



Newsletter of the EBUA

Summer 2013

Training & Development

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As you probably have noticed, I'm back like a rotten smell. I have had to make a few sacrifices with other commitments like Area Secretary and a few personal ones, plus work is a lot easier than it was 12 months ago. But, with a gaping hole left in the Development side of this association I was not going to stand back and let all the hard work disappear in a puff of smoke – so here I am.

I am now trying to get my head around some of the issues that we have in the Training & Development programme.

It would appear that some rash decisions have been made, particularly about the elimination of the Club Umpire grade. The implications of this decision have clearly not been thought through and are far reaching. So my first job back is to offer my sincere apologies to those that have been inconvenienced by this unfortunate circumstance and to try and get us back on track.

Also of concern is that it is clear that some areas are operating the training programme different to others and the procedures that we carefully laid down 3 years ago have drifted. So again, time to get back on track for the benefit of you, our members.

One of the key elements of the Development Programme that I hoped to have seen up and running is a Markers Course. It is probably one of my biggest regrets, having to step down from the NDO post having not completed this element. This will be my focus over the next few months and plans are already advanced well in the construction of a Markers programme to complement the umpire training.

At the same time we are undergoing a review of the examination procedures as this is one area that seems to have been diluted in various parts of the country with inconsistencies having crept in.

The Development Committee has grown and now comprises the Area Secretaries, National Training Administrator - Alex Duckworth and National Examiner - Vic Perry. A motley crew to keep under control but, more importantly, a diverse group of viewpoints ensuring that decisions are made by agreement rather than individually.

I am reassured that the Home Study Manual and DVD are helping new prospective umpires in their learning and this is proven by the very high standard of practical ability and knowledge of those attending the workshops and assessments.

So, as things move forward I will ensure that you are kept informed of the latest changes especially with the introduction of the Marking programme.

Allan Thornhill

Notes from the Treasurer

I would like to thank all the members who either pay their subs by standing order, or pay their 4 years subs for the life of their certificate.

It does make life a lot easier, and I would appeal to the other members who do not do either to seriously think about doing so. More time is wasted in

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Area 1

We have had the International event at Stanley Co Durham again this year and it was a resounding success.

Also the result of the examinations held in May at Harrogate was very satisfactory. Can I thank all who helped myself and Eric Tomlinson the National Examiner.

Congratulations to:

Re-qualified

Christine Wharton, Dennis Abba, Roger Dyson, Graham Stephenson and Peter Thomas

Upgrade to National

Rachel Procter and Brian Allington

Upgrade to Regional

Greg Brown and Ena Gatenby

Also a big welcome to our new members

Chris Bishop, Kevin Wylie, David Surtees and Andy Baxter

The resignation of Charles Clark as county co-coordinator has left a vacancy for this position in Yorkshire.

Durham is also without a co-coordinator. If anyone feels they would like information regarding these two posts will they contact me, Val Coldwell. My contact number is on the EBUA website.

Val Coldwell

Area 2

As usual, in April we ran our first Workshop of the year at Leicester IBC with 26 attending, including 2 from South Central, one from Eastern and one from Wales. This year was easier as I was not up for retest!!

With one or two exceptions, the standard was very high, much I believe to do with the Training Manuals & DVD which allow a more leisurely opportunity to study the various measuring techniques and to improve ones marking ability.

Our congratulations & welcome go to the following:

New Regional Umpires:

Georgie Dimmock (South Central)
Kathleen Kyle (Leics)
Jean Pluckwell (South Central)
Kathleen Rothera (Leics)

Jaqueline Watson (Leics)
Terence Martin (Northants)
John Bull (Eastern)
Neil Jones (Wales & Leics)
Malcolm Leivers (Derby)
Barbara Adams (Leics)
Christine Venn (Warwicks)
Ken Bick (Worcs)
Tony Carter (Worcs)
Ron Forster (Leics)
Barbara Livermore (Leics)
Jeannette Smith (Leics)

Upgraded to National

David Durant (Worcs)
John Jenkins (Leics)

Plus all the other successful retests – well done.

Whilst handing out bouquets, our congratulations also go to Moira Horriben, Alan Harvey & Gareth Willcock on gaining their International flash.

Earlier this year we were saddened by the death of Ken Roots, who for some time has been our local National Examiner. Ken did a marvelous job, undertaking Examinations all over the country in his National role. He will be missed by all of us.

However Graham Gibbins has picked up the ball and made an excellent job in his first Examination role.

We received quite a number of congratulatory comments and we thank all those who sent in such plaudits. The whole process is now under the microscope nationally having run with the new system for two years, together with the phasing out of the Club umpire grade; we are looking to see where improvements can be made.

Also, doing her first Tutorial in our Area, we welcome Alison Welsted as a new National Tutor.

Our sincere thanks once again go to Leicester IBC and especially to Harold Palmer, who not only set out the facilities, arranged all the meals, was barman and then took on the role of examiner. He obviously does not have enough to do!!

Also we must thank the other unsung heroes - the team of Tutors, Regional Examiners & Examination Assistants who by their contribution make such an event as successful as it is.

In August, the Visually Impaired (now known as VIBE) National Championships return to Leamington, so we shall be again looking for volunteer Markers & Umpires for the week commencing Sunday August 18th 2013 through to Friday August 23rd 2013.

Last time we had over 200 matches played across three greens during the week, each one requiring a marker

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with at least one umpire per green per session. In other words we need loads of help. Your only reward will be the undying gratitude of a number of bowlers who still wish to take part in our sport in spite of their severe handicap and they will provide you with food & drink!!

For the markers, it is a new experience as some of the normal rules go out of the window. Additionally, VIBE have yet to go metric in their jack lengths.

Anyone wishing to help, please let me know as soon as practical, as we need to organise the event on a daily basis. Gareth Willcock (Warwicks), having been appointed as VIBE team manager, will also be on hand.

Most counties by now are making their appointments through the Area Secretary / County Co-ordinator route, but some resistance to change is still obvious in one or two places. It is a process of developing evolution

Brian P. Burton

Area 3

After months of trying to find a date when the venue, the tutor and the examiner are all available at the same time, success was achieved at Tye Green IBC on the weekend of May 25th & 26th.

We had 11 people attend out of the 66 invitations that were sent out at the beginning of May. Of these, 10 successfully passed the examinations.

I would like to welcome the following new Regional Umpires to our Association:

Douglas Catmur	Essex
Roger Baker	Beds
Catherine Lee	Essex
Dennis Taylor	Essex
Kevin Cornwell	Essex

The following two people upgraded to become National Umpires:

David Ford	Cambs
Roger Jarvis	Herts

Finally Hedda Baglo, Barbara Beevor and Eddie Hall successfully completed their four year retests.

Unfortunately, one of our retests failed but I hope will retake the examination in the coming months.

That still leaves over 50 people to attend a training seminar before their certificate expires.

I will be trying to arrange another seminar towards the end of November this year.

I shall be standing down as Area Secretary at the October Area Meeting as stated at last years meeting. I am running out of time to undertake all of my existing roles and will be President of Essex County next year as well as President of my local bowling association.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone in the Eastern Area for the support they have given me over the past nine years and hope you will support my successor just as well.

I would particularly like to thank my existing County Co-ordinators - Paul Costin of Essex, George Rowland of Bedfordshire and Colin Buck of Suffolk for all the time and effort they have put in over the years. Peter Hartwell has done a sterling Job in Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire but is also standing down at the end of the Outdoor season.

I am currently looking for volunteers to act as County Co-ordinators in Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Huntingdonshire and Norfolk. You don't have to live in the county to be the Co-ordinator as I have been undertaking this role for Hertfordshire and Norfolk for the last two years. If anyone is interested in taking on one of these roles or wants to know more about what is involved please contact me.

Trevor Hackett

Area 4

As advised at the Annual General Meeting, I have relinquished by role as County Co-ordinator for Sussex to take on the admin role for the Area to allow Allan Thornhill to again take up the mantle of Development Officer. However, we will still work closely together to ensure the smooth running of the revised area, comprising Middlesex, Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Many thanks to Allan for his sterling work in the Area!

The role of County-Coordinator for Sussex has been passed to Angela Barker, based at Horsham IBC who has already started work co-ordinating with the outdoor and both indoor associations and communicating with members in Sussex over duties to be allocated.

In Kent, Mike Swann has decided to retire on health grounds and we hope that his health starts to improve. Our thanks go to him for his service as County Co-ordinator over the last few years. Alex Duckworth will

Area 4 Continued

be taking over the role as Kent County Co-ordinator, and he will be working closely with his colleagues, Neville Bedford and Alex Kendrick to service the needs of the county.

Up to the time of going to press, the area has undertaken workshops, at Bromley IBC on 11 & 12 May and Hounslow IBC on 18 May. This follows on from a workshop held at Horsham IBC over the indoor season. A further 2 workshops are being held this summer: Eastbourne IBC on 8 & 9 June and at Tunbridge Wells IBC (The Royals) on 6 & 7 July. Our thanks go to the clubs for offering the facilities and also to the efforts of local EBUA umpires who have helped with arrangements.

While Hounslow was a 'homely' affair with 6 assessments (3 upgrades to Regional and 3 requalifying at National level), another member took the opportunity to attend to update his skills.

Bromley (with 24 attendees) necessitated a timetabled assessment approach with appointments being made on the Sunday for formal assessment (3 of which are doing their assessment at Tunbridge Wells instead). 15 members successfully upgraded to Regional grade, and 2 to National Grade (subject to paperwork), with a further 4 prequalifying at existing grade.

Congratulations to you all! A well earned thank you must surely be given to all the tutors for a very busy day on the Saturday and the examiners for coping with such a tight timescale to do the assessments on the Sunday.

Let's hope the workshops at Eastbourne and Tunbridge Wells go as well!

I am aware that the workshop dates cannot meet everyone's needs due to other commitments (including county events etc). However, for those due to requalify please contact me or your county co-ordinator if you have a problem and we will see what can be done to resolve it. However, I do thoroughly recommend attending the workshops if you are able (and space is available to attend), even to update your skills – it is a very enlightening experience and we can all learn from it!

I will be looking to liaise with the county co-ordinators to try and enable workshop(s) to be scheduled for the coming year and also organise area meetings.

Carol Watt-Sullivan
Area Secretary

Area 6

Welcome to the new members following on from the Workshops in Dorset and Devon, and congratulations to those who successfully passed their upgrades or retests. I am also now the Area Secretary for Hampshire & the Isle of Wight.

John Davies

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in chasing up non payers, who in some cases complain like billy-oh because they had been deleted. After a half page reminder in the November Newsletter, an e-mail or snail mail to all non payers in early January, and a reminder from their Area secretary / County co-ordinators what more do people want.

After all it is only £10-00 a year, and because the majority of members pay on time we can still keep the subscriptions at this level.

I would also like to give a big **Thank You** to Mrs Karen Wood, who does a very worthwhile job as Merchandising Manager.

But like all of us, she is a volunteer and does not appreciate abusive phone calls because members have ordered wrong sizes and expect them to be replaced with a different size without paying postage. She is only carrying out her job as I asked her to do, So if you want a moan phone me, I have had 40 years experience with irate customers!!

If any members who receive this Newsletter by post, and have now got an e-mail address I would appreciate you sending it to me, so we can keep the records right up to date, and easier to contact you all.

Summer is coming?????????

Well we did have 3 days of sunshine here on the Isle of Wight.

I hope you all have a nice lot of duties, and enjoy it when you are officiating, and remember you usually know more about the Laws than the average bowler.

If any of you are worried about paying their subs, I have come up with a novel way of sorting it.

Send me a blank signed cheque and I will have a nice round the world cruise courtesy of you lovely generous people, but I will be back by August so I can see your happy smiling faces at either Leamington, or Worthing.

L.O.L.