

# **English Bowls Umpires Association**

Minutes of a Council meeting held on Thursday 27 January 2011  
at Leamington Spa.

## Present -

R White – Chairman  
M Wellington – Deputy Chairman  
R Moore – Secretary  
J Clark – Deputy Secretary  
V Findell - Treasurer  
P Jones – Executive Member and Zone Representative  
Mary Taylor Executive Member  
Val Coldwell – Zone Representative  
Sue Trott - Zone Representative  
Sue Hawksworth – Zone Representative  
Carol Watt Sullivan – Child Protection Officer and Zone Representative  
Trevor Hackett – Area Secretary  
Ray Keen – Area Secretary  
Brian Burton – Area Secretary  
John Davies – Area Secretary

## 1 Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting. He felt that this was the meeting where there was the opportunity to take a good look at how things had shaped over the last year and consider whether the Association was moving in the right direction and if necessary rethink the plans for the future. He had asked some of those present to open the envelopes of voting papers received and would announce the result at the end of the meeting.

## 2 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from A Thornhill – Development Officer (and Area Secretary)

## 3 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 8 August 2010 had previously been circulated and were proposed as correct by Jessie Clark, seconded Sue Trott, and were duly signed by the Chairman as a true record.

## 4 Matters Arising

Colin Hills had resigned as Area Secretary.

## 5 Correspondence received –Nil

## 6. Secretary's report

Rick Moore began his report by saying that it was not appropriate to discuss the uniform issue as the votes received from the members were being counted whilst the meeting was going on. The result would be declared at the end of the meeting. He told the meeting that he had proposed a radical change to the Constitution of the Association at the Executive Committee meeting which had taken place that morning, and that change had been agreed by them. He was proposing that the Executive Committee and the Council be merged to form an expanded Executive.

This body would meet three times a year, and be called the Executive Committee. The Council would cease to exist. This would put back in place the more direct link that had been there between the Executive and the membership as a whole and which he felt had been missing over the last year. The motion to make the necessary changes to the Constitution would be on the agenda for the AGM in the name of the Executive Committee.

It had also been agreed by the Executive that the mechanism for the introduction of the new uniform (based on the result of the members vote) should be decided by the expanded Executive after the AGM, on the assumption that the motion implementing the changes was passed.

He was also proposing that discussion of the changes to the Areas/Zones be put on hold for at least a year, and this would be an item for the expanded Executive to decide on after the AGM.

In preparation for the new expanded Executive the current Committee was proposing to hold another Council meeting on Saturday 26 March 2011 at Leamington as part of the preparations for the AGM. If an Area/Zone rep could not attend on that day then they could send a 'substitute'.

Rick said that he wanted now wanted to move onto the issue of the payment of umpires' expenses. He had published his proposal that clubs and counties be 'invoiced' for an annual levy which would fund the central payment of expenses, thus avoiding the embarrassing difficulties some umpires were now experiencing in getting their expenses paid. He was proposing that the levy could be £5 per Club and £50 per county. It was pointed out that this only really worked for outdoor clubs and counties as the indoor clubs and counties were rather different and perhaps £25 for clubs and £5 for counties would be more appropriate here. Where an outdoor county was very small a different contribution could be negotiated. It was also felt that some counties were already making donations in excess of what would be asked of them under this scheme. It was agreed that the Treasurer would provide those attending with a list of the donations he had received in recent years.

Rick had consulted Brian Burton for an opinion on what should be an occasion when it was permitted to claim expenses and what should not. Brian had given him the following suggestions

#### Claimable

- All inter-county matches
- All regional finals
- All EIBA/BE requests
- Quarter, semi-finals and finals of county competitions
- External competitions (such as police, civil service, HMRC etc championships) and local Gala days. These should be 'invoiced' to the organisations immediately after the matches (unless satisfactory alternative arrangements have been made). The Area/Zone rep will need to make it clear to the organisers of these events that this will happen and ensure that they are willing to accept these terms.

#### Not claimable

- Inter-club matches
- National Competitions (up to the Regional Finals)
- Wheelchair, visually handicapped etc championships
- EYBDS meetings

Brian had said that he would also expect that the umpire be provided with a meal etc during the day.

There followed a discussion where it emerged that some counties were already paying higher mileage rates than the EUBA, some had large competitions where payment would be precluded by Brian's suggestions or had schemes that seemed to be working well for our members. It was agreed that all Area/zone reps should write to their counties asking how they dealt with expenses claims from umpires and in what circumstances they paid umpires expenses and report those findings back to Rick by the end of February.

It was hoped that whatever new scheme was eventually introduced this would save umpires having to ask for their expenses as this was universally unpopular.

### 7 Treasurer's report

Vernon Findell handed out copies of the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2010. He said that these showed a loss of £3589.77 for the year, but that part of that amount was as a result of writing off the stock nominally valued at £2603.87.

The £10,000 approximately received from the ladies association had been included in the 'advanced subscriptions', and the sum (£9600) shown as grants from BE was actually the total received from BE and EIBA.

He was disappointed to report that there were still 150 members who had not yet paid their subscriptions for this year. For that reason he had proposed to the Executive Committee that they put forward to the AGM a change to the arrangements concerning unpaid subscriptions ensuring that he was able to cancel the membership of those who had not paid their subscription earlier than was possible now. He proposed that the procedure should be that if a subscription was not paid by 31 January in the subscription year he would be able to cancel that membership on 1 February.

The Treasurer reported that Margaret Ashford-Hull had retired as a zone Representative and that he had arranged for some flowers to be sent to her as a 'thank you' for all her had work over many years.

It was confirmed that the subscription rate for 'non-active' members was £4 pa which would entitle them to receive the newsletters etc.

### 8 Development Officer's report

Allan Thornhill had provided written report.

'The new Home Study manual is now available for sale to members at £14.50 (£13.00 plus p & p). Those who have seen a copy have (mostly) been very complimentary.

Two days of filming and one day of voice recording have been completed for the DVD. The start date was delayed by the debate over clothing, but a decision was made to proceed with filming based on the uniform that was agreed unanimously by the Council. The second filming date was postponed because of the inclement weather in December. I am most grateful for the support of Wey Valley IBC (who loaned facilities free of charge), Alex Duckworth and Vic Perry for playing starring roles and to Natalie Melmore for agreeing to present and narrate on the DVD.

The DVD is expected to be completed and available by the end of February, and is likely to be sold for £10.00 (excluding p & p).

The first module written paper has been written and will be sent (with the Home Study material) when the DVD is available. There are approximately 25 new candidates awaiting training who will receive application forms shortly. The first upgrade up-grade papers and examination papers are almost complete and will be available for the first round of examinations.

A workshop is being held for the 5 national Examiners, 4 national Tutors and 3 Training Administrators at the end of February. After that the processes will be explained to the regional examiners and training assistants on a local basis.

It is anticipated that the first round of workshops and examinations will be in April. The local markers workshop (and assessment) is in development and will be run at clubs by our members for anyone to attend. This also forms part of the assessment process for new and existing members. The aim is that these will commence to be run in the fourth quarter of 2011.

The Club Umpire scheme is also to be developed and will involve a large number of our members in recruiting, mentoring, and developing the club umpire grade.

I would like to thank the Training and Development Committee for their valuable assistance and support in these initial preparation stages.'

The question was raised of what action umpires (both ladies and men) who were due to re-qualify this year this year should take to ensure they were called for their exams etc. It was agreed that if zone reps/area secretaries heard of a member in this position they should report their name to either Jessie Clark (for the ladies) or Rick Moore (for the men) who would ensure that they were included when seminars/examinations were being arranged.

## 9 Regional Secretaries/Zone Representative reports

### a) Eastern- Trevor Hackett

Trevor reported that with the retirement of Margaret Ashford-Hull her zone had been divided between himself and Brian Burton, with Northamptonshire joining Brian's Midland region and the rest joining his.

### b) Midland – Brian Burton

Brian reported that he had arranged the training course for his region for 16 and 17 April 2011 at Leicester. He had notified everyone in his Area of the arrangements but was concerned as he did not know what was happening.

### c) South West - John Davies

John said that he wanted to clarify his position as he had heard that there was whispering that as he was now Secretary of the PBA he would be curtailing his EBUA activities. He stated that this was untrue; his commitment to the EBUA was as strong as ever.

### d) Northern - Val Coldwell

Val reported that she had no male counterpart, but she now knows who to contact or ask for help. The ladies had not been used to Area meetings in the past, but she had hopes they would soon start to join in.

Arrangements had been made for the BIIBC matches at Stanley IBC in March and the PBA at Carlisle at Easter.

### e) Zone 3a – Sue Trott

Sue said that there had been an informal meeting of members, and she thanked Rick for attending. Charitable activities were continuing in the Area.

Sue thanked Vernon for all his help, and said that she felt that a recruitment drive was needed to keep up membership numbers was anything happening about this?

f) Zone 4b- Carol Watt Sullivan

Carol first reported as Child Protection Officer where she said that things were very quiet at the moment whilst the Government decided on the system it wanted to adopt.

She reminded Rick of the Child Protection implications of the 'Junior Club' he had proposed in his recent letter

As zone rep she was liaising with counties over entries in their handbooks and asked that more notice be given when input was next required for a newsletter.

g) Ray Keen

Ray said that he at his area meeting most members seemed in a very positive frame of mind and looking to the future.

10 Any other business

i) Uniform Ballot

The result of the membership vote was now available and the Chairman announced result of the ballot. There had been 458 votes received and this had divided between the options as follows

Navy	151
Gold	122
Royal Blue	114
Green	15

28 'spoilt' voting papers had been received; most of these had not shown any preference for any of the options. In many cases the member had added a comment and the forms would be taken away for those comments to be collated and made available to the next meeting.

The uniform for the new Association would therefore be based on the navy blue shirt, and this would be discussed at the next meeting, with its implementation being decided by the expanded Council after the AGM

ii) Temporary uniform

It was confirmed that the uniform for the 'new' or 'upgraded' umpires (and that at designated events eg indoor the national finals) was white tops, navy trousers/skirts and white shoes. No ties/cravats were to be worn. If required burgundy or blue 'zip-ups' were to be worn

iii) Uniform

John Davies asked that after the proposed five year 'transition' period for the new uniform those on the brink of retirement could continue to wear their existing blazer etc. It was felt that this meant that the uniform change was never going to actually take place. It was agreed that this should be discussed as part of the arrangements for the introduction of the new uniform that would be decided by the expanded Executive after the AGM.

10 Next meeting

The next meeting would be held on Saturday 26 March 2011 at Leamington Spa at 12.00 noon.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 15.50 as the building was due to be locked.

Chairman