

Secretary's Report - August 2018

For some of you this year will seem to be very long, this is because it is! This report covers from April 2017 to now! I will keep it as short as I can!

This year has been a learning time for me, and I must thank everyone for their help and forbearance while I have blundered my way through the arrangements! Vernon for his help with the general arrangements (and fitting these around the finances) and Mavis & Val on how the Leamington office works and some of the 'tricks of the trade'! The autumn saw the arrangements for the Indoor nationals at Melton Mowbray, Nottingham, and the events across the country, begin. My thanks to those who worked (including marking) through the weeks at those venues as well as those who worked at the other venues across the country.

There was also, around this time, the beginning of the arrangements for the Leamington Championship 2018 with the receipt of the schedule, followed by the forms for members to indicate their availability being prepared and made available. When returned these were analysed for daily availability so that in the spring the duties could be allocated, and those volunteering informed.

Early in the new year we supplied umpires for the Junior Internationals at Nottingham and I was complemented on the quality of the umpiring over that weekend so congratulations to those who were on duty there.

For the Melton Mowbray and Nottingham national finals we sent two teams; a team of ladies to one venue and a team of men to the other. They were joined by markers for the various singles. Again, thank you to all of those who took part. I appreciate how hard you all work while you are there.

At the end of June in the run up to the National Championships there were various international events at Leamington. We provided umpires (and markers) for the Men's British Isles Championships, and the Men's Senior International series. Immediately followed by a Test match versus Bowls Australia. All the umpires worked very hard in extreme heat and certainly earned the praise that I received for their work. Personally, I would like to thank those who stepped in at the last minute to help out. In July the Women's Junior International Series was also held at Leamington with the umpires (and markers) working very hard in the heat over the two days.

I have talked here about the 'big' events that have been happening throughout the year, but more important are the events you all work so hard at in the counties and regions. It is here that the really hard work is put in by so many of you, often without thanks or recognition (or even a cup of tea) from their organisers. I would like to thank you all for this. You turn up, whatever the weather, and just get on with what needs to be done. Thank you!

One last thing, please don't forget to volunteer for duties at Leamington next year (or to mark at Nottingham indoors) I would like to see many more of you there

Phyl Jones
Secretary