



English Bowls Umpires Association

National Development Officer

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Dear Colleagues

You may be aware of some confusion surrounding the status of the EBUA Club Umpire Grade.

At the 2013 Annual General Meeting I stood again for the position of National Development Officer after a period of 15 months absence due to work commitments. My first task as NDO has been to review the current development procedures and identify the gaps which need filling; this is now completed and we are recommencing umpire training early in 2014.

In late 2012 a decision was taken to disband the Club Umpire grade. It has left some gaps and the role of existing club umpires is a little unclear. Therefore I hope, in this letter, to try to clarify the situation with regard to the Club Umpire grade and inform you of the next steps that are proposed for your development.

The current situation is that there are a number of groups of individuals who are affected in different ways by this decision:

- 1) New applicants who have completed the first written theory modules to become a club umpire but have not yet completed the qualification.
- 2) New Umpires who have qualified as Club umpire and have received a certificate as Club Umpire.
- 3) New umpires who have qualified as Club Umpires but received a Certificate as Regional Umpire.
- 4) Existing Club Umpires whose certificates have not yet expired.

I would like to take each group individually and try to explain the proposed process for bringing each in line with the new Training & Development Procedures.

1) New Applicants

Those that have completed the written theory paper – Module 1, but have yet to attend a workshop or examination will continue to do so. The examination that you will take will be the Regional Umpire Examination paper which will include 10 measuring exercises, 3 marking exercises and a 10 question oral theory paper. If successful you will be issued with a certificate as a Regional Umpire.

2) New Club Umpires

Those that have successfully qualified as club umpires in the last few years and have a certificate valid for 4 years will, on expiration of that certificate or earlier if desired, complete a Regional Umpire examination as detailed above. If successful you will be issued with a Regional Grade certificate valid for 4 years. There will be no 4 year retest available for Club Umpire grades.

There is now an alternative route which you may wish to consider and this is detailed below under EBUA Markers Course.

3) New Regional Umpires

It is this group which causes us the most concern. Some individuals who qualified as club umpires have received certificates stating that they are Regional Grade. There is a gap between the examination for Club Umpire and that of Regional and this gap will have been jumped by these individuals. We are therefore asking for those individuals to return to take a Regional Umpire examination only. There is no requirement to attend an additional workshop but you will of course be more than welcome should you want more practical practice.

4) Existing Club Umpires

Those who have been club umpires for some years and whose certificates are due to expire may upgrade to Regional Umpire by completing a written theory paper attending a workshop and taking the Regional Umpire Examination. You will be issued with a certificate as Regional Umpire grade for a period of 4 years. Alternatively, if you wish to remain as Markers you may attend the new EBUA Markers Course as detailed below.

All umpires whose certificates are due expire will be invited to attend a workshop and examination by their Area Secretaries. Those that are required to complete an upgrade theory paper will be given additional time to complete this.

EBUA Marker Courses

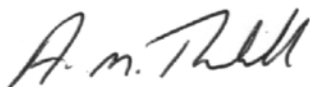
One of the priorities in the Training & Development programme has been the development of a Markers Course. It is one of my biggest regrets that I was unable to fulfil this prior to stepping down as NDO. Now that I have returned, I have been working hard with a dedicated team of experienced umpire/markers develop a formal Markers programme that will compliment the umpire training process.

A new EBUA Markers Course will be launched early in 2014 and this will allow you to obtain a Certificate of Attendance and to join the association as an EBUA Marker. You may continue to Mark singles matches and you will progress through a series of “on the job” assessments to determine at what level of competition you can mark.

I see this course complimenting the existing umpire training as an additional part of the development of umpires and acting as a stepping stone to becoming umpires. It may also be used by clubs to provide competent markers and for those that have no desire to become umpires.

I hope that I have helped in some way to clarify the situation regarding Club Umpires, further details of each stage of the training & development process are available on the EBUA Website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. m. Thornhill', written in a cursive style.

Allan Thornhill
National Development Officer