

**Minutes of the Seventh Annual General Meeting of the
English Bowls Umpires Association
held on 24 April 2016**

Present: 42 members

1. Chairman's Welcome

Phyl Jones introduced herself and apologising that she, as Deputy Chairman, was in the chair rather than Mavis, who had been taken abroad on holiday by her family! She hoped she would be able to cope with the meeting as well as Mavis would have! She thanked those attending for finding the time to come, as she appreciated the effort that some had made to put into attending.

2. In Remembrance

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

Clive Ashby

Bill Hellier

Peter Dalglish

Bill King

Louisa Smith

Sue Waters

Gary Wordsworth

Alec Soars

Jack Sadie

Roy Edwards

Pam Saunders

Cliff Springett

Terence Knight BEM

Margaret Johnson

3. Apologies for Absence

43 apologies had been received.

4. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous AGM were proposed as a true record by John Davies seconded Alex Duckworth and duly signed by the Chairman.

5. Matters Arising – not elsewhere on the agenda

Nil

6. Chairman's report.

Phyl said that she had spoken to Mavis who had asked her to relay to the meeting that she was sorry she could not be there.

Mavis had said that she was proud of the membership for all their hard work at Leamington and at the various venues for the Indoor final stages, and she hoped that all the members would continue to work together as she had seen them doing. She knew how hard everyone worked for their qualifications (both new members and those requalifying).

She looked forward to seeing everyone 'around' and particularly at Leamington. She wished everyone a happy and successful season.

She particularly wanted to thank Vernon and all the other officers and Executive members for the huge job well done by them.

7. Secretary's Report

This is my 3rd report, and am sorry to say I am still enjoying it, well most of the time. As stated in the treasurer's report, membership is down again, with a total of umpire and markers now totalling 595.

I would like to congratulate all who passed the ITO exams, well done.

I would like to thank Andy Ewens for and his "crew" for all their good work in Cyprus and to Vic Perry and Ray Keen in Israel.

I would like to say a special thank you to all the Area Secretaries, and county co-ordinators for all their sterling work, also Karen Wood, who seems to get more abuse for doing her job voluntary, than the rest of us put together, and Ken Bickley for keeping the web site up to date.

Another thank you, and I feel it must be said is to Brian Burton, who has managed to keep the Midlands in order for nearly 20 years, and also being a friend, and occasional letter writer for me, he is more eloquent than I am!!, but at least we have got Malcolm to carry on, and I am sure with a helping hand from Brian if needed.

The EIBA have got a new competition Secretary, his name is Carl Higgins.

What I have seen of him so far is that he is very efficient, but much more importantly, when he introduces players onto the green he also mentions the marker and umpire by name.

There are some major changes, which they are trialling for the 2016/17 season.

All 21 end, 4 hour games are to be reduced to 18 ends and three and a half hours.

All 18 end 4 hour games are to be reduced to 16 ends and three and a half hours.

New Competitions trialling for 1 year are.

2 bowls singles which will be 21 shots, yes that is right 21 shots. initially as a 1 year trial for men only, if it takes off it will be brought in for both sexes.

Also again reintroducing the generation pairs, but to call it the Family Pairs.

They have also arranged all National Team competitions on fixed dates, these should be on their web site soon.

The acceptance of the report was proposed by Malcolm Griffith and seconded by Carol Watt Sullivan and accepted by the meeting.

8. Treasurer's Report

ENGLISH BOWLSUMPIRES ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	2015	2014
	£	£
<u>Income</u>		
Sales – Blazers, General & Manuals	8,660.84	5,642.05
Course/exam fees	6,705.55	3,928.80
Subscriptions received	7,650.00	8,253.00
Donations received – Outdoor/Indoor	640.00	730.00
Raffles		
Grants - EBA	11,300.00	11,300.00
Grants - EIBA		
Interest Received	89.71	115.27
Donations Received - umpires	<u>5,654.94</u>	<u>1,074.05</u>
	<u>35,612.04</u>	<u>31,043.17</u>
 <u>Expenses</u>		
Purchases – Materials & Blazers	6,225.26	1,466.38
Production of Manuals	2,726.66	2,558.24
Course/Exam Expenses	4,111.30	4,836.54
Development Expenses		1,365.28
Contribution to Expenses		
Umpires Expenses		
Training Costs		
Postage	1,388.44	1,064.04
Telephones	1,407.58	1,272.86
Travelling	12,892.74	13,727.67
Printing	350.00	767.25
Stationary	1,392.18	1,391.44
Computer Costs	658.88	315.22
Audit & Accountancy Fees	250.00	
Insurance	80.50	80.50
Maintenance Costs	153.60	
Donations Paid	88.50	205.99
Bank Charges & Interest		
Friendly Matches		89.95
Depreciation	268.43	368.43
Equipment Hire		
Stock Write Off/Down	954.71	954.71
Profit/Loss on Fixed Assets		
Miscellaneous		<u>20.00</u>
	<u>32,949.78</u>	<u>28,575.08</u>

ENGLISH BOWLSUMPIRES ASSOCIATION
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2015

	2015 £	2014 £
Income	35,612.04	31,043.17
Previous Year Adjustment	0.00	0.00
Expenses	<u>32,949.78</u>	<u>29,529.79</u>
	2662.26	1,613.38
Members' Funds brought forward	<u>27,871.80</u>	<u>26,358.42</u>
	<u>30,534.06</u>	<u>27,871.80</u>

Made up as follows:

Current Account	1,536.91	1,063.59
Deposit Account	3,731.37	28,722.72
Deposit Account – 6 Months Fixed	30,081.06	
Deposit Account – 12 Months Fixed		
Petty Cash	50.00	50.00
Cash Float – Mrs K Wood	200.00	200.00
Equipment	220.20	488.63
Stock	4,607.52	7,120.86
Development Investment		
Prepayments		
Creditors and Accruals	9,893.00	9,774.00
Previous Year Adjustment	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>
	<u>30,534.06</u>	<u>27,871.80</u>

Report to the Members of the English Bowls Umpires Association

I have examined the Financial Statement for the year ended 31 December 2015. My examination included checking the basis on which the accounts are 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 31 December 2015 is in accordance with the accounting records, underlying documentation, and the policy adopted towards equipment purchased (which is to write off the cost over the estimated life of the equipment).

A.R. Busby

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Isle of Wight
PO35 5SF

No auditors fee for 2014 as paid at end of 2013 {£400-00}.

We managed to make a small “profit” of £2,662.00 for the whole year, but you will notice xx next to the travel account, and if this had not been reduced to 30p a mile, as from the 40p I increased it to last year [2014] we would have been looking at quite a sizeable loss [approximately £1,500-00]

The figures of £35,348.00 in various bank accounts equates to difference in sales, balance of subs, after expenses and the 3 donations to funds via EIBA and Bowls England. But more importantly £9,900.00 advance subs, so in actual fact we have only £25,448.00 belonging to the Association.

I do not see a need to increase the subs next year, but dependent on the number of umpires/markers who drop out, through not re-testing, non-payment of subs, and Father Time taking his share I will have to possibly have to be looking at an increase in 2017.

At the moment we have a total of 595 members, luckily we have the “markers” otherwise the umpires list would look very sick at 471.

34 have resigned through ill health, not re-taking, and uniform issues, plus another 20 who have not paid their subs, after numerous reminders.

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 Ray Keen and agreed by the meeting.

10. Development Officer’s report

Allan Thornhill reported as follows:-

The main areas of activity for 2015/16 are as follows:

Laws of the Sport Indoor Bowls

There have been many strong rumours that the WIBC Indoor Laws are being revised. To date we have received no official notification of any of the changes. We wait with baited breath to hear what the next season holds for us. In terms of amending the Training & Development documents, thankfully this will involve very little work as we do not specifically train to the Indoor version of the laws, but it would still be nice to know what the changes will be.

Home Study Manual

The Home Study Manual continues to be a great asset to new umpires and established colleagues alike. They continue to be available to order from me via the website or by postal cheque.

Workshops

Since the last AGM, 9 workshops have been held around the country with a further 3 already in the calendar for this year. Included in this total was a course and examination session held in Leamington for the Bowls England staff. This was extremely well received and we are pleased to say that all Bowls England staff have joined the association as Umpires.

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.

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

A small team has been reviewing methods of working assessments, there are many hurdles to cross but the trials that have been carried out were successful with a couple of test cases being successfully assessed to be re-certified.

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 continues to be excellent 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 28 courses have been held and more are being planned each month. The average attendance of the courses is around 30 people many of which are also coming forward to join the association as EBUA Markers. Indeed our members has increased by approximately 15% as a result of the markers courses.

We continue to look at refinements of the process and the courses.

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.

Mich van Putt has now taken over the role of Training Administrator and I must thank Alex Duckworth for his continued support of the Training programme and for helping Mich find her feet in the role.

Allan expanded his report by telling the meeting that revised 'indoor' Laws of the Sport would be available in October, but the changes were minor incorporating changes needed for disability bowls and generally tidying them up.

11. a) Election of Officers

Secretary	Vernon Findell	Proposed - Val Coldwell Seconded – Bernardette Hill
Deputy Secretary	Jessie Clark	Proposed - Peter Price Seconded - Mary Price
National Development Officer	Allan Thornhill	Proposed Alex Duckworth Seconded – Ray Keen

The officers were confirmed in post en bloc by the meeting.

b) Confirmation of Area Secretaries

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

12 Life memberships

The Executive committee asked the meeting to approve the awarding of Life Memberships to:-

Alex Duckworth

Brian Burton

Both of these gentlemen had given many years of service to the Association (and its predecessor) and were now retiring from their positions.

The meeting unanimously approved the awards.

Both Brian and Alex expressed their surprise at the awards and thanked the membership.

Next meeting

The next Annual General Meeting would take place on Sunday 23 April 2017.

There being no more formal business the Chairman closed the AGM at 11.40 am

M Wellington
Chairman