

English Bowls Umpires Association

Minutes of an Executive Meeting held on
Saturday 6th August 2011 at Leamington Spa.

Present -

R White – Chairman

R Moore – Secretary

J Clark – Deputy Secretary

V Findell – Treasurer

A Thornhill – Development Officer (and Area Secretary)

P Jones – Executive Member and Zone Representative

Val Coldwell – Zone Representative

Michelle Van Putt – Zone Representative

Sue Trott – Zone Representative

Carol Watt Sullivan – Child Protection Officer and Zone Representative

Ray Keen – Area Secretary

Brian Burton - Area Secretary

John Davies - Area Secretary

1. Chairman's opening remarks

Ray White (Chairman) opened the meeting, saying that he wanted to repeat to this meeting his remarks in opening the AGM, He said we have so far amalgamated two associations into one larger association, it will take time for everything to work like clockwork, but he empathised that Area and Zone representatives need to be able to talk to one another. He emphasised that it was no good blaming the other person – you have to sort it out. He continued by saying that he wanted this committee to succeed, and he wanted it to be progressive – not just a 'talking shop'

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from M Wellington (Deputy Chairman), Sue Hawksworth (Zone Representative) and Trevor Hackett (Area Secretary).

3. Minutes of previous meeting

After the correction of a typing mistake the Minutes were accepted as a true record and duly signed by the Chairman

4. Matters Arising

John Davies asked for clarification of the reason for the policy concerning appropriate umpires for finals. The Secretary (Rick Moore) explained that this had been implemented as it was felt at that time that any other situation was at that time a 'step too far', but it was intended to review this again when planning for 2012.

5. Correspondence received

- a) Vernon Findell (Treasurer) produced copies of correspondence which was disturbing him, concerning appointment of umpires for fixtures and expenses. This was discussed. From the discussion of the circumstances it emerged that there were still many versions of who should pay umpires expenses and how much should be paid.

Rick Moore said that as the result of this case and others and following on from his attempt to clarify/reform the position he and the Treasurer had been working on a set of proposal to act as a basis of discussion for this Committee on these matters and the way forward of the Association generally.

It was agreed that the document would be made available to Executive members prior to the next meeting to enable them to review it and put forward matters for discussion on its contents

- b) Completion of the scorecard in 4s matches. There had been a exchange of emails on this with Bowls England and it was thought that the current position was that the law would not be strictly enforced in 'friendly' matches, but in competitions it would be enforced with the relevant consequences enforced if there was a dispute over the score and one card had not been completed by the relevant skip.

6. Secretary's report

Rick Moore said that his report had been covered by the discussions.

7. Treasurer's report

Vernon reported the financial position as follows:

Deposit account	£ 26926.88
Current account	£ 4726.59

The current account balance was after handing over the Leamington expenses to Jessie Clark and before payment of Worthing expenses

The membership at present was

Men - active	480
Non-active	133
Women - active	499
Non-active	94

He had deleted 121 members (44 men and 77 women) for various reasons including non-payment of subscriptions or not wishing to re-qualify.

He also told the meeting that he would be deleting anyone who not taken a re-test unless they have specifically asked to be considered non-active.

To date in excess of £9500 had been received from sales of new uniform items largely due to the huge effort put in by Karen Wood.

Manual and DVD sales were continuing and the Development Officer would report on this.

He had recently issued an email enclosing the template of a letter he wanted used to send details of appointments to members, and he emphasised that this was the format to be used to save problems in the future.

He also asked that claims in respect of phone calls postages etc be sent to him now so that he could sort them out rather than wait to the end of the financial year.

He also reminded Area Secretaries and Zone Representative to ensure that they sent him details of changes of address etc and any new email addresses they received

8. Development Officer's report

Allan Thornhill (Development Officer) reported that sales of the Home Study manual and DVD had continued to be excellent and sales to date were

Manuals	357
DVD	352

On his return from holiday in September he would be ordering a reprint of the Home Study manual. There are only a couple of minor amendments to be summarised by an amendment sheet on the website, but these are so minor they would not affect any previous purchasers of the Manual. Both the Manual and the DVD have been well received by the membership.

The EBUA resources are now being used in two Australian States and Cyprus for training their umpires and have also been sent to individuals in six other countries.

Discussions are in progress with the World Bowls Laws Committee concerning the use of the Manual and DVD as the standard worldwide.

Workbooks

The module workbooks are proving very successful with new and upgrade candidates most of whom are achieving good results. It is already noticeable that these candidates have good knowledge levels when they attend their workshops and examination.

Allan said a huge thank you was due to Alex, Cheryl and Bob for the excellent work they are doing in marking the workbook papers.

Training Workshops

Three individual workshops had been held in Yorkshire, Cambridge and Leicestershire. All three were successful, and, as expected, lessons had been learnt for each of them. These lessons will be incorporated in the round of examinations to be held in the next few months.

Allan expressed his gratitude to all the national Tutors and Regional Assistants for their Support and their professionalism.

Assessments

Assessments (examinations) had been held at the same venues as the workshops and have also been successful. Timings were critical, but having now the first round of examinations with 'virgin' examiners all was expected to run more smoothly. The Process is continually improving as lessons learnt are incorporated.

Allan also thanked all the National and Regional Examiners for their support and professionalism.

Next Stages

Another round of workshops and assessments would take place in the Autumn/Winter in different areas. When these have been completed a full review will be carried out of the workshop content, assessment papers and the need for additional personnel/

Allan reported that early in 2012 the Training & Development Committee would be planning local markers courses to complement the Umpire Assessments meaning that there would no longer be the necessity to include the marking section during the workshops.

They were also intending to look at 'working assessments' and the way forward with those.

9. Regional Secretaries/Zone Representative reports

a) Eastern- Trevor Hackett

Trevor had sent a written report on the organisation within the Eastern Region and his efforts at appointing a new county co-ordinator for Hertfordshire.

A training Seminar was to be held in the area in November, the date is not yet confirmed as he is awaiting confirmations from the proposed venues, but he was expecting it to be the 26 and 27.

b) Midland – Brian Burton

The area was running well. The British Wheelchair Championships had been 'covered' in July and the Civil Service Championships later in the month. In addition April had seen the examinations in the area and he had given some feedback on that. His annual Area meeting would take place in October.

c) South West - John Davies

The county co-ordinator for Somerset – Charles Ford – had had to retire due to ill health and he was looking for a successor. There had been a problem concerning umpires for the Walker Cup where two umpires had arrived as there had been a duplication of notification and this was being investigated. Training seminars had been arranged for Taunton and Bodmin.

d) Sue Trott

She had several members in the zone who were due to re-qualify and although they had been notified there had been no reply.

There had been a mixed response to the new uniform throughout the zone.

e) Northern - Val Coldwell

There had been a PBS tournament in Carlisle and another was due in the zone in September. The first examinations in the zone had been in May and she had learnt a lot from that exercise particularly regarding timings. Another set of examinations was arranged for Cumbria in October.

f) Carol Watt Sullivan

1. Child Protection Officer – There was no change to report at present.
2. Zone report – All was generally working well within the zone. It was anticipated that the allocation of umpires would be completely mixed next year. There had been problems regarding the payment of male umpires but this was getting resolved.

g) Allan Thornhill

The Visually Impaired tournament had taken place in Worthing, and the organisation of the 'cover' for this has proved difficult as his attempt to contact the organisation to find out what they required had met with no reply. He had been hampered by the organisation being so disorganised that he did not receive the schedule until the day before the event started, and he had contacted all the Umpires in the area, many of whom had helped out

h) Ray Keen

Two training weekends had been arranged in September, firstly at Oxford and then the following weekend at Westlecott. The area meeting would probably be in November, but he was waiting for confirmation of the dates when the venue was available.

i) Michelle Van Putt

There had been some problems with county co-ordinators for parts of the zone, but a meeting had been arranged and it was hoped that the vacancy would be filled by a volunteer at that meeting

10. Any Other Business

- a) The meaning of Page 58 of the new manual was clarified concerning what was a 'stoppage'. Simply going for a raincoat did not constitute a stoppage.
- b) Vernon Findell said that he had thought that the umpires wearing the new uniform had looked very smart at Leamington
- c) Joan Mason from Durham had retired after some 25 years. It was agreed that the Secretary would write and thank her for all her efforts.
- d) Jean Thompson had also retired and was to be thanked for all her efforts over many years
- e) It was also noted that Pauline Capon was very ill and the committee all wished her a speedy recovery

- f) Ray White announced that this would be his last meeting as he was now resigning as Chairman. He added that he hoped the new organisation would work well and progress in the future. The Committee unanimously thanked him for all his work and wished him well in the future

11. Next Meetings

- g) The next executive meeting would take place at Leamington Spa on Saturday 3 December 2011 at 10.30 am.
- h) There would be another executive meeting on Saturday 17 March 2012, the venue would be confirmed in due course
- i) The AGM would take place on Sunday 22 April 2012 at 11.00 am at Leamington Spa

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 14.15 pm.

Chairman