

**Minutes of the Second Annual General meeting of the English
Bowls Umpires Association
held at Victoria Park, Leamington Spa
on 1 May 2011**

Present: 83 members

Apologies: 45 members

1. Chairman's Welcome

Ray White (Chairman) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone who had taken the time to attend the meeting.

He apologised that space was restricted because the 'moveable' wall had not been folded back and that the microphone system was not available. He said that both of these had been requested.

He reminded the meeting that the Association was formed just a year ago by the amalgamation of the two previous associations; this meant that all members were equal and no one 'was more equal than any other'. All zone representatives, area secretaries and county co-ordinators needed to liaise work together, he had been saddened by some of the correspondence he had seen circulating in the last year.

2. In Remembrance

The members stood in remembrance of those members who had died during the past year.

3. Apologies for absence

Rick Moore (Secretary) had received 27 apologies before the meeting and a further 18 were added.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the first AGM were proposed as a true record by Brian Burton and seconded by Phyl Jones and duly signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising

a) The item in the minutes stating that 'A new uniform would only be considered when all other issues have been resolved' was raised. It was explained that it had been necessary to review this during the year, and thus the ballot of members to select the shirt had been held.

b) A question was also raised concerning the new badge – as this was the subject of a motion later in the meeting discussion of this was deferred.

c) Expenditure was part of the Vernon Findell's (Treasurer) report and thus would also be discussed later

6. Chairman's Report

Ray White said that the Executive Committee and the Council had worked very hard over the 12 months. They had not all always agreed, but there had been a lot of hard work put in on the behalf of the members. All the membership might not always have agreed with their decisions but it was important that decisions were taken by the EC so that the new Association could progress.

7. Secretary's Report

[See Appendix A attached]

This had been circulated with the Agenda for the meeting and was approved by the meeting.

8. Treasurer's Report and proposal of accounts

[See Appendix B attached] The financial statement for the year to 31 December 2010 had been circulated with the Agenda and Vernon dealt with member's questions arising from them. He stated that the sum of £9600 shown as coming from Bowls England was actually £4300 from that source with the rest two payments received from EIBA Ltd

He asked that the meeting defer the discussion of the level of subscriptions for the year 2012 to later in the meeting. This was agreed.

The Treasurer's report was accepted by the meeting, proposed by the Treasurer and seconded by Wendy Frizzell.

9. Appointment of competent person with reference to the accounts

Vernon asked the meeting to confirm Mr A R Bugby in this position again for the coming year. Proposed Vernon Findell, Seconded Phyl Jones this was agreed by the meeting.

10. Development Officer's Report

See Appendix C attached -

Allan Thornhill's report had been circulated with the agenda for the meeting and was accepted. The meeting also noted the amount of work that had been done in the year on the manual and the DVD and thanked Allan and his team for this.

11. Motions

Amendments to the Constitution

1 Membership/subscriptions

Delete paragraph 2 replace with the following:-

The subscription year for membership purposes run from 1 January to 31 December. Any member who has not paid their subscription for a year by 31 January in that year will be removed from the register of members on 1 February and shall not carry out any duties for, or act on behalf, of the Association

Proposed by the Executive Committee

The Treasurer explained that about 500 of the members paid their subscriptions by standing order or in advance but some people do not and every year he spent a great deal of time trying to collect the subscriptions of 90-100 people who delayed paying until they had had several reminders causing everyone a lot of work.

The motion was carried

2 Reconstitution of Executive Committee/Council

Section 4

- a) Wherever the word 'Council' appears in this section replace with 'Executive'
- b) In paragraph 4.2 replace the word 'once' with 'three times'

Section 5

- a) The heading – delete 'COUNCIL' insert 'EXECUTIVE'
- b) Whenever the word 'Council' appears replace with 'Executive'

Section 6

- a) Delete from '6. To 'balance'
 - b) Delete from 'The Executive' to 'year'
 - c) Renumber paragraphs 6.1 to 6.3 as 5.1 to 5.3
- Renumber following sections 7 to 11 as 6 to 10

Proposed by the Executive Committee

Ray White explained that the aim of this motion was to make the necessary changes to merge the Executive Committee and Council. It was hoped that this would re-establish the link between the membership and the Executive

The motion was carried

3 Association Badge/Uniform

- a) In view of the fact that EIBA Ltd have adopted and registered a new logo consisting of a yellow and a red rose, we recommend that a new badge consisting of scales is confirmed and registered as the logo of the EBUA

Proposed by the Executive Committee

Ray White explained that the badge of the 'old EBUA' had not been registered as at that time it was not necessary. Since then times had changed and that meant that because the EIBA Ltd badge had been registered we had to have a new badge (as had Bowls England). The thinking behind the design of the badge was explained and it was confirmed that it did not conflict with any other badge. After a discussion the meeting voted on the motion

For:	62 votes
Against	9 votes
Abstain	12

Motion carried

b) I propose that the issue of the uniform and badge be put on hold and discussed as an agenda item at the next full AGM, where a more comprehensive feel for this issue can be aired and deliberated on.

*Proposed Moira Gosling
Seconded Alan Harvey*

Motion Withdrawn

c) I propose that the Association badge be redesigned to principally incorporate the English rose(s).

*Proposed Geoff Thomas
Seconded by Malcolm Griffith*

Motion Withdrawn

12. Election of officers/Confirmation of Area secretaries/zone representatives

Ray White explained that all the officers were elected for a period of three years at the first AGM last year and thus none needed to be re-elected this year.

The Area secretaries/zone representatives were confirmed by the meeting.

13. Subscriptions for the year 2012

The Treasurer confirmed that the subscriptions would remain unchanged for that year.

Ray White explained that he was now going to close the meeting to allow discussion of other matters not relevant to an AGM.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 11.55 am.

Appendix A

Secretary's Report 2010

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 the executive officers, regional secretary's and zone reps have become one "Executive". 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 is worth having and has been designed 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 over the year, working 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 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, 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 propose brought the executive officers and the council as one "Executive", 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 personnel desires of our members.

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

Rick Moore
Hon Secretary

Appendix B

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

	2010	2009
	£	£
<u>INCOME</u>		
Sales - Blazers, General & Manuals	2,977.96	7,579.95
Course/Exam Fees	1,660.72	2,537.50
Subscriptions Received	5,699.00	5,670.00
Donations Received - Outdoor/Indoor	2,685.00	3,035.00
Raffles	-	-
Grants - EBA	9,600.00	4,500.00
Grants - EIBA	-	-
Interest Received	-	450.45
Donations Received - Umpires	282.60	-
	<u>22,905.28</u>	<u>23,772.90</u>
<u>EXPENSES</u>		
Purchases - Materials & Blazers	6,223.93	8,619.12
Production of Manuals	667.29	435.51
Course/Exam Expenses	2,050.66	1,880.95
Development Expenses	1,855.88	1,057.90
Contribution to Expenses	-	-
Umpires Expenses	-	-
Training Costs	-	-
Postage	1,673.26	1,823.62
Telephones	1,780.39	1,015.17
Travelling	5,139.86	3,350.21
Printing	1,360.00	250.52
Stationery	1,794.57	2,197.84
Computer Costs	549.10	351.22
Audit & Accountancy Fees	250.00	250.00
Insurance	80.50	75.50
Maintenance Costs	-	-
Donations Paid	120.00	200.00
Bank Charges & Interest	12.00	14.23
Friendly Matches	-	-
Depreciation	2,961.61	1,216.37
Equipment Hire	-	-
Profit/Loss on Fixed Assets	-	-
Miscellaneous	-	139.99
	<u>26,495.05</u>	<u>22,849.69</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2010

	2010 £	2009 £
Income	22,905.28	23,772.90
Expenses	26,495.05	22,849.69
Excess of income over expenditure	3,589.77	923.21
Members' Funds brought forward	22,046.22	21,123.01
Members' Funds carried forward	18,456.45	22,046.22

Made up as follows:

Current Account	2,905.14	98.82
Deposit Account	20,618.97	20,606.97
Petty Cash	50.00	50.00
Cash Float - Mrs K Wood	100.00	-
Equipment	7,553.48	2,737.48
Stock	3,535.66	3,420.75
Development Investment	-	-
Prepayments	14,972.00	3,534.00
Creditors and Accruals	1,334.80	1,333.80
	18,456.45	22,046.22

Report to the Members of English Bowls Umpires Association

I have examined the Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2010. My examination included checking the basis on which the accounts were prepared, together with the underlying accounting records and source documentation. This examination has been carried out on a test basis. I have not carried out an audit in the technical sense of formally complying with Audit Standards Guidelines and Regulations as issued by accountancy bodies.

I confirm that the Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2010 is in accordance with the accounting records, underlying documentation, and the policy adopted towards equipment purchased (which is to write the cost off over the estimated life of the equipment).

In the above loss of £3589.77 was an amount of £2603.87 in respect of out of date stock, scrapped.

I was unable to examine the Ladies receipts/payment documentation, as they were not available to me.

A.R. Bugby

A.R. Bugby
Little Rosery, Westfield Road
St. Helens, Ryde
Isle of Wight PO33 1UZ

Appendix C

National Development Officers Report 2010

Since our inaugural AGM last year a great deal of work has been completed by your Development Committee. Our initial task was to look in detail at training schemes operated by both the EBUA and EWUA and try to pick the best of both programmes to meet the requirements going forward as a new unified body. We were also mindful of the need to meet the requirements set out by World Bowls Ltd for training of umpires worldwide. Having established a basic structure we developed the training procedures, training materials and various examination papers.

The last courses and examination processes from the old Associations were completed in the autumn of 2010 with the aim of launching the new programme from January 2011. In order to meet this deadline, all of the training materials needed to be in place. It is unfortunate that some of these training materials were delayed in their production, but I am happy to report that the programme commenced in April with our first round of workshops and assessments slated for the next few months.

We have attracted approximately 70 new candidates and these are in the process of taking their first modules of training to become Club Umpires. In addition a number of existing members have applied to upgrade and they too are working through their first modules.

You will no doubt have read in various newsletters and in the procedures documents that all members will be required to re-qualify every four years. There is very good reason for this – to maintain a standard. We have all been witness to errors and appalling decisions from umpires. We are no different to Football referees; and what do you shout at them when they make a bad decision? The re-qualification assessment is nothing to be worried about. We are not asking you to do anything different to what would be expected of you when officiating for real – A few basic measures and a few questions.

I am delighted to have achieved what I set out to do when taking over the role from Andy Ewens last year. I said then that he would be a hard act to follow and I was right. My thanks to him for his continued support and the hard work that he has done to get our association recognised worldwide.

My Development Committee members have also worked tirelessly, helping me meet deadlines – some of which were tough; helping me stay sane – also tough; but most importantly for not always agreeing with my views and helping to steer the process in the right direction. I would like to thank them for their hard work and support.

I believe, although I may be slightly biased, that we now have training material that is unbeaten anywhere in the world. The Home Study Manual and Umpire Training DVD have demanded an unprecedented amount of time and resources. Whilst I have given our Treasurer some heart stopping invoices, we are now starting to recover the initial outlays by recruiting new members and encouraging our own members to purchase the new resources. We have also attracted interested from around the World with our Home Study Manual now being read, and indeed used for training, in 10 countries (including the Isle of Wight).

I would like to thank all of those members and external production companies that have made these two products possible. Most of all I would like to convey my sincere thanks to Natalie Melmore, our Commonwealth Games Singles Gold Medallist for her support, patience and professionalism in the production of the DVD.

Unfortunately there has to be a negative side to the last 12 months in this role. I can cope with hard work and can convince my wife that I will spend more time with her when it's all over, but what I cannot tolerate is written and verbal abuse from our

members. I haven't had any physical abuse yet but trust me I have considered it especially when the attacks are directed at our families. I don't care who they think they are or where they have come from in their professional lives but I can assure you that if I was to present similar abuse to my staff I would be sacked on the spot. For volunteers in a sporting pastime the behaviour of a small number of our members is inexcusable.

I am also disappointed that the delays to the production of the DVD were not only caused by inclement weather in December but also by the actions of a small minority of members overturning democratic decisions.

I have one plea to you, our dedicated team of umpires, think about the players and officials of the Sport of Bowls and not about the power that you believe a badge gives you.

I look forward to further developing the associations training programme if I should be re-elected as National Development Officer.

Allan Thornhill