



**EPRA DELEGATES MEETING HELD AT THE
STONEBRIDGE MANOR HOTEL, COVENTRY
ON SUNDAY 22nd July 2012**

OFFICIAL
EPRA
MINUTES
2012

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

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1 Chairman

The Chairman welcomed all delegates, and convened meeting at **11:12am**

2 Attendees**2.1 Present**

Officers: Sue Mitchell (Chairperson), John H.Hope (General Secretary), Jason Davies (Treasurer), Robert Shore (Exam Secretary) & Phil Turner (Vice Chair)

Delegates: Simon Baker (R1), Richard Rhodes (R2), Viv Ruscoe (R3 Rep.) Carol Vinyard (R4), Peter Hallett (R5), Mark Compton (R6) Dominique Chiu (R7).
Region: No Delegate.

Absent: David Taylor (R3)

Observers: Melvin Harley (R3)

2.2 Apologies

None

3 Minutes of Last Meeting:**Item 6:2. Finance: Treasurers Term:****To read:**

Jason informed the meeting that he would **not** be standing for re-election at the end of his term. (January 2013)
Replacement to be sought.

Item 9: Regional Reports:

R2 Report was incorrect, Previous meetings report included error, correct report to be distributed.

Minutes of Delegates meeting 27th January 2012 proposed a true record:

Proposed: Peter Hallett (R5)

Seconded: Robert Shore (Exam Sec.)

Voting: Majority. For: 9 Against: 0 Abstentions: 2

4 Matters Arising From Minutes**(i) Item 6:2**

Position of Treasurer to be advertised to all EPRA Members.
Peter Hallett has shown interest in the position.

(ii) Item 10:3

The EPRA were in the dark regarding the selection and requirements of Referees for the IPA Tour, despite requests the IPA Representative had Not followed agreed procedures. In future requirements would be sent via Phil Turner to General Secretary only.

(iii) Item 14:3

Referees Seminar: Ongoing, Viv Ruscoe & Dom Chiu to investigate possible use of UKPT & Yarmouth Finals Events.

(iv) Item 14:4

Referees requested for CYP events, requirements confirmed and filled.
A new contacts details were supplied by Dominique Chiu.

(v) Item 14:5

Reply regarding downgrade received, read to meeting. Reply to be sent explaining, upgrade procedure to 'B' Grade.

5 Correspondence**(i) John-Paul Eames**

Request received from John-Paul Eames (R7) regarding his consideration for upgrade assessment to 'A' Grade. CV received and distributed.

Proposed: Peter Hallett (R5) Seconded: Carol Vinyard (R4)

Voting: Majority. For: 10 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1

(ii) Ivor Edwards

Several letters of complaint regarding David Taylor as R3 Delegate.

Content of correspondence immaterial as R3 Delegate has not fulfilled the requirements of his position and is being replaced.

(iii) Ivor Edwards / David Flaherty

Requests were received from Ivor Edwards and David Flaherty for the contact details of R3 Referees, so that they could contact them to elect a different R3 Delegate. These requests were denied, The EPRA are not in the habit of releasing Referees details. It was also explained that it is the EPRA's prerogative to elect a Region delegate, not the Regional or National EPA.

(iv) George Harwood

E-mail and attachment received from George outlining the Referees budget for the 2012 World Championships.

(v) Peter Hallett

E-mail received from Peter Hallett (R5) requesting temporary dispensation from the 'A' Grade availability requirement, he is Carer to his ailing mother.

(vi) Members

Requests received for the new 'Members' password on the EPRA web site.
To be issued to all members.

(vii) Eduard Roder SA

An e-mail was received from South African Referee Eduard Roder thanking the members of the EPRA at the World Championships at Blackpool for the courtesy afforded him and for being given the chance to Referee at the Televised section.

(viii) Shaun Baker (R2)

A rota for using 10 Referees at an event was sent by Shaun Baker for possible use.

(ix) CYP

E-mail received from CYP thanking Dominique Chiu for her excellent work and assistance.

(x) Diane Stocks

An e-mail was received from Diane Stocks who again voiced her disapproval at her down grading and queried why she had been invited to referee at the World Championships for one day. She stated that the Assessors at previous World Championships had not taken into account her personal problems as being a reason for her poor performance and that the situation had caused a lack of confidence.

Gen. Sec. To reply.

6 Finance Report

6.1 Report

See attached Income over Expenditure sheet - 01/11/2011 Through 21/7/2012

Jason re-iterated that he would be standing down as of the end of his term (Jan 2013) He also stated that he would be available to assist the new Treasurer to ensure a satisfactory transition.

Full details of the accounts are available online at www.epra8ball.org.uk.

6.2 Expenses

Officers and Delegates expenses were proposed as follows:

Officers:

Chairperson:	£ 50.50	Mileage (meeting)
General Secretary:	£109.78	Mileage (meeting) & office sundries
Treasurer:	£205.50	Mileage (meeting), Venue & office sundries
Exam Secretary:	£ 37.50	Mileage (meeting)
Vice Chair:	£ 70.00	Mileage (meeting)

Delegates: (Mileage)

Region 1:	£ 60.30	Region 2:	Car shared with Exam Secretary
Region 3:	£ 22.50	Region 4:	£ 23.40
Region 5:	£ 16:80	Region 6:	£ 51.00
Region 7:	£ 30.90	Region 8:	N/A

7 Examination Secretary's Report

7.1 Report

Examination Secretary Report July. 2012.

Examinations since November 2011 to November 2009.

	D Grade	Pass	E Grade	Pass	
Region 1	0	0	0	0	
Region 2	3	2	0	0	
Region 3	0	0	0	0	
Region 4	0	0	0	0	
Region 5	0	0	0	0	
Region 6	2	1	1	0	
Region 7	8	3	20	15	
Region 8	0	0	0	0	
Total	13	6	21	15	Grand Total 13+ 21 = 34 £170:00
		46.15%	71.43%		

Since the last report 12 examinations have been conducted with 34 candidates. The pass rate for both 'D' and 'E'

The supply of ID cards is working, but some problems with prompt supply. Hopefully this will be resolved.

'A' grade assessments.

A reminder for the advancement to 'A' Grade

The Procedure to be followed when submitting a Referee to be considered for advancement to 'A' grade is altered to reflect the current situation where the numbers of meetings have been reduced to 2 per year

In the first instance the 'B' grade Referee will approach their Regional Delegate who will ensure the request is valid and the necessary CV has been completed. The Delegate will then contact the Secretary by e-mail or letter, copy to the Examinations Secretary. (Should the situation occur where a Regional Delegate is not appointed the referee may contact the Secretary directly)

The remaining Officers and Delegates will then be contacted to canvas their opinion on the application, and in the absence of there being no objections the candidate will be written to advising them of the acceptance, outlining what is expected of them in both the practical and written sections.

The General Secretary will arrange for the candidate to officiate at three National events where they can be assessed as to their suitability for upgrading, and take a written examination.

The Examination Secretary will collate the assessment forms, and when completed a recommendation for acceptance or failure will be relayed to the Officers and delegates. If the assessment is favourable and no adverse comments from Officers and Delegates negate the assessment, the Examination Secretary will write to the Candidate informing them of their success, copies to Officers for their records.

The letter will include any advice for future improvement. Where applicable reasons for rejection will be stated

Should a B grade referee fail the assessment for A grade but passes the written examination, if they reapply for upgrade within two years the exam will not have to be retaken, unless there has been a change in the playing rules.

We currently have John-Paul Eames who has applied for 'A' Grade. We have two autumn events at Yarmouth where assessments could be carried out if convenient to all.

'S' grade assessments.

Currently we do not have any applicants.

8 Events Reports

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

8:1 Intercounty National Finals

Senior Referee: Shaun Baker

This year saw the start of the new format of 16 teams per division and the event matches started on Friday evening at 8:00pm (Junior) and 10:00pm ('B' Team). The 'First & Final Warning' was given prior to each Friday session and for the Saturday 8:30am sessions.

The Saturday morning shift of referees (12) was used as 6+6, half hour on half hour off, extended to one hour at lunch time to allow a meal break. Robert Shore took over as Senior Referee for the afternoon / evening shift with 10 referees, used 5+5, half hour on half hour off, this was also extended to one hour to allow for a meal break.

The Senior was called to the floor on two occasions, once, the floor referees' decision was overruled (cushion not disallowed for 'Foul Snooker'). The second, the 'Team' timekeeper had called a foul, , this against EPA Gt. Yarmouth policy, although the teams were unaware of this, the player refereeing stated it was not a foul, therefore no foul was given.

There were six team 'play-off's' all undertaken without incident.

The morning session referees were stood down at 3:30pm when afternoon/evening referees took over. The last match for Saturday finished at 12:20am.

Play started at 8:30am on Sunday, the referees from the Saturday am session worked from 8:30 to 9:15, with the referees from the pm session working from 9:15 to 10:00, when the rota was revised to half hour on/off.

The first of the Finals started at 12:20pm and the last Final started at 1:10pm.

As matches were concluded some referees with long distances to travel home were stood down.

The last final finished at 3:30pm.

The Senior Referee was called to the floor only once, the floor referees decision was correct. (Total Snooker). There were three 'play-off's' and all went off without problems.

All Referees performed excellently and there were no complaints, from any quarter, my thanks to John Clavey, Steve Cox and Garry Francis, for standing in to cover any shortfalls.

Top table communication was, initially good, but a lack of planning and organisation soon became evident on Saturday, one Ladies match being allowed to last 6hrs on just two tables. The Senior Referee asked several times to ascertain which tables were not in use, Top Table should have been aware. This was a contributory factor in the late finish on Saturday.

The EPA Tournament Director was aware of the problems and said there would be changes in future.

8:2 Interleague National Finals

Senior Referee: Christine Robins.

All referees were present and well turned out for the morning briefing and to prepare the tables. It was evident that the two 'new' referees were not 100% sure how to assess a Foul/Total Snooker, I had to overrule a referees decision for a 'Foul Snooker' as they had only given a cursory glance and had not used spare balls where they were required. Possibly a memo should be sent to new referees attending Gt. Yarmouth explain this.

When coming for the Senior Referee, another 'S' grade referee refused to tell me their decision on the table as he felt this might influence my decision, all referees had been told the correct procedure in the morning briefing, to ensure that the Senior was in full possession of all the information.

I was called to the floor six times, wrong decisions were put down to inexperience.

Referees worked in 3 groups of 3, working 1hr on 30mins off, at lunchtime the break was extended to 1hr to allow sufficient time for a meal, this meant that some refs were on the floor for two hours, all times worked out equal. This, however, was not good enough for one 'S' grade referee who continually moaned about this not just to me but to anyone who would listen, he was the only one out of ten referees to complain. I thought his behaviour to be very unprofessional.

8:3 Golden Cue

Senior Referee: Sue Mitchell

All referees were on time and well turned out, tables were prepared in time for 8:00am start.

The arena was divided into 3 zones with the 4 refs working 1hr on 20mins off.

Teams were allowed to either Lag or Toss for break, with home team supplying a referee and the away team a timekeeper.

Referees were not to get involved with the dress code unless brought to their attention or blatantly obvious.

The Plate Singles was started in the Games Room for players who had lost in the main singles upto and including the 3:30pm session, John Hope was the referee in the Games Room and was happy to remain in there for the duration.

All 1st session referees worked extremely well and I was not called to the floor at all, the Games Room referee was checked on.

Four new referees came on duty at 3:15am and the morning refs stood down at 3:30pm.

The 2nd session referees also worked extremely well standing down at 11:45pm. I was called to the floor three times, each time the on duty referees decision was correct.

During the morning session one match had to be stopped because a player was taken ill, an ambulance was called and he was taken to hospital, we hope he is ok. The match continued.

The team event was played down to the last 16 and the singles down to the last 32.

On Sunday all refs were on time and well turned out, tables were prepared and ready for play to start at 9:00am. The team event was table refereed from the start, leaving one referee to cover the singles event on 'walk-about'. Breaks were natural and all referees worked well, depending on distance to be travelled home, some referees were stood down earlier than others. Other than a couple of call errors in the team final all went well and referees were stood down at 2:50pm.

Special thanks to off duty referee Lloyd Clarke for coming in early and assisting with the table preparation on Saturday morning, even though he was playing not refereeing that week-end. I would like to thank all referees who were a credit to the EPRA and with whom I enjoyed working.

9 Regional Reports (written)

Region 1: Simon Baker (verbal)

The region has been trying to get exams arranged, but without success at present.

Region 2: Richard Rhodes

The period since the last national meeting has been a very quiet one. There is very little to report. Unfortunately our scheduled regional meeting had to be cancelled due to me having a bereavement in the family. Due to holidays and other pool commitments a rescheduled meeting could not be arranged before this meeting.

In West Yorkshire we are pleased to welcome Alison Oxley to position of county delegate following the resignation of Eileen Pearson. I would like to thank Eileen for all the work she did for the regional association during her tenure and wish Alison luck in her new role.

I far as I'm aware we do not have any examinations planned in the near future however I am hoping to arrange an examination for potential Merseyside and Cumbria referees in the next couple of months. Both counties have expressed interest in this and have some people keen to take the exam. Due to distances involved it is likely the seminar and exam will be performed in the same day. I would like to express my pride once again for our regions representation at the World Pool Championships held in Blackpool all our referees were well turned out and did a sterling job throughout the whole championships.

Region 3: Viv Ruscoe

An Exam is being arranged in the West Midlands, possible 8 candidates.

Region 4: Carol Vinyard

Nothing of significance to report

Region 5: Peter Hallett

Nothing to report from the region (unusually quiet) but a question was raised re the OnQ comp. Qualifying rounds are world rules, the final blackball. How would this affect referees were they to attend?

Region 6: Mark Compton

Working with Dave Holden (R6 EPA RD) to arrange Referees Courses to ensure all Counties have Referees.

Region 7: Dominique Chiu

Clair Watts - she was registered on database for R4, however, she's R7 referee. She said money was given to Sue Mitchell at the Golden Cue to renew her membership, whilst Jason's database shows that she has not renewed. Please investigate. Berkshire County will be introducing Juniors to the county set up and all juniors will be required to pass the E grade referee exam prior to starting next season, therefore, an influx of exam paper will be expected around Nov this year.

Region 8: No Delegate

No Report

10 EPA Report

- (i) The Meeting welcomed EPA National Secretary Ivor Edwards. Upon request from Geoff Wilson (EPA National Chair), Ivor had been invited to attend the meeting to discuss the relationship between the EPRA and the EPA, also the stance taken and policies regarding Black Ball Pool.
- (ii) Unfortunately, Ivor refused to accept that the EPRA was a Self-governing, Self-Financing organisation, despite this being agreed at a meeting between the EPRA Chairman Shaun Baker and General Secretary Steve Brooker and the EPA Chairman Geoff Wilson and **National Secretary Ivor Edwards** at the Park Inn, Telford on the 27th October 2007. Despite being minuted as: ***At the Telford meeting it was confirmed that the EPA recognises the EPRA as an associate organisation, not a sub-committee of the EPA, self governing and self-funding, operating under rules and a constitution properly set by the EPRA members. The primary object of the EPRA is the purpose of administering and upholding the rules of pool as laid down by the English Pool Association, and the EPRA recognises the EPA as the governing body of pool in England.***
- (iii) Ivor Edwards reported that the EPA rules precluded card holders from participating in any way, in any event, that conflicted with an event run/organised/recognised by the EPA, i.e. Interleague, County etc. Any member participating/administrating at such an event was liable to have their card suspended/removed.
- (iv) Ivor Edwards stated that the EPA considered that: in view of previous agreements between the EPA & EPRA, it was the EPA's position that Referees could not participate in any way, in such events. Any Referees who did participate would not be allowed to officiate at EPA events.
- (v) Events that did not conflict with the EPA's and League level structure were not included.
- (vi) It was also stated that the EPA recognise the IPA as the professional arm of World Rules Pool.

11 Forthcoming Events

4 th – 5 th October	Men's National Amateur Singles	2 Refs & 4 Refs
6 th – 7 th October	Interleague KO Cup	10 Refs + 1 Senior
8 th – 9 th November	Ladies National Amateur Singles	2 Refs
	Ladies KO Cup	4 Refs
	Champ of Champs Singles	2 Refs
10 th – 11 th November	Champion of Champions	12 Refs + 1 Senior

12 Professional Events None

13 Next Meetings:

Delegates Meeting: 10:00am 27th January 2013
Annual General Meeting: 1:00pm 27th January 2013

14 Any Other Business

14:1 Referring to an e-mail received from Phil Turner regarding Black Ball events.

(Q:a) Would the EPA blacklist/ban me from doing such events?

(Q:b) Would the EPRA blacklist/ban me from doing such events?

(Q:c) Would I still be selected by the EPRA to do any world rules events in the future regardless of what the EPA/EPRA may think?

(A:a) See *Item 10: EPA Report / paras: (iii) & (iv)*

(A:b) It was proposed that referees should be allowed to officiate at any rule set, (assuming they were competent at that rule set) without fear of retribution from the EPRA.

Proposed: Phil Turner

Seconded: Robert Shore

Voting: Majority

For: 10

Against: 0

Abstentions: 1

(A:c) See *Item 10: EPA Report / para: (iv)*

N.B. *The General Secretary stated that, in his opinion, officiating at Black Ball (previously B.A.P.T.O.) events was contrary to the EPRA 'Rules & Constitution'(see below) and would, at the very least, result in participating referees being suspended from refereeing at EPA events. The EPA/EPRA had previously enforced this. (Precedent: **Dennis Whitaker & Alan Benton**)*

As Below:

The name of the organisation is the **English Pool Referees Association (EPRA)** (Hereafter called **The Association**).

The Association recognises the **English Pool Association (EPA)** as the governing body for pool in England.

The Association is formed for the purpose of administering and upholding the rules of pool as laid down by the **English Pool Association**; and to afford to any interested person the opportunity of sitting an examination compiled in liaison with the English Pool Association. Provided that the agreed fee is paid and sufficient numbers take part to cover expenses.

Phil Turner stated that he would make a proposal at the EPRA AGM to counter act this, this is, of course, his prerogative as an EPRA Member.

14:2 Rules Clarifications:

Scenario: Player breaks off and pots a RED ball, player then nominates YELLOW balls. Upon potting a yellow ball with the next shot, the cue ball travels on and then collides with and pockets a red ball. What is referees call.

It was queried whether the player had fulfilled the requirements of **Rule: H: Deciding Colours. 2: On the Break. (c)(ii)**. By pocketing the required ball on the next shot.

After discussion, it was decided that the correct call would be: **Foul – Two Visits – Open Table.**

It was decided that the player had performed a foul shot, bringing into play

Rule: H. Deciding Colours. 1: General. (c).

14:3 Rules Clarifications:

Scenario: Upon playing a legal shot, after colours have been decided. The balls comes to rest with a ball of each colour wedged in the centre pocket.

Although considered unlikely that, even in this situation, the balls would not be touching the bed of the table, the final decision would be with the referee. It is also unlikely that, in this situation, one ball would be preventing the other from falling into the pocket because it was sufficiently in front and jamming the pocket, whilst being off the bed of the table.

After discussion it was considered that if one of these balls **had** to be played and in doing so would cause a foul to be played, then that shot would have to be played, irrespective of the outcome,

Rule W: Impossible Shot.

ALSO:

If one of the wedged balls is the Cue Ball. (Debated in Correspondence: October 2005)

Cue ball and an object ball (yellow) had come to rest in the jaws of a pocket and each was stopping the other from dropping. The problem seemed to be that if the player in control played the cue ball away from the touching yellow ball, the yellow ball would drop without being hit (rule V) and then all balls should be replaced and we would be in a never ending loop. The outcome depends on whether the player is “on” yellows or reds.

a) *Player on yellows – own group.*

Touching ball, player plays away but is deemed to have played the touching ball (rule T. 2) and therefore if the yellow ball drops it has been legally potted and play continues – no foul.

b) *Player on reds.*

As in the previous scenario, the player plays away and if the yellow ball drops it is deemed to have been potted – opponent’s ball and therefore a foul (two visits).

Even though it was impossible to prevent the yellow from dropping, the player has no option but to commit a foul (rule X - Impossible Shot).

A great deal of debate took place concerning the situation, particularly with regard to whether or not the balls should be deemed to be on the table, or in the pocket. When two balls enter a pocket one after the other they can become jammed and this instance the referee would simply clear the balls down the pocket. If this view was adopted, then the player in control in the previous shot would have committed a foul and the oncoming player would have two visits, cue ball in hand.

As the balls were still touching the bed of the table, albeit the slightest edge, the majority of the committee took the view that the balls were not “in” the pocket.

14:3 Rules Clarifications:

Scenario: A ball falls into a pocket without being hit and a second ball stops in such a position as to obstruct the replacement of the dropped ball.

It would be considered that the obstructing ball would have struck the falling ball, but it cannot be surmised that it would have caused the falling ball to be potted.

Irrespective of the type of ball obstructing the pocket (cue ball, object ball or 8 ball), because it is impossible to replace the fallen ball, all balls will be replaced to their original positions and (providing no foul was committed) the player who played the last shot plays again. They are not obliged to play the same shot as previously played.

OR

If, in the process of the ball falling, a foul was committed, then all balls will be replaced to their original positions and the oncoming will come to the table with the appropriate penalty.

14:4 Lag Calling Procedures

Clarification was requested for the 'Calling Procedure' for winning a 'Lag'
Robert Shore to devise/write a 'Calling Procedure' for all aspects of a 'Lag'

14:5 Region 3 Delegate

The Region 3 Delegate (David Taylor) has resigned his position and a new Delegate needs to be elected. Viv Ruscoe has expressed interest in taking up the position and is to contact all EPRA R3 Referees to canvass their opinions. Viv to report to General Secretary with result.

14:6 Referees Seminar

Dominique Chiu and Viv Ruscoe to look into organising a Referees Seminar and how streamed Tour events could be utilised and the seminars be integrated into Tour events.

Meeting closed: 4:40pm

15 Summary of Actions

Who	Summary	Reference
Gen. Secretary	Advertise position of Treasurer	4 (i) Item 6:2
Gen. Secretary	Distribute new Web Site Password	5 (vi)
Gen. Secretary	Reply to Diane Stocks e-mail	5 (x)
Gen. Secretary	Contact Shaun Baker re: Telford Meeting	10:2
Gen. Sec. / Chair	Meeting with EPA Executive	10
Exam Secretary	Devise / write Lag Calling Procedure	14:4
Viv Ruscoe (R3)	Canvass R3 Refs re: R3 Delegate	14:5
V. Ruscoe & D.Chiu	Investigate Referees Seminar	14:6

N.B. It should be noted that since this meeting; The IPA Tour qq has voted to adopt Black Ball playing Rules as of 2013.