

English Bowls Umpires Association
Minutes of an Executive Meeting held on 3 February 2013
at Leamington Spa.

Present -

Mavis Wellington – Chairman
Rick Moore – Secretary
Jessie Clark – Deputy Secretary
Allan Thornhill - Area Secretary,
Phyl Jones – Deputy Chairman
Val Coldwell – Area Secretary
Michelle Van Putt – Executive member
Carol Watt Sullivan – Child Protection Officer / Executive member
Ray Keen – Area Secretary
Brian Burton - Area Secretary
Trevor Hackett – Area Secretary
Sue Trott - Executive member

1. Chairman's opening remarks

Mavis opened the meeting by thanking everyone for their kindness after her recent operation as the wonderful flowers had arrived on what had not been a good day for her!

The meeting sat for a minute in tribute for Ken Roots who had recently died and had been a long serving active member of the Association, . Vernon had suggested that a donation of £50 be made to a charity of the family's choice. *[The family subsequently nominated the prostate cancer charity for this donation]*

She congratulated all those who had officiated in the World championships, Cyprus and at Potters.

In view of the problems that had arisen over the date for this meeting Mavis was of the opinion that in future meetings, both Executive and Annual General, should have their dates permanently fixed by virtue of the week number, so that everyone would know in advance when they would be and be able to keep those dates free in their diaries.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from John Davies (Area Secretary), Bob Penny and Vernon Findell (Treasurer)

3. Minutes of previous meeting

It was pointed out that Andy Ewens was as National Tutor, not examiner. Subject to this the minutes were duly signed by the Chairman

4. Matters Arising

a) AGM

The date for the AGM was discussed and it was agreed that this should remain in week 18, with the proviso that the date be varied if necessary for Easter etc.

It was confirmed that the forthcoming AGM would be on Sunday 21 April at Rugby Thornfield IBC commencing at 12.00. A longer time period would be booked with the Club as the time last year was found to be too short to cover all the matters requiring discussion.

b) Mavis said that she was very concerned that the EC meetings were not completing all the necessary business, and some was very hastily dealt with as the time allowed was too short. She proposed that in future the whole day be set aside and the meeting continue until all business had been dealt with.

Suitable dates for the meetings were discussed and it was proposed that for 2013/14 the week numbers/venues would be

Executive meetings

Week 31 – (Sunday 4 August 2013) – Leamington Spa

Week 41 – (Saturday 12 October 2013) Goodwood BC

Week 5 – (Sunday 2 February 2-14) – Goodwood BC

AGM

Sunday of Week 16

Proposed Brian Burton Seconded Jessie Clark – agreed unanimously

c) At the AGM last year because a quorum of members had not attended the EC had been asked to review this figure and propose a revision to ensure that in future the same problem did not arise.

Jessie Clark proposed with Phyl Jones seconding that a motion be put to the AGM amending the Constitution to show a quorum as '5% of the membership declared at the 31 December preceding the AGM'

This was agreed unanimously

d) The Committee took note of the recent article in Bowls International and took the opportunity to clarify the position concerning young umpires as follows:-

'There is no discrimination with regard to age, however, should an umpire be under 18 years of age, then the Club and county co-ordinator should be aware that a chaperone is necessary with reference to the Safeguarding policy of the EUBA.'

Proposed Jessie Clark and Seconded Michelle Van Putt. Agreed unanimously

Rick Moore was to write to those umpires affected by this bringing this to their attention, and in future a letter containing this information would be included in the joining pack when they passed their examination.

5. Correspondence

- a) Just prior to the meeting Rick had circulated to the members the Bowls England proposals on payments to be made to the Association for umpiring supplied.

This document was accepted subject to the following amendments and Jessie Clark undertook to transmit an amended copy to Bowls England

- i) Paragraph 2.2 – amend two EC meetings to three, and remove the 20 miles restriction
 - ii) Paragraph 3.1.3 – delete county co-ordinator’ and insert ‘area secretary’
 - iii) Paragraph 4.1 – amend ‘to the EBUA’ to read ‘to EBUA umpires’
 - iv) Paragraph 5.2 – amend ‘county and regional administrators’ to area Secretaries and County Co-ordinators’
 - v) Paragraph 5.3 – delete ‘provision’ and insert ‘funding ‘
- b) Rick would write to all indoor clubs requesting £75
- c) The Bowls England ‘Safeguarding’ policy was received and unanimously agreed
- d) Rick said that he had received an email from Bob Penny resigning as Development Officer. His proposals to deal with this at the moment were as follows
- i) He would temporarily act as Interim Development Officer whilst another was found.
 - ii) That a Development sub-committee be formed from the Area Secretaries, plus the EBUA Chairman, with their first meeting to take place immediately after the AGM.
 - iii) All correspondence on development of this sub-committee should be sent to all members of the sub-committee
 - iv) That a meeting of National and Regional examiners should be held to ensure the same methods and standards are used across the country
This was unanimously agreed.
 - v) Work would be undertaken on the Club Umpire and entry training to ensure that all is ready for the Autumn examinations
This was agreed in principal – subject to the published plan
 - vi) It was agreed that steps need to be taken to obtain a new Development Officer, with applications being dealt with by the sub-committee, and their recommendation ratified by the full Executive committee
 - vii) A job description would be prepared for the office of Development Officer

Rick would be writing to Bob to thank him for his efforts.

6. Secretary’s report

The Committee discussed the future of the Club Umpire grade and the possible financial consequences (as highlighted by the Treasurer) of them as members. It was agreed that the way forward would be for them to progress to the Regional grade at examinations as their certificates came up for renewal, by this method over

time the Club Umpire grade would disappear. This was an area to be dealt with by the Development Sub-committee.

It was agreed that a 'markers course' should be prepared for members, but there would be no grade of 'marker' within the Association.

It emerged that in some counties there 'markers courses' were being run by bodies other than the Association despite efforts over a considerable time.

It was also noted that the BDA was running 'marking' courses, it was agreed that the Secretary would write to Tony Allcock on this.

Rick said that he had also received the various forms for Worthing and Leamington and he and Jessie would be starting work on them shortly

It was noted that the Junior Girls Internationals were to be in Leamington in July, but he had not yet had formal any request to supply umpires.

7. Treasurer's report

Vernon had provided his report in advance to committee members together with the supporting documents for the AGM.

8. Development Officer's report)

Nil

9. International Technical Officials

Nil

10. Area Secretaries Reports

Allan Thornhill – was not standing again after the AGM, he may have a replacement to take over

Trevor Hackett – There should have been seminars in his area in November, but had not been able to find venues for them. He would put them on when he could. He is short of County co-ordinators in Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk.

He is standing down as Area Secretary in October.

Brian Burton – Has two new county co-ordinators in place, and is running his usual seminar in April. The Visually Handicapped Bowlers are returning to Leamington this year and he would welcome volunteers to help.

Ray Keen – A seminar was being arranged in May, the date was still being settled. He was having a problem organising Somerset as getting responses was proving very difficult. He may need to replace the county co-ordinators in due course, but was doing this himself for the moment due to the lack of response.

Val Coldwell – Since the last meeting it has been pretty quiet in the northern area. There have been the usual indoor games to umpire and we had a PBA in December at New Earswick. An exam date has been arranged for April at Harrogate, which is a new venue free of charge. the invitations to re-qualify have been sent out, and unfortunately I have received a few replies to the effect that for various reasons they are not continuing as umpires. But on a brighter note I have had notification from Alex that the north has a few new applications some have already successfully completed their questions so onwards and upwards.

She was having some problems with a county co-ordinator who would not recognise her existence. She had tried various strategies to work with him, but as he persisted despite her efforts she asked that Rick write and tell him his services were no longer required.

11. Any Other Business

- a) Sue Trott said there appeared to be a problem with exactly who were Regional Examiners. Some people had been asked to help out for a day, but now seemed to be acting permanently as Regional Examiners. This needed to be sorted out as it was causing a lot of confusion
- b) It was confirmed that Andy Evens is still a tutor
- c) Jessie Clark told the meeting that Ruth Howes had now given up umpiring because of health problems and it was agreed that she be sent flowers and a letter of thanks.
- d) Phyl Jones said she had prepared the motions to amend the Constitution to reflect the change to area secretaries and asked the meeting to confirm that they also wanted the Constitution amended to state that there would be 6 areas. This was confirmed. She would let Rick have the draft motions on this together with that on the amended quorum.
She also reminded those members of the Committee who were reaching the end of their third year in office (both Officers and Area Secretaries) that they were up for re-election at the AGM
- e) It was brought to the Committees attention that some members and I particular one was been appointed to officiate when they had not re-qualified when required, nor (it was believed) were they up to date with their subscriptions. It was agreed that Rick should write to John Davies and those concerned.

10. Next Meetings

- a) The AGM would take place on Sunday 21 April 2013
- b) The next Executive Committee meeting Sunday 4 August at Leamington

11. Before closing the meeting Mavis reminded the members of the Executive that we 'needed more togetherness'. We must all be working in the same way and if this required changes to the way individuals did things, then so be it, they must change and not go on in the same way just because that was how they had always done it.

If anyone was unsure then they could and should seek advice, working together was the key, and people should not be keeping things to themselves, remembering that communication goes both ways!

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 3.10pm

Mavis Wellington
Chairman