have a tough act to follow. Andy Ewens has been hugely successful in transforming the training and development of umpires in England over the past 6 years. He has been instrumental in promoting our training processes worldwide, so much so that the World Bowls Umpire Training Programme is based predominantly on our methods. As an association we owe him a massive vote of thanks for the hard work and time that he has committed to the training of umpires. Personally it has been an absolute pleasure transforming his ideas into reality and working closely with a good friend and mentor.

So to the future – new association, new ideas? Well not entirely. I am a firm believer in "if it isn't broke don't fix it". What we have is a programme that is now recognised worldwide as the standard for training umpires. Of course that does not mean that we can rest on our laurels. The World Bowls ITO process held at the end of 2009 gave us a proverbial kick up the derriere and made us realise that perhaps we are not the "Best in the World" like we thought we were. So we need to consider those results and whilst that process involved those at the highest level of umpiring we have always believed in aiming high and providing our new recruits with the very best knowledge and experience emanating from this level. As the Chairman together with my team on the Development Committee, I aim to incorporate and develop the best of what we had in both the EBUA and the EWUA training and examination processes. At the time of writing, I have a draft training and examination process being prepared for presentation to your National Executive for approval. With this in mind I must stress that what I mention below is still to be ap-

proved but hopefully I can provide some snippets of our vision for the future.

The training and examination of all grades of umpire will now be achieved by completion of a series of modules. These will include home study workbooks, practical workshops and assessments or examinations.

We have a number of grades of umpire busily representing us on the greens of England. The training and development of all grades and individuals need to be considered as well as the new recruits that we constantly attract to our association. The initial qualification level will become Club Umpire and the training for this will be carried out via a Home Study Pack supported by DVD's, Law Books and manuals. A basic practical assessment will be carried out in order to qualify. This grade will serve as an apprenticeship and individuals will be mentored by a new role of Club Umpire Coordinator. Our Club Umpire scheme is seen as a way of building links between local clubs and our association. It is expected to raise the profile of our role in the sport whilst providing a means of recruitment of new umpire.

After a minimum of 12 months experience a club umpire may progress to the next grade of Regional Umpire and it is at this stage that the umpire will be required to attend a practical workshop and take a full assessment involving a number of practical and theory assessments. The initial certificate will be valid for 12 months after which the Regional umpire would be expected to take a further simple assessment to gain the full 4 year certificate. The rationale behind this initial

grading structure is simple. We have recognised that someone with limited experience as a player may answer a number of questions, attend a weekend course and pass a simple examination and then be plunged into the real world of umpiring with no experience and in many cases no mentoring. This is not only unfair on the individual but also reflects poorly on our association when mistakes due to lack of experience inevitably happen.

The further grades of National and International umpire will remain. Each umpire must attend a practical workshop and take an assessment every 4 years.

We would also like to introduce event specific training to include National Championships and International Events. This will provide information on the requirements and expectations of that specific event.

In further newsletters I will provide more details of the Training & Development Programme once it has been approved and we start producing the required material. There will be some vacancies for Training, Examination and administration roles. If you wish to be involved then please apply when the advertisements and job descriptions are published later this year.

Allan Thornhill
EBUA National Development Officer

NOTTINGHAM EIBA NATIONALS 2010

UMPIRING & MARKING OBSERVATIONS & EXPERIENCES

Observations on Umpiring and Marking, which I hope will give another glimpse or insight into the successes or otherwise of the Umpires and Markers at prestigious events.

The National Indoor Finals as has been usual in recent years were held at Nottingham Indoor Bowling Club over the ten days Friday 8th to Sunday 18th April. The culmination of the past year's many county and regional rounds for the teams and individuals that have worked long and hard to hopefully become champions in their respective English Indoor Bowls competitions.

Coverage of this event required the attendance of six resident Umpires, four Men and two Ladies. The two days of the preliminary rounds of the singles required up to eight Markers twice each day.

Marking first then: - and I wish to say from the start, the standard overall was impressive. Smart turnout, some wearing full uniform white trousers and jackets, others white trousers, zip tops or maroon shirts. All were briefed prior to duties and aware that their performance would be subject to assessment, not only by the accompanying Umpires but also those 'experts' amongst the audience who as ever would be quick to voice their 'advice' or criticism.

Many of the problems encountered were partly due to the excessive noise from the spectators that resulted in many of the questions asked and replies given being misunderstood or misheard. An example: - the player asks, "What distance did my last bowl travel though?" To which the reply was, "You are holding one!" However, it did become ap-

parent that in some respects Markers were not responding as their duties required. Again an example, the player asking, "What is the situation?" A contentious issue I know, but we can perhaps agree that the response should be a little more than, "You are one down!"

My personal view is that many when marking seem to forget or do not use their knowledge and experience as bowls players. None of us when playing, I'm sure do not, even if number three, walk about the head exaggeratedly peering at the approaching bowl and jack to determine if it is to be a 'toucher'. Or, intently and slowly examine the head after a bowl has come to rest to apparently judge or estimate some obscure distance between this or that. We can also I'm sure, anticipate what the player will be seeking to know about his last bowl or which bowl is 'shot' so that we are able to respond to questions quickly and intelligently. Watching Vernon Findell marking the Singles Final was testament to this. He quickly appeared to 'attune' himself to the style and requests of the contestants, using clear hand signals to indicate measurements or the shot bowl in response to quizzical looks alone from the players so that the game flowed well with minimal interruption.

Markers obscuring the rink 'side markers' cropped up many times. This happens in games you will be playing in I'm sure, so is a matter you should be aware of and always do your best to allow a clear view.

Other points: - be aware of the position one needs to move to when there is a firing shot or shot played with weight. Do not be so far to the rear of the head that you have to almost run up the rink to get in front of the jack. Be clear that you know the meaning of 'Jack High' as it relates to questions and responses concerning distances between bowl and jack.

A few actions that brought wry smiles or nods of disapproval from spectators: - "What is he doing with his foot?" as the

marker absent-mindedly rubbed his shoe across chalk marks on the carpet as the player bends down preparing to bowl. And, walking up the rink marking the scorecard; raising one foot and one finger on each hand to one side to indicate to the scoreboard marker, 'three shots to red'! Multi-tasking at its best I agree but also rather comical and finally; "Why has he chalked the last bowl played in that end, a toucher, when it is clearly lying on the rink?" Why indeed!

Something I have found that helps me as a Marker is; when the score has been decided by the players, to clearly repeat aloud what they have said, for example: - "One red". That for me 'fixes' in my mind the score for that end. I walk briskly to the far end indicating with left or right hand and fingers to the scoreboard marker the score. I remove the mat if necessary, turn to face the player who may by then be delivering the jack. I check his mat, then, as the jack or even the first bowl is on its journey towards me write up the card, glancing at the scoreboard to see they agree.

The Umpiring? Also went well I believe, not to say that there wasn't some things that could have been done in a better way or no mistakes or errors; a toucher being removed from the ditch much to the guilty party's embarrassment. But as I have said before, those who 'do' will make mistakes, those who 'don't', never do!

Finally, advice from someone who suffered moments of acute embarrassment; as an umpire or marker, if you are wearing trousers that has pockets with those new-fangled coin 'traps', do not put your wedges in them! You can bet that when you need them they will be well and truly trapped and I can assure you it is far from easy and very undignified trying to get them out.

Colin Hills.

How would **you** deal with this situation?

Such incidents may be helpful to the Training Team and if you would like to share them with us please email the Training Administrator alex@cdec.co.uk . You don't have to tell us how you responded!

Appeal from Alex!

It is possible that during your Umpiring Appointments you have had an incident for which there may not be an immediate answer according to the Laws of the Sport but you are called upon to make an immediate decision.

For example: Skip A is bowling his last bowl - he is 5 down - and as he delivers, an opponent takes his handkerchief out of his pocket and with it a piece of chalk which falls on to the green. Skip A's bowl hits the chalk and is displaced off line but does not disturb the head.

English Bowls Umpires Association							Umpires Matches 2010—2011
Matches 2010—2011							Send this section to Eileen
Dress: Umpires' uniform—white below waist							Keep the rest for your info.
Sutton IBC	Surrey SM2 6JA	Thursday	9/12/10	1.30 pm	4 rinks	£10.00	Sutton 9/12/10
Preston	Brighton BN1 6SA	Monday	31/1/11	1.30 pm	6/7 rinks	£10.00	Preston 31/1/11
Stone Lodge	Dartford DA2 6PD	Saturday	12/2/11	1.30 pm	6 rinks	£10.00	Stone Lodge 12/2/11
Victoria IBC	Street BA16 0HB	Wednes	16/2/11	1.30 pm	3 rinks	£7.00	Victoria 16/2/11
Adur	Brighton BN42 4NT	Tuesday	22/2/11	2.00 pm	6 rinks	£10.00	Adur 22/2/11
East Dorset IBC	Christchurch BH23 1HW	Wednes	2/3/11	1.00 pm	6 rinks	£10.00	East Dorset 2/3/11
Padbrook Park	Cullompton EX15 1RU	Sunday	6/3/11	1.30 pm	3 rinks	£7.00	Padbrook 6/3/11
Grattons	Crawley RH10 3AG	Tuesday	8/3/11	1.30 pm	6 rinks	£10.00	Grattons 8/3/11
Angel	Tonbridge TN9 1QH	Saturday	12/3/11	1.30 pm	6 rinks	£10.00	Angel 12/3/11
Kingsthorpe	Northampton NN2 8DZ	Wednes	30/3/11	1.30 pm	4 rinks	£10.00	Kingsthorpe 30/3/11
Wealden	Maresfield TN22 2HN	Tuesday	12/4/11	1.45 pm	6 rinks	£10.00	Wealden 12/4/11

Name:
Address:
Postcode:
Telephone:
Email:
 Preferred position on rink
 fellow travellers:

Hi fellow umpires.

I would like to welcome all our new members. For the first time, these match fixtures are being distributed to every member of our new Association.

The Executive Committee have agreed that the match fee be increased to cover expenses. £10 covers match and 2-course match meal; £7 is the fee for match and 'bowlers tea'. Please keep the main list, with the postcode of the venue, and return the other slip to me.

With this new venture, the numbers applying to play could vary, but I am still planning to send out a communication to everyone interested, listing the first 5 or 6 fixtures and giving telephone numbers of those applying. These matches are arranged for umpires as a social event and to get together with others in the Association. Visitors are very welcome. I will need to know if any visitor would like a meal, they will be charged the amount requested by the club. If we are short of players, then a visitor may be asked to play so please be prepared to bring bowls, shoes etc. I am looking forward to meeting new members of our Association.

Mrs Eileen Haddleton, (Match Secretary EBUA) 31 Freama Way, Gillingham, Dorset, SP8 4RA.
Email: eileen.haddleton@btinternet.com

Vernon's Appeal: - I would first like to thank all our 'gentlemen' members for fairly swift payment of their annual subs, of which over 400 paid by standing order and the vast majority of the rest paid in advance. But there is still a hard core of 40 or so who caused me and their area secretaries more work than the rest put together! Please remember subs are due 1st January, not late March. I would like to send reminders but that would cost too much. You all have your membership card and that tells you when your subs are due.

To the ladies I would like to say a very big thank you for all your replies to the 'pack' I sent you. It gives me great encouragement for the future of our Association when so many responded with many kind words for the job in hand.

I would like to thank Jessie for all the help she has given me. One last thing; whenever you see me please offer me cash!!! For anything, as I am your treasurer. L.O.L Vernon



In Memory: -

Bob Nicholson, died 5th January 2010 ~ International grade Umpire and National Tutor.

Doris Wall, died 5th June 2010 ~ 4B Zone Representative & member of the EWUA Standing Committee.

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