

**Minutes of the Sixth Annual General Meeting of the  
English Bowls Umpires Association  
held on 26<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

Present: 44 members

1. Chairman's Welcome

Mavis Wellington welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for finding the time to travel to attend.

2. In Remembrance

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

Clive Ashby  
Bill Hellier  
Mel Hunter  
Bob Hutchins  
Francis Newton  
Mary Porter  
Peter Rowland  
Jack Sadie  
Bill Sammons (ex-treasurer)  
John Steele  
Christine Sugarhood  
Alan Taylor  
James Weir  
Florence Williams  
Gary Wordsworth  
Eric York

3. Apologies for Absence

42 apologies had been received.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM were proposed as a true record by Val Coldwell, seconded Ray Keen and duly signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising – not elsewhere on the agenda

Nil

## 6. Chairman's report

Mavis congratulated the membership on the marvellous job they had done during the year. Everywhere she had gone she had received good reports on the work done by the members, and this had made her made her proud.

The way that the umpires' office was run 2014 had been a trial of a new method and had gone reasonably well. A lot had been learned from that and changes would be made for 2015 to take account of that experience.

Mavis reminded members that the uniform from 1 May 2015 was the 'blue', nothing else was acceptable. If necessary for 'formal' occasions then a blazer could be worn with white shirt and Association tie.

She thanked all the officer, committee members and 'workers' generally for all their efforts in the past year, and hoped that they would be able to continue for that coming

Mavis they hoped that everyone would have a pleasant summer and looked forward to seeing everyone at Leamington in August.

## 7. Secretary's Report

This is my second report to the Association as your Secretary. I feel this has been a very uneventful year, with all duties requested by Bowls England and the EIBA covered sufficiently. I have received a fair bit of correspondence from both these Associations, as well as queries from our members and players, again hopefully, with the committee I have got we managed to answer all without too many complaints.

The National Finals at Leamington went reasonably well, considering it was new ground for all of us to sort, but hopefully we have learned by our mistakes and a completely new programme of picking and allocating duties will work this year, with a co-ordinator and an assistant used weekly, with the assistant moving up to be the co-ordinator the following week.

There will also be in the changing room a complete weeks' worth of duties on the changing room wall, thus save having to cram the office and ask "what am I doing." I would like to thank Phyl Jones for the quiet and efficient way she ran last year's Top Club competition at Leamington, done mainly with markers and umpires who hardly ever get a chance to officiate at such prestigious events, and from the reports I got we were certainly not let down, and also to Allan for running the Men's Senior International Series at Leamington in June 2014.

The National Indoor Finals went well as usual, due to the fact that the umpires are resident, so any problems show themselves before the start of play.

I know it was executed in this year, but there were a lot of nice compliments about the “free” new L.O.T.S. and displacement cards.

As mentioned in the Executive meeting report of the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2014, we were requested to supply 3 umpires for the Home International in Jersey, and the 3 selected certainly did not let us down, some even said they were the best that they had seen, I think they meant in Jersey!

I would like to congratulate Andy Ewens, [who for many years was our development officer, and started off our manual, with help from others], on his promotion to the World Bowls Board as regional Director for European Bowls, well done Andy.

To congratulate Allan Thornhill and his crew on getting the markers course up and running, hopefully the markers will realise what they are missing out on by not being an umpire, and transfer over.

Some “good” news, again from the Bowls England web-site,

On their meeting of the 17<sup>th</sup> September 2014 it was unanimously agreed that from 2016, all county championship rounds must be played either on week-ends or weekdays in the evening with a start time no earlier than 6pm. I think the idea is to give the younger element of Lady bowlers a chance to compete. I have attended a very good meeting with the EIBA competition committee, and come away with some good results, as in next year’s competition rules, you will find the use of the phrase “competent person” greatly reduced.

I would once again like to give grateful thanks to Karen Wood, our “Sales” manager for all the sterling work she does, but I would like to remind you all, she is like all of us, a volunteer, and if members order the wrong size clothing, as illustrated on our literature it is not her fault, and she does not deserve the sometimes abuse that she gets for wrong ordered sizes. As we hardly make any money on the clothing, which is intentional, the extra postage is needed to send the new size, otherwise we might as well give the stuff away. Another “unsung” member of our Association I would like to give thanks to is our webmaster, Ken Bickley, who keeps us all up to date with the efficient running of our web site. Plus all the area secretaries and County co-ordinators who do a very efficient job, quietly in the back ground, and if it was not for them the Association would grind to a halt. THANK YOU. I hope as many as possible will turn up for the AGM as I know it is quite a distance to travel, but we are all part of the Association, and if time travelled comes into it, I think I travel the longest.

There is a slight problem creeping in in some areas, where the Indoor Area Competition Secretary asks members to umpire, without informing our Area/County co-ordinators, which when the duties are done they send to the EIBA for travel expenses, who then forward to me to pay. Please be aware, that if you do not have an official “appointment” letter from our Association you will not be paid for the job. [back-dated appointment letters will not be entertained] Our Area Secretaries are there to apportion the jobs out to all, not just the favoured few that are convenient for

the EIBA ACS. So please do not moan when you do not get paid. If asked by the ACS ask them to contact our Area Secretaries please. And finally, as the 2 Ronnie's used to say, by the time you start umpiring next week the last day of the old uniforms will be upon us, and so from the 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015 the only uniform for the members of the EBUA will be the "blue" one.

#### 8. Treasurer's Report

This had already been circulated with the agenda, Vernon reported as follows :-  
'Even under difficult and declining income we still made a healthy profit.

##### Income

Sales, down by £2800-00 but purchases down as well, by £5283-00  
Course/Exam fees up by £438-00, but expenses, which I had made provision for are up by £1870-00 which equates roughly for Allan & Vic visiting all venues where exam/courses were taking place, and hopefully we will all now be doing the same course.

Donations, well down by £1522-00 due to the "levy" being put on all outdoor counties  
The "grants" are made up of B.E. £5500-00, £3500-00 from all counties by way of the levy, and EIBA of £2300-00.

And, as I always say, the icing on the cake is the donations by some of the umpires who give up their time, and money, to the tune of £1074-00

##### Expenditure

We had to have a top up of the old Manuals, due to more entrants, I have suggested that we sell these to markers who could see the basics of our working. Suggestions?  
Postage, up by £698-00, as in previous year bought to beat price rise, which was substantial.

Travelling, up by £3764-00, obviously due to fewer umpires, but also I feel the enhanced payment of 40p a mile, but as mentioned in an earlier correspondence, due to the large drop in price of petrol & diesel, from the start of the outdoor season this will be reduced to 30p a mile.

Printing up a little, one reason I had the membership cards printed at Staples, and I feel the £50-00 cost was worth it, in actual fact it was cheaper than the cards which I bought to produce same.

We have had to write off a computer and printer, held by the previous Secretary.'

#### 9. Appointment of competent person with reference to the accounts

Vernon proposed that the meeting confirm Mr A R Bugby in this position again for the coming year. This was seconded by Alex Duckworth and agreed by the meeting.

## 10. Development Officer's report

Allan Thornhill reported as follows;-

'It has been yet another busy year both personally and within the role of NDO. It has been pleasing to see that the simplified training and development process introduced in 2013 has progressed well. The Markers courses have also been a huge success and continue to expand, more on that later.

Most of the winter months were spent dealing with the preparations for the introduction of the new Laws of the Sport 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, including revisions to all of the examination materials and the training material including the Home Study Manual.

The main areas of activity are as follows:

### Laws of the Sport Crystal Mark 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition

I sincerely hope none of you have been vacationing on Mars for the past 12 months and have not missed the news that the World Bowls Laws of the Sport have been revised. These took effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> of April and apply to Outdoor bowls in this country from that date. The Indoor Laws remain unchanged for another year!!

With the introduction of these revisions it has been necessary to update all training & development materials. The winter months have been spent at a keyboard amending each examination question and answer, revising the tutorial notes and presentations and most importantly revising the Home Study Manual.

These new materials were rolled out in early January and have been used in workshops and examinations since the start of this year.

I will not bore this meeting with the details of the changes, as I said, unless you have been on Mars you will have all been exposed to the amendment documents and will all have received a copy of the Law book. Our Treasurer must have taken a funny turn as he suggested sending every member a copy of the law book free of charge – I think he got lucky on the Euro Millions!

We worked closely with Bowls England to revise the Domestic Regulations and any Conditions of Play that were affected by the law changes. These DR's were approved by World Bowls Ltd and appear in the back of the Law book.

### Home Study Manual

There was some debate about how to handle the amendments to the manual. It was decided that a revised manual should be produced as opposed to just the laws section. This gave us the opportunity to correct any errors that had slipped into the first edition and to re-shoot some of the photos which were outdated.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Nick Anderson of Hampshire for giving up his day to shoot the photos for us and of course to my three willing supermodels, Vic Perry, Alex Duckworth and Angela Martell.

The revised manuals are available to order from the EBUA Website.

## Workshops

Since the last AGM, 15 workshops have been held around the country with a further 4 already in the calendar for this year. Included in this total was a course and examination session held on the island of Guernsey which was extremely successful.

The programme for the workshops follows the requirements set out by the World Bowls umpire training programme. We are of course always looking at ways to improve the content and we will be looking into such improvements in the coming months.

I would like to thank the excellent team of tutors and assistants for their help on these workshops.

## Examinations

Each of the above workshops was followed by an examination day. It is quite clear from the results that new candidates are arriving fully prepared and conversant with the laws which is an indication not only of the work they have put into the process but also to the quality of the materials we are providing them.

It is always sad to see any candidate fail an examination and it is regrettable that we do see established members turn up for an examination totally unprepared expecting a walk in the park. We have a standard to maintain, the practical exercises are standard measures and yet we consistently find individuals making silly mistakes. I would encourage all members to take the time before any workshop and examination to brush up on their laws and to practice measuring exercises – I am sure you have gone through life revising for any other test scenarios.

We fully accept that examinations give us a false environment to operate in and to this end we are looking at ways of measuring competence by on the job assessment.

## Assessments

I have established a small team of experts with a background in education and assessment. Their role will be to review methods of working assessments which will be either trialled or rolled out at the forthcoming National Championships. This has been an area that I reported on at the last AGM and which unfortunately we did not have the time to kick off.

The hope is that such assessments will ultimately mean the end of 4 year examinations, but I can't promise that at this early stage.

## Markers Courses

The uptake of the EBUA Markers Course has been incredible and I am extremely grateful to all of those that have come forward to act as Marking Course Tutors to enable the scheme to be cascaded around the country.

Since the last AGM 29 courses have been held and more are being planned each month. The average attendance of the courses is around 25 people many of which are also coming forward to join the association as EBUA Markers.

Further refinements are required in the process and these will be progressed during the coming year.

## Log Book

Part of the Markers course programme and also something that will contribute to the ongoing development and assessment of umpires is the EBUA Logbook.

Individuals have their own way of recording duties and the Logbook provides a suitable alternative that members are more than welcome to use. They are available free of charge to those who join the Association. We plan to add them to the website so they can be ordered via this platform. Currently myself and the Secretary hold the stocks.

## Personnel

I cannot end without thanking everyone that is involved in the delivery of the Training & Development Programme. Their dedication is incredible and very much appreciated by the officers and members of this association.

However, one person deserves particular recognition of his incredible work over many many years. Alex Duckworth has been involved in the Training & Development administration role for pretty much the whole of this Century. Alex would now like to take a step back and relax. The role of National Training Administrator will continue in the hands of Mich van Putt.

Thank you Alex for everything you have done for this association.

## 11. Motions

Nil

12. a) Election of Officers

Chairman	Mavis Wellington
Deputy Chairman	Phyl Jones

b) Confirmation of Area Secretaries

Area 1 (Northern)	Val Coldwell
Area 2 (Midland)	Brian Burton
Area 3 (Eastern)	Bob Penny
Area 4 (Central)	Ray Keen
Area 5 (South Eastern)	Carol Watt-Sullivan
Area 6 (South Western)	John Davies

Next meeting

The next Annual General Meeting would take place on Sunday 24 April 2016.

There being no more formal business the Chairman closed the AGM at 12.00 noon

M Wellington  
Chairman