



**EPRA DELEGATES MEETING HELD AT THE
STONEBRIDGE MANOR HOTEL, COVENTRY
ON SUNDAY 30th January 2011**

OFFICIAL
EPRA
MINUTES
2011

Chairman:	Position Vacant	General Secretary:
Vice Chairman:	Phil Turner	John H. Hope
Treasurer:	Jason Davies	
Exam Secretary:	Robert Shore	

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1. Chairman.....	2
2. Attendees.....	2
2.1 Present	2
2.2 Apologies	2
3. Minutes of last meeting.....	2
4. Matters arising from minutes.....	2
5. Correspondence.....	2-3
6. Finance Report.....	3
7. Examination Secretary's Report.....	4
8. Events Reports	5-6
9. Regional Reports	7-8
10. EPA Report	8
11. Forthcoming Events	8
12. Professional Events	8
13. Next Meeting	8
14. Any Other Business	9
15. Summary of Actions	9

Meeting opened at

1 Chairman

The Chairman welcomed all delegates, and convened meeting.

2 Attendees

2.1 Present

Officers:

Phil Turner (acting Chair), Steve Brooker (General Secretary), Jason Davis (Treasurer), Robert Shore (Exam Secretary).

Delegates

Tony Clayton (R1), Richard Rhodes (R2), Carol Vinyard (R4), Peter Hallett (R5), Sue Mitchell (7)

Absent

No Delegates from Regions 3, 6, & 8.

Observers

Simon Baker (R1), Diane Stocks (R2) & John H. Hope (R4).

2.2 Apologies

No apologies received.

3 Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes of the last Delegate Meeting (13th June 2010) were taken as read; Proposed as a true record by Tony Clayton (R1), seconded by Robert Shore (Exam Secretary)

Voting: Unanimous

4 Matters Arising From Minutes

No actions were required from previous minutes

It was requested by Jason Davis that the incoming General Secretary ensure that the Minutes are sent out within the required time.

The matter of Picture ID Cards was discussed, it was agreed that this matter be held over until Any Other Business.

5 Correspondence

5.1 George Harwood

A letter requesting 2 Referees was received from George Harwood for the Professional Trophy At Club 147, Leicester. Mel Harley & Terry Billingham officiated.

5.2 Iorwerth Griffiths UPC

A request for referees was received for the Universities Championships Event at Gt. Yarmouth on 24th – 27th February 2011. It was requested that they be allowed to source the referees from the EPRA ranks himself, this was agreed. The referees are to be: Mel Harley (R3) (acting as Senior as well as refereeing) Terry Billingham (R5) Sarah Cox (R5) & Steve Cox (R5). Mel Harley to complete an Event Report. Should any problems arise whilst officiating at this event the General Secretary is to be advised immediately..

5.3 EPA re: Peter Hallett

Several e-mails were received and sent regarding Peter Hallett refereeing at the U21's Grand Prix at Players Lounge, Staffs. E-mails were sent between Jason Davis, Geoff Wilson & Bob Love. As Peter Hallett was a last minute replacement for the original referee booked, accommodation was required. It was originally agreed that the EPA would pay the £50.00 for accommodation, this was then changed to 50% - 50% between the EPA and the EPRA, this was again altered to the EPRA paying the full amount. It would seem that the EPA treasurer did not have the authority to agree any payment.

5.4 Mike Perkins

Correspondence was received regarding Ian Strannock, who was found to have sanctioned the entry of ineligible players in the Champion of Champions 2010. He has subsequently been suspended from EPA events for 24 months. As the EPRA had no involvement in this situation they shall be taking no action against Ian Strannock. However, the EPRA has agreed not to use him in any EPA events above County level.

5.5 Sean Baker (EPRA Chair)

A letter was received from Sean and read out to committee stating that he was resigning, with immediate effect, as Chair of the EPRA. Citing private, personal and work reasons for his decision. His resignation was accepted by the committee. The Association wishes to thank Sean for all his hard work over the years and showed their appreciation in the normal manner. Phil Turner agreed to act as Chair until due election date, AGM 2012.

6 Finance Report

6.1 Report

An end of year report was distributed and read. Anomalies regarding Robert Shore and Honorarium entries were explained and accepted. The chair honorarium was split 50% - 50% Between Sean Baker (outgoing Chair) and Phil Turner (acting chair) together with 50% Vice-Chair Honorarium to Phil Turner.

A breakdown of the Meetings entry was given and accepted.

A cheque returned unpaid was explained, it was requested that the cheque was held back for a week before being presented, unfortunately a misunderstanding led to it being presented early thus being returned unpaid.

The Treasurer agreed to ensure that there were sufficient funds in the current account to allow for such eventualities.

6.2 Expenses

The Executive Committee expenses were as:

Phil Turner (acting Chair)	£ 56.00	(Travel)
Steve Brooker (Gen. Sec.)	£ 95.40	(travel, stationary & postage etc.)
Jason Davis (Treasurer)	£ 66.56	(travel & postage etc.)
Robert Shore (Exam Sec.)	£193.16	(travel, stationary & postage etc.)
Room Hire	£ 50.00	

Expenses accepted as true. Proposed: Tony Clayton (R1) Seconded: Peter Hallett (R5)

Voting unanimous

6.3 Delegates travel expenses.

A discussion was raised to consider assisting Regional delegates with their travel Expenses. It was decided to set this item back to Any Other Business.

6.4 Membership.

Jason informed the committee that 78 referees had renewed their membership and that 33 were still outstanding, although these figures may have changed since he was last updated. (Thanks to Jon Shapland (R3/R8) and John Dowdeswell (R6) for dealing with memberships within their areas.

7 Examination Secretary's Report

7.1 Report

Examinations since End November 2010 to End November 2011

	D Grade	Pass	E Grade	Pass		
Region 1	5	1	2	2		
Region 2	21	4	17	12		
Region 3	0	0	0	0		
Region 4	6	2	2	0		
Region 5	14	8	9	7		
Region 6	7	2	2	2		
Region 7	8	2	0	0		
Total	61	19	32	23	Grand Total	61 + 23 = 84 £420.00

2010 has been a good year for exams with receipts totalling £465.00

The new 'D' Grade examination paper is now in use, but results have been disappointing, 31.15% pass rate. This is considered to be because candidates are not conversant with Rule changes and calling procedures, particularly the 60 second rules, as some leagues do not use this rule.

7.2 'A' grade Assessments

There are 3 on-going assessments:

Steve Cox requires 2 further practical assessments and a written exam

Jeremy Ruffer requires satisfactory practical assessments and a written exam

Sarah Cox requires only a written exam

It was proposed that pending a satisfactory Written exam, Sarah Cox should be upgraded to 'A' Grade as of January 2011. Proposed Robert Shore. Seconded John H. Hope.

Voting unanimous

7.3 'S' grade Assessments

There are currently no 'S' applicants

7.4 Rules & Guidance Books

At this juncture there has been no sanction from the EPA/WEPF to cover the costs of Rules & Guidance Books, the association printed an amount at our own expence. 88 were issued to paid up referees, 51 by post and 37 at National events, starting in March.

Any candidate taking an exam will be issued a book, at the cost of £1.00

Examiners should ensure that they have adequate books per exam, these will automatically be replaced.

7.5 Examiner Assessment

The cost of overseeing prospective Examiners was discussed and proposed that the

Association should bear this cost rather than Exam candidates

Proposed: Robert Shore Seconded: Peter Hallett

Voting unanimous

12.35pm MEETING ADJOURNED FOR LUNCH/AGM

13.45pm MEETING RE-CONVEINED

8 Events Reports

8.1 WEPF World Championships – John H. Hope (Senior)

The Senior Referee's report were read in full to the meeting and summarised as follows:-

This section of the event was over 27/06/2010 – 06/07/2010.

Prior to the event it became obvious that we would be a referee short. However, this was not a serious problem as we had been informed, by e-mail, that overseas referees would be attending. On speaking to the TD Alan Benton it transpires that there would not be any overseas referees. Numerous attempts were made to obtain a stand-in referee all unsuccessful.

The Senior Referee arrived at the venue (Imperial Hotel, Blackpool) in time for the 9.00am Meeting, when he was informed that a stand-in referee has been found, Lloyd Clarke (R2). He was also informed that he would be the only Senior referee, Top Table would stand in when he was not available.

Referees were on time for the Opening Ceremony at 12.00noon, with the first matches being brought forward by 2 hours to 13.00hrs to allow a World Cup match to be viewed.

The referees worked as well as can be expected, given the duration of the event and the hours worked. Considering the amount of times the Senior was called to the floor, the majority of disputed calls made by the referees were correct, some disputed calls were because of other countries interpretations of certain rules, but no major problems were encountered.

The additional referees arrived on time on Friday 02/07/2010 and were used for their required event (mens individuals) all worked well and were a credit, especially the newer less experienced referees.

The Ladies Team Final was a rather raucous but good natured affair, and the referees were instructed to watch out for Coaching, there were ill informed calls from some quarters that Coaching was occurring, however, calls of encouragement and good natured banter do not constitute Coaching.

My thanks to all referees for their hard work, especially Lloyd Clarke for standing in at the Last minute and working extremely well.

Liaison with Top Table was good with the Senior being kept informed of changes and alterations.

It should, however, be insured in the future that teams are instructed to bring their own Stop watches and not rely on borrowing Referees stop watches.

The event was yet again an experience.

8.2 National Amateur Individuals – Robert Shore (Senior)

The Senior Referee's report were read in full to the meeting and summarised as follows:-

The matches started on Thurs 7th Oct at 5pm and finished at 11.30pm. 2 referees were Assigned, myself and John Hope, working 40mins on - 40mins off although this did not happen for long. 36 brand new tables had been installed and unfortunately the free play mechanism did not work properly, constantly causing problems until it was temporarily fixed.

On Fri. 8th all referees were on time and suitably attired, tables were prepared for play by 8.45am The six referees worked a pattern of 4 on – 2 off until early afternoon when patters were changed to allow for an hours lunch break.

One referee had to be reallocated after being told by top table that one of the areas was not Being used for the time being.

Matches started more or less on time, The last 16 started at 17.40hrs – the last of the semi-finals started at 21.45hrs and was completed at 22.50hrs.

The Senior was only called to the floor once, for a Foul Snooker decision, the referee was Correct.

Whilst assisting Phil Turner ready himself as Senior for Interleague KO Cup, it was realised that he would be a referee short for his event. Thanks to Terry Billingham for agreeing to cover this short fall and to John Hope for agreeing to cover the International Masters event.

8.3 Interleague KO Cup – Phil Turner (senior)

The Senior Referee's report were read in full to the meeting and summarised as follows:-

Robert Shore welcomed the referees and sorted stand-ins for the missing referee, thanks to him for his help.

SATURDAY 09/10/2010

All referees were on duty at 08.30hrs as requested.

With 32 tables being used they were split into 5 zones with 2 refs in each zone working 1hr on - 1hour off, rotating zones.

Later in the day as matches progressed, the referees worked 30mins on – 30mins off.

The Senior was called to the floor on only one occasion, the attending referees decision was correct.

All matches went well and referees were stood down between 20:12hrs and 21:00hrs.

SUNDAY 10/10/2010

All referees were prompt for morning briefing, they worked 4 zones for last 16 matches, each having 2 tables and working 30mins on – 30min off. This changed as matches progressed.

The senior was called to the floor on two occasion, one for a foul snooker (referee correct) the The second for a Serious foul (playing out of turn) The table player/referee hadn't noticed that the balls had not been replaced before the opposing player played the next shot. Players were told that as they had allowed play to continue, no further action would be taken and the frame must continue.

The quarter-finals started at 10:45hrs, the semi-final at 12:30hrs and the final at 13:30hrs finishing at 14:30hrs.

Thanks to all referees who were professional in their approach and a credit to the association.

8.4 Champion of Champions – John H. Hope (Senior)

The Senior Referee's report were read in full to the meeting and summarised as follows:-

Prior to the event the Senior was informed that he would be a referee short, this was not the only one who had pulled out at the last minute, although this was through ill health.

The refereeing requirements of the TD were discussed and agreed, communication with top table was adequate.

Referees were sort to cover those who were not attending, many thanks to Garry Francis for Extending his shift hours on Saturday and to Carol Vinyard for extending her shift hours on Saturday and standing in an Sunday.

All referees were punctual and well turned out and work very well, they were a credit to the association.

On Saturday the first session of referees started at 09.00hrs and worked through to 18.30hrs The second session started at 15.00hrs and worked through to a finish at 22.30hrs. Thanks to Chris Robins for acting as Senior.

Sundays session also went very well with no problems.

There were several 'play-off's' on both Saturday and Sunday, these caused no problems As adequate referees were available.

The Mens Champion of Champions Individuals was played on Friday-Saturday nights with only two referees required to officiate on Friday night (John-Paul Eames and Garry Francis) no problems arose.

The Ladies National Team KO Cup was played alongside the main event, without any Problems. On Sunday morning the Ladies Final was played on one table (Tv) instead of two as was originally catered for.

All referees worked well and my thanks for their efforts, especially Catherine Slater who worked well especially considering it was her first experience of Gt. Yarmouth.

9 Regional Reports (written)

9.1 Region 1 (Tony Clayton)

Because of the regional reshuffle, Region 1 have lost 1 county this year, South Yorkshire Two months ago an Exam was scheduled for 5 candidates in Chester - le – Street, unfortunately, only one turned up and she failed.

Correspondance has been received from John Hay (Scotland) regarding a Polo Shirt. This matter is in hand.

9.2 *Region 2 (Richard Rhodes)*

Region 2 report was read to the meeting and summarised as follows.

As assistant Delegate Richard has been taking a more active role and going to National meetings as Delegate. This year will be a take-over period from Phil Turner, because of Phil's National commitments, Richard will be taking over all R2 matters and accepting all regional Correspondence, although Phil should still be copied in.

R2 AGM was held 09/01/2012 with Cheshire, GMC, Lancs and W. Yorks attending with no show from Cumbria and Merseyside, although they few or no referees. The delegate has done everything possible to obtain referees and Delegates in these areas, but to no avail, assistance has been sought from the EPA.

John Tomkins (Cumbria) has requested that he be allowed to renew his membership for 2 years, last year £24.00 to allow him

Keep his grade, and £12.00 for this year, he is keen to be involved. **This was discussed and accepted by the committee. Voting unanimous**

Hopefully there will enough interest at Merseyside to hold a seminar and exam and possibly obtain a delegate. A flyer is also being produced in order to promote interest from would be referees and stop the loss of referees .

It would be appreciated if the setting up of another Referees Seminar could be on the Agenda until it occurs.

A discussion in R2 was held regarding the use of bad language by players during a match and The inconsistent way with which it dealt. R2 have implemented the 'Spirit of the Game' ruling, which has caused some problems. R2 RA have contacted the EPA regarding this matter but, it has been passed back to the Referees Association without a decision. It is suggested that the EPRA might consider including this item into the 'First and Final Warning' given prior to the start of play at national events, in order to keep some continuity. **This matter was discussed by the committee and it was decided to enter into discussion with the EPA with a view to enter a new section into the 'First and Final Warning' and EPRA Guidelines.**

R2 has approved two referees to be considered for upgrade: Lloyd Clarke (GMC) 'C' to 'B' to be assessed at County matches over this year. Diane Stocks (Lancs) 'B' to 'A' . The region has accepted these and request approval at this meeting (copy of Diane Stocks CV enclosed)

Voting unanimous

9.3 *Region 3*

No Delegate

9.4 *Region 4 (Carol Vinyard)*

Awaiting receipt of Association paying-in book and exam pending in the near future.

9.5 *Region 5 (Peter Hallett)*

Exam held in Redditch 5 entrants 1 pass. Worcestershire (now R3) have asked for an exam Later in the year as have Wiltshire. John Clavey has enquired about a Polo Shirt ordered.

9.6 *Region 6*

No Delegate

9.7 *Region 7 (Sue Mitchell)*

Extra Membership forms have been sent out because of the poor response so far. All members have been e-mailed as a reminder. The scheduled Regional AGM (15/01/2011) was cancelled due to poor attendance. The Delegates post is due for election.

The region appears well at the moment and we are hoping for exams later in the year, new referees are always required.

Our congratulations to Dominiqui Chui on the birth of her daughter.

We would like to thank retiring General secretary Steve Brooker for all the hard work he has done for the EPRA over the last 9 years and to wish the new General Secretary all the best for the future.

We would also like to thank Shaun Baker for his hard work as Chair of the EPRA, his resignation was a shock to us all.

9.8 Region 8

No Delegate

10 EPA Report

10.1 Ian Strannack

Ian Strannack has been suspended by the EPA for sanctioning the use of unqualified players (Champion of Champions) The suspension is for 24 months and for events above County level. The EPRA is to take no action against Ian Strannock.

10.2 Clubs for Young People

The EPA has been unable to get any response from correspondence to the CYP

11 Forthcoming Events

11.1 4th March: U21 National Singles & England Trials

11.2 4th- 6th March: National Intercounty Finals

11.3 31st March – 1st April: World Championship Qualifiers

11.4 2nd – 3rd April: National Interleague Finals

11.5 6th May: Over 50's Trials & U21's Trials + Masters Qualifiers

11.6 7th May: Golden Cue Singles

11.7 7th – 8th May: Golden Cue

11.8 26th June: World Championships (start)

12 Professional Events

12.1 6th – 7th May Unspecified Pro Event

12.2 IPA tours – Tours are to select their own referees (EPRA to be informed of referees)

13 Next Meetings

- **5th June 2011 (Delegates) start at 11:00am**

14 Any Other Business

- It was noted that 3 of the Regions do not have Delegates and R3 & R6 have been so for some time, suggestions to help resolve this situations were discussed, this included reducing the number of meetings held (passed at AGM) A proposal was raised that the EPRA pay towards the expences of Delegates attending meetings, 15p p/m was suggested, this to be reviewed annually. **Voting unanimous**

It was also proposed that Officers mileage allowance be raised from 20p p/m to 25p p/m
Voting unanimous

- As discussed at a previous Executive Meeting it was agreed that 3 memory sticks be purchased so that all information held by the General Secretary, Treasurer & Exam Secretary could be loaded onto them to safeguard this information for present and future use.
Voting unanimous
- As noted in the 2009 Audit, the Associations laptop, currently held by the General Secretary, is no longer regarded as an asset. Its value is now less than its repair costs. It was agreed that a new laptop be purchased and that John H. Hope to look into this.
Voting unanimous
- Membership renewals should be received by 28th January 2011 if no penalty is to be levied i.e. downgrading or double payment. This date will be the cut-off point.
- The ongoing matter of Photo membership cards was discussed. Jason Davis produced several different types of cards – the Credit Card type was agreed. Jason to look into purchasing the required equipment. Approximate start-up cost: £620.00.
Voting unanimous
- Diane Stocks (R2) requested that she be permitted to form a sub-committee, with a view to 'upgrade' the Ladies Dress. This was agreed, with consultation with other Lady Referees, results and samples be brought to the next meeting when the matter will be discussed further. The EPA would also have to be consulted.

Meeting closed 15:50hrs

15 Summary of Actions

Who	Summary	Reference
General Secretary	Write to: EPA Chair & Secretary. re: foul language	Item 9.2
General Secretary	Look into purchase of laptop	Item 14 para 3
Treasurer	Purchase photo card equipment	Item 14 para 5