

## **Minutes of the 2020 Annual General Meeting of the English Bowls Umpires Association held on Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at Iver Heath Bowls Club**

Present: 111 members, 37 physically and eventually 74 virtually. Lists on file.

### **1. Appointment of Chairman for the AGM**

Vic Perry opened the meeting and asked the floor to approve Jessie Clark as Chairman and Bernie Hill as Minute Taker for the purpose of AGM. This was accepted.

The Chairman thanked the members for attending. Mention was made of the unprecedented circumstances and the Executive have had to ensure that all attendees adhere to the safety protocols in place due to members travelling from different parts of the country. The meeting was confirmed as being quorate. Allan Thornhill explained how the meeting was being streamed live on Zoom meaning and that 60 plus people were viewing online. The meeting was being recorded for minute taking purposes only.

The Chairman asked for a show of hands from those attending the meeting in person to indicate their support to enable online participants to raise questions and vote. The show of hands indicated an overwhelming agreement to the approach which was then adopted.

### **2. In Remembrance**

The meeting stood in silence for those members who had died in the past year:

John Jenkins

Mike Mann

Keith Taylor

Wye Paine

Gordon Walker

### **3. Apologies for absence**

135 apologies received

### **4. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 2017: Page 7 remove subheading vii**

The Chairman explained how this was purely an administration error when changing the AGM from April to August (week 6 to week 33). It was changed in some places in the Constitution but had been overlooked in other parts. We seek permission to make the necessary changes to line up the week numbers.

This was agreed unanimously by the meeting.

- 5. Reconvene the Annual General Meeting from 2019 (no quorum, 28 members present) to ratify the decisions recorded in the minutes of the General Meeting of 18<sup>th</sup> August 2019 (published on website) including the election of:**

**Jessie Clark                                  Deputy Secretary**  
**Francis Fletcher                          International Selection Committee**  
**Confirmation of Area Secretaries**

The meeting unanimously accepted to ratify the 2019 minutes.

- 6. Matters Arising:** no matters arising
- 7. Chairman's Report:** not available
- 8. Secretary's Report:** not available
- 9. Treasurer's Report:** Alexander Wilson

Alexander reported that two Treasurers had resigned during 2019-20. He has been holding the Treasurer's papers, but not acting as Treasurer, since 8 July 2020 and accordingly was not able to give a Treasurer's Report to this AGM or present accounts for approval.

The bank had recommended a two-stage process for adding two new mandate holders before removing the three previous ones. Two new mandate holders were now in place and the removal of the previous three in hand.

Alexander recommended that the approval of the accounts to December 2019 be deferred to the AGM 2021, but that they should be made available to members once they are ready. He was able to note that funds held at the bank as of 31 December 2019 indicated that the Balance Sheet position had improved by a small amount over the year.

Proposed by Alexander Wilson  
Seconded by Maxine Groce

The recommendation to defer approval of accounts to AGM 2021 was adopted.

The Chairman thanked Alexander Wilson for his dealing with this and sorting the Bank mandates.

**10. Appointment of competent person to examine accounts**

To be dealt with later in the meeting, after the election of Officers.

**11. Development Officer's Report:** Vic Perry

Vic reported that Workshops had taken place in 6 areas during the year Horsham (Surrey), Chesterton (Cambs), Nailsea (Bristol), Wealdon (Sussex), Bromsgrove (Worcestershire) and Carnmoggas (Cornwall). 71 candidates were examined, 64 passed of which 12 were new Regionals, and 8 failed.

28 working assessments were carried out at Leamington last year, these bring very successful with feedback was given to all.

Vic stated that he believes that this is the way forward and intends to increase working assessments nationally, especially at 2 umpire events, i.e. Middleton Cup, John's Trophy, Denny Cup and Liberty Trophy etc.

We already have County mentors doing a brilliant job and I would like to get them involved with the assessments, after training from our Development Team (I hope to persuade our new Treasurer to allocate some travelling funds).

Registered Markers will also be included in the working assessments; I feel our Markers are just as important.

All the assessment results will be gathered up and kept in one place for use in upgrade applications to International Grade and Level 3 Marker.

We now have an International Selection Committee in place, and I hope to have a 'Road to International' paper as a guide to help candidates applying for International selection.

Assessment results will go to Area Secretaries to be attached to the International application forms.

What should have happened this year is that our Registered Markers with Level 2 Certificates, were to be invited to work at Leamington assisting with Sutton Winson competition, hopefully the application forms will again be out next year.

I hope to restart the MAC courses as soon as I can as they are popular and, as before, I hope to cold call as many as possible, so we maintain standards.

Workshops and examinations are our priority. We have extended the 2020 certificates by one year. When we carry out the retests in 2021, I will expect high scores and perfect kits.

Bowls England are very kindly giving out new Regional Umpires a Bursary of up to £100 towards their kit. 9 new Regionals have received Bursaries so far, which started on 1 January 2020.

7 of our Umpires have had a successful year so far:

Mandy Simpson  
Ron Eden

Martyn Page

Gained their International Flash.

Bob Penny  
Bernie Hill  
Tony Hatch  
Sue Mates

Achieved World Bowls ITO status.

As the Development Team will be carrying out random assessments you need to know who they are:

Greg Brown  
Francis Fletcher  
Julie Greenwood  
Phil King  
Vic Perry

Acceptance of the report proposed by Colin Wilson and seconded by Ray Keen.

The report was accepted by the meeting.

## **12. Motions**

- 1. Proposed by the Executive Committee  
Constitution, Paragraph 6 Uniform, insert under men and women: navy blue knee length tailored shorts**

Motion carried

- 2. Proposed by Charlotte Emanuel and Dan Bluett  
Constitution, Paragraph 6 Uniform  
The predominately white shoes be removed and replaced by flat soled shoes. The requirement to wear white/navy socks removed.**

The meeting indicated that they were not in favour of the proposition and agreed to an amendment to include navy blue shoes alongside predominantly white shoes and the requirement for white/navy socks to remain:

Proposed by Ray Keen and seconded by Mary Price

Motion carried

- 3. Proposed by Dan Bluett and Allan Thornhill  
Constitution, Paragraph 7 AGM**

**Add, 'The Annual General Meeting can be convened as either a physical and online meeting or purely as an online meeting, between the AGM shall normally be held each year on Sunday of week 33 and this may be more.....**

**Amendment by the Executive Committee:  
Add 'physical' after the word either in the proposition.**  
Amendment accepted by Dan Bluett

Motion carried.

- 4. Proposed by Carole Symonds and Angie Thompson  
Constitution Paragraph 7 AGM  
Add after the AGM..... Sunday week 33 in order to make access to any voting at AGM's and SGM's inclusive to all members, voting via email may be accepted. Nominations and propositions to be posted on the EBUA website within 2 weeks of the closing date for nominations. Voting to be closed two weeks before the AGM. Independent Scrutineers to be appointed by the Executive Committee**

Francis Fletcher asked that only votes from the email address registered with the EBUA be accepted.

Motion carried

### **13. Election of Officers**

Deputy Chairman	Greg Brown	Proposed – Vic Perry Seconded – Colin Wilson
Secretary	Bernie Hill	Proposed – Ray Keen Seconded – Karen Wood
National Development Officer	Vic Perry	Proposed – Francis Fletcher Seconded – Bernie Hill

These officers were confirmed in post by the meeting.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to Vic Perry for his ongoing work.

### **14. Appointment of competent person to examine accounts**

Alexander Wilson explained that Shirley Bowley is prepared to act as the EBUA Account examiner. She is a treasurer at an indoor bowling club and also for Bowls Dorset. She is a retired certified accountant.

Accepted by the meeting.

## **15. Declaration of Area Secretaries**

Area 1 (Northern)	Maxine Groce
Area 2 (Midlands)	Colin Wilson
Area 3 (Eastern)	Bob Penny
Area 4 (Central)	Carol Watt Sullivan
Area 5 (South Eastern)	Steve Alway
Area 6 (South Western)	Alexander Wilson

## **16. Confirmation of Safeguarding Officer**

Carol Watt Sullivan

### **Closing remarks**

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. We have an Executive in place that will function for the good of the Association.

### **Vote of thanks**

Ray Keen proposed a very strong vote of thanks to Vic Perry, the Executive Committee, the volunteers that have stood and in particular to Jessie Clark for taking over at this very difficult time.

Seconded by Angie Thompson

### **Photographs**

A suggestion was made from the floor by Charlotte Emanuel regarding using photographs on the website to help identify members. This will be discussed at the next Executive Meeting.

**Date of next meeting:** Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2021, venue tbc.

Meeting closed at 11.34