

English Bowls Umpires Association

Minutes of an Executive 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

Mary Taylor Executive Member

1 Chairman's opening remarks

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting and said that today might well be a stressful day, reviewing how the past year had gone and looking towards the future and progress for the Association.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from A Thornhill – Development Officer

3 Minutes of previous meeting

The minutes of the meeting of 29 December 2010 had previously been circulated and proposed Jessie Clark, seconded R Moore, were duly signed by the Chairman as a true record.

4 Matters Arising

Jessie Clark asked for confirmation of the uniform to be worn at the Nationals this was confirmed as white tops with navy trousers/skirts and white shoes. No ties or cravats to be worn. If needed, blue or maroon, as appropriate, zip-ups could be worn.

5 Correspondence received

- i) The Secretary had received a letter from Tony Grant notifying that he was retiring
- ii) He had also received a letter from Mrs S M Hinks saying she would not be renewing her membership.

- iii) Some voting forms had been received by the Secretary, despite the instructions on the form. He had passed these onto the Chairman, but noted that comments concerning the choices or uniform generally had been included on some forms. The comments would be reviewed after the forms had been counted at the Council meeting.

6. Secretary's report

Rick Moore said that his report covered three items, the areas, the uniform and donations/expenses.

a) The Areas/zones

He put to the Committee the suggestion that the areas/zones remained unchanged for the moment, at least a year. This was because he was making a larger proposal that the Executive and the Council be combined into an 'extended Executive'. He felt that although the smaller Executive had enabled business in this first year to be moved on quickly it had led to a 'disconnect' between the area/zone representatives and thus the membership and the Executive Committee. We needed to restore the link to the membership and he felt that the best way of doing that was to involve the full Council in the running of the Association. He had had a look at the changes to the constitution required for this to happen, and with the agreement of the Committee would have the relevant motions drafted for the AGM, and detailing those changes to the Council meeting that afternoon.

Although this change would normally not be active until after the AGM in 2012 he proposed that the changes should be informally implemented as soon as possible, from the meetings to be held prior to the AGM (at the end of March). Proposed Jessie Clark, Seconded Vernon Findell that the Executive propose that change to the Council and then the AGM. Agree unanimously.

b) Uniforms

The decision of the members on what coloured uniform tops they wanted would be known later when the votes were opened and counted at the Council meeting, and so until that result was known and discussion by the Executive would not be useful.

He proposed that any discussion should take place at the Council meeting once the result was known. As the shirt to be worn would then be known the result would be formally announced at the AGM. The procedure for the introduction of the new uniform would be decided by the 'expanded Executive' after the AGM had ratified the changes.

c) Donations/expenses

The Secretary said that there were now established points of contact so he felt that he could move forward with his proposals for asking for donations from clubs and counties and a more consistent system to enable umpires to collect their expenses.

He had explained at previous meetings his proposal that from 1 January 2012 he contact clubs and counties and ask them for a donation each year. He has now reviewed the procedures in place concerning the payment of expenses to umpires. The current systems seemed not to be consistent in enabling umpires to claim their expenses and in some cases they have needed to almost plead for them. As part of his review he had asked Brian Burton (Midlands Area Secretary) to consider when umpires should and should not be able to claim expense for officiating. Brian had made 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 champions) 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

He would also expect that the umpire be provided with a meal etc during the day. Rick would be explaining this scheme to the Council meeting and then recommending it to the AGM in due course.

7 Treasurer's report

Vernon Findell handed out copies of the financial statement for the year ended 31 December 2010. He told the Executive 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 was proposing that that the Committee 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 if a subscription was not paid by 31 January in the subscription year he would be able to cancel that membership on 1 February. This was seconded by Phyl Jones and agreed.

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.'

9 Any other business - Nil

10 Next meeting

The next meeting Executive would be held on 26 March 2011 at Leamington Spa at 10.30am, followed by a Council Meeting at 12.00 noon.

There being no other business the Chairman closed the meeting at 13.00.

Chairman