



**EPRA DELEGATES MEETING HELD AT THE
STONEBRIDGE MANOR HOTEL, COVENTRY
ON SUNDAY 1st September 2013**

OFFICIAL
EPRA
MINUTES
1st Sept
2013

Chairman:	Sue Mitchell	General Secretary:
Vice Chairman:	Position Vacant	John H. Hope
Treasurer:	Yvonne Armitage	
Exam Secretary:	Robert Shore	

www.epra8ball.org.uk

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Meeting opened at: 11:00am

1 Chairperson:

The Chairperson welcomed everyone and convened the meeting.

2 Attendees

2.1 Present

Officers:

Sue Mitchell (Chairperson) John H. Hope (General Secretary)
Yvonne Armitage (Treasurer) Robert Shore (Exam Secretary)

Delegates:

Simon Baker (R1) Peter Arundale (R2) Terry Billingham (R5) Mark Compton (R6)
Dominique Chiu (R7)

Absent:

R3 No Delegate

Observers:

None

2.2 Apologies:

Carol Vinyard (R4) Colin Fryers (R4) Jon Shapland (R8)

3 Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes to be re-written and issued (Minutes lost – laptop virus)
See AOB

4 Matters Arising From Minutes

5 Correspondence:

5:1 EPRA / EPRA / Sport England.

See Any Other Business / EPA Report / EGM Minutes

5:2 EPA (Ambition)

Request for two referees to officiate at Ambition (CYP) Pool Finals

5:3 EPA – EPRA Database

E-mail from Julian Adams re: EPRA section to be added to EPA Database.

Yvonne Armitage to deal with this matter.

5:4 EPA – Ivor Edwards

E-mail received from Ivor Edwards re: suspicious e-mail received requesting information regarding hiring of EPRA Referees.

Dominique Chiu (R7) to deal with this matter.

5:5 EPA – Region 3 R.D.

Request from R3 R.D. requesting list of referees in R3. Re: Election of Regional Delegate.
Dealt with by G.S.

5:6 Keith Brewer

Request from Keith Brewer for referee at own 1 day Team Event, Birmingham.
Dealt with by G.S.

5:7 EPA – Mike Perkins

Request for referee at Youth England Trials, Club 147

5:8 EPA – Geoff Wilson / Bobby Riddaway

Clarification of Foul Snooker / Foul Jaw Snooker & Total Snooker Rules.
Dealt with by G.S.

5:9 John Mackenzie (R6)

Complaint from John Mackenzie regarding EPRA Referee at local league Doubles match.
Mark Compton (R6) to investigate.

5:10 Region 5 R.D.

Confirmation of the election of Terry Billingham as R5 EPRA Delegate.

5:11 Jon Shapland Region 8

Confirmation of the election of Jon Shapland as R8 EPRA Delegate

6 Finance Report**6.1 Report**

Previous Treasurer, Jason Davies, is still involved in some aspects of the change over to Yvonne, to ensure a satisfactory move.

Delegates are to check what payments into the associations bank account are regarding as there is a slight discrepancy in the accounts. They are also to advise Treasurer of Regional members numbers.

The bank are still dragging their feet regarding the change to the mandate, the Treasurer and Chairperson are still not able to counter sign cheques, leaving the General Secretary as the only signatory, this is insufficient .

A copy of the accounts is available on the EPRA web site.

Accounts proposed as a true record: Proposed: Peter Arundale. Seconded: Terry Billingham.

Voting: For: 6 Against: 0 Abstentions: 1

7 Examination Secretary's Report**7.1 Report**

Examination Secretary Report September 2013.

Examinations since November 2012 to August 2013

	D Grade	Pass	E Grade	Pass	
Region 1					
Region 2	7	0			
Region 3					
Region 4	6	2			
Region 5					
Region 6	4	3	7	5	
Region 7	16	8	9	7	
Total	33	13	16	12	Grand Total 33+16=49

Number of examinations is somewhat disappointing, we no longer have examiners for regions 3 and 5 .

This needs to be resolved.

'A' grade assessments.

John-Paul Eames was assessed resulting in favourable reports. the written part was supervised by John Hope, again this was successful.

I have no hesitation in recommending him for A grade status.

Voting: unanimous

Exam Secretary to forward written 'Doubles' matches procedures.

8 Events Reports

The reports were read the meeting in their entirety; they have been shortened for the purposes of the minutes.

Intercounty Finals: March 2013

Senior Referee: Robert Shore

As in 2012, matches started on Friday evening with Men's 'B' and Juniors playing their 1st Rounds. Following the issue of the 'First and Final Warning' play started at 8:30am.

The First session referees were divided into 2# groups of 6, working 6 Zones, 30mins ON – 30mins Off, until midday when the periods were extended to 60mins (lunch break) until 2:00pm when they reverted back to 30mins.

The first session referees were stood down at 3:30, when the second session came on duty, 10 referees. As a result of the reduced numbers, the referees were used as 6 on duty – 3 on break, working 60mins On – 30mins Off. The remaining Senior Referee supervising proceedings. I left the arena at approx.. 4:45.

I was called to the floor only once, regarding a Foul Snooker, the floor referees decision was confirmed as correct.

There were 7 drawn matches resulting in 3man play-offs.

The remainder of this report was lost due to a defective memory stick and will be re-written.

Interleague National Finals: April 2013

Senior Referee: Shaun Baker

In addition to the Interleague event the weekend also included the Seniors Intercounty Finals with 16 teams playing to the same format as the Intercounty finals in March with losing teams in the first 2 rounds going into the KO Cup competition. There were 4 tables in the area in front of the stage used for these Group matches with the remaining 32 tables used for the Interleague.

The referees were split into two groups of six working half hour on / off which was extended around lunchtime.

The first matches in the both events started at 9 am, the second session in the Interleague started at 11.30 am with the last matches going on at 12.40pm, the third session in the Interleague started at 2.00 pm with the last matches going on at 4.05 pm. The first last 32 KO match was at 5.25 pm with the last match on at 6.55 pm and play finished at 8.30 pm.

During Saturday I had to overrule an EPRA referee over a ball falling in situation where they said that all balls were replaced regardless of what had happened and also in a foul snooker situation where they were not disregarding the cushion. I also overruled a player who was refereeing on a foul snooker. There was also a situation where two teams were continually disputing referee / time keeping decisions so an EPRA was put on the match during the second session of 9 frames.

There was a three way play off in the Group stages where all three teams had finished level on points and frames and there was also a play off in one of the last 32 matches, both were carried out satisfactorily.

Both events started again at 9 am on Sunday with table referees allocated to the four semi-finals in the Seniors Intercounty finals / KO Cup, the remaining referees were on walkabout for the Interleague with a playoff taking place in the last 16.

Table Referees were provided for the two Intercounty finals which finished at 1.20 pm and there were table referees for the semi-finals and final of the Interleague with the event finishing at 2.30 pm.

All of the referees were smartly dressed, punctual and professional in manner for the whole of the event and were a credit to the Association.

Golden Cue: May 2013

Senior Referee: Sue Mitchell

On Saturday 11th May (Session 1) all referees reported for duty at 7:30am, tables were prepared by 7:45am and the Briefing completed at 7:55. A further referee was due on duty at 11:30am, however, the TD requested that he be on duty at 10:15am (singles event, Games Room) Thanks to Tony Kay for arriving earlier than requested.

The room was divided into 3 Zones with 3 referees working and 1 referee on break, working 60mins On – 20mins Off.

The 'Lagging' system was used for breaking and on completion of matches the balls (Pro Balls) were returned to top table.

Teams 'self refereed & Time kept'

Referees were only to be involved in the 'Dress Code' if brought to our attention by the opponent or blatant breaches were noticed by the referees. Very few issued were reported to top table.

Later in the morning, adjustments were made to the referees rota (with the agreement of top table, to allow breaks for the referee in the games room. This meant that only two referees were on the floor, in the main arena, for 20mins.

The Senior Referee was not called to the floor for an adjudication at any time, during the morning session.

The 5 second session referees came on duty at 15:00 when they were briefed, they came onto the floor at 15:30, when the first session referees were stood down.

One of the new referees went into the games room so that two referees were on duty there, they worked 60mins On – 20mins Off.

I regularly went to the games room to ensure all was well with the referees.

The Senior Referee was only called to the floor on one occasion, this was regarding a Timekeeper matter.

Tony Kay (Games Room) was stood down at 19:00hrs remaining referees were stood down between 23:10 & 23:40hrs.

My thanks to John Hope (stood down 15:30), who came back, after conducting a 'A' grade exam, at 19:00 to give me a break for an hour or so. My thanks also to all the referees for their days work.

On Sunday morning all referees were on time, 08:30, and all tables were prepared and briefing completed by 08:55.

In the team event Table Refereeing was from the start and singles event from the quarter-finals. Breaks were taken as and when possible.

Both event semi-finals started at 12:05, with some referees stood down at 13:00. Both finals started at 14:00 with a referee and timekeeper. All referees were stood down by 15:40hrs. The Senior Referee was not called to the floor for a decision.

My thanks to all referees for their hard work and professional attitude, a credit to the Association.

WEPF World Championships: June / July 2013:

Senior Referee: John H. Hope.

The Senior Referee attended the Team Leaders Meeting at 9:00am on Sunday 23rd June, Where various matters regarding the Championships and it's running were discussed.

The Opening Ceremony took place in the Main Arena at 12:00 midday. The normal Photo session did not take place as is the norm in previous years.

The EPRA supplied two Referees (Dominique Chiu & Lloyd Clarke) and myself as Senior, there were two Overseas Referees (Gordon Males – Australia & Lindsay Draghoender - South Africa). Gordon came fully equipped and attired but, unfortunately Lindsay came without a jacket, as did all the South African contingent, so borrowing one was not an option. Gordon introduced himself to me at the meeting but I did not meet Lindsay until immediately prior to the opening ceremony.

The days play started virtually on time at 1:00pm in the Lancastrian Suite, the referees were deployed as 2on – 2off, 60mins on – 60mins off. At 5:00pm the matches commenced in the Washington Suite, two of the referees were placed there, the same work timing was used.

The matches in the Washington Suite finished at approximately 11:00pm, with the Lancastrian Suite, with only three matches remaining and in their final stages, looking to finish at about 11:30pm. Unfortunately, at about 11:15pm the fire alarm was sounded and the hotel was evacuated, with everyone gathering at the designated meeting point. All referees were accounted for. It was found that a 'smash box' on the 4th floor had been vandalised, and after investigation, the Fire Brigade allowed everyone to re-enter the hotel at approximately 12:00midnight.

The players of two of the matches were happy to continue with their matches from where the balls lie, but in the third match, it was evident that the balls had been moved, this was corroborated by the floor referee who had just made a Total Snooker decision on the frame. The frame was reracked and play continued. All matches finished by 12:35am.

It was explained to Lindsay that, because of his lack of attire, he could only be used in the Washington Suite and could not be considered for the Tv. events, after discussion with Lindsay, it was agreed that he would go to a local Tesco supermarket and purchase a reasonably priced black suit.

On Monday, 24/06, matches started at 9:00 in the Washington and 9:30 in the main arena (Lancastrian). The referees arrived on time and suitably attired, as possible, they started their rotas with 60mins on – 60mins off, until 10:00am when they reverted to 60mins on – 30mins off, this was to allow Lindsay to go and purchase a suit, at 10:00am. He returned, suitably attired, at 11:30am. The referees then reverted to 90mins On – 90mins Off.

The referees worked well, considering the long shifts, although on a few occasions when I was called to floor the referees decision was incorrect and was overturned. These were, however, for tight Total or Foul Snooker decisions.

In the afternoon, a situation arose between two Ladies teams, regarding the timing of one particular frame, where a Time Foul had been called, (in the team events the timekeepers were supplied by the teams). The offending player claimed the opposition timekeeper had not called at 30secs and that she had not time fouled and didn't hear the call. I was requested by the floor referee to adjudicate on this matter. By coincidence, I had been standing behind the timekeeper and heard both the 30sec call and the foul call.

Tuesday was the start of the Junior and wheelchair events, in the Washington Suite. Unfortunately, the Wheelchair event started badly with bad feeling between some players, together with accusations of cheating and other unnecessary remarks. This is not the first year this has happened and in order to put a stop to this, a meeting was called between myself and the players, also in attendance was Sue Mitchell (Official) and Dominique Chiu (Referee). Basically the players were warned that if the current behaviour were to continue, then there would be consequences and that the current behaviour by some players was unacceptable and would not be tolerated, Ground Rules were laid down.

The matches went off without a problem.

Wednesday & Thursday saw the continuation of the Mens and Ladies Individuals, with the draw for the Mens last 64 being made on Wednesday night.

The Last 32 & Last 16 of the Mens Individuals took place on Thursday afternoon/evening, 8 extra referees were brought in to allow for these to be table refereed.

Friday brought the Finals of all the Team and Individuals matches of the Seniors, Wheelchair, Under 21's and Junior matches. Followed by the presentation. The Quarter-finals of the Mens and Ladies Individuals were also played. 2 extra referees were drafted in to allow required matches to be table refereed.

During the Mens Team match between Wales and Morocco, there was a loud altercation, with accusations of cheating, the behaviour of the Wales Team became totally unacceptable. The team

captain was warned that this type of behaviour would not be tolerated and that there would be consequences should it continue, two other Welsh players were reprimanded. The team captain apologised to both myself and the Moroccan team.

At 7pm all World Championship matches had finished and the World Amateur Masters commenced, this taking place over Friday, Saturday and Sunday. The Referees (including myself) in general, worked 2hrs on – 2hrs off, unless circumstances dictated otherwise.

On Sunday the Finals of the Masters Ladies event was played also the Final of the Mens Plate event.

All remaining matches were moved to the Washington Suite to allow the TV. Arena to be readied.

Monday saw the last 3 sessions of the Mens Team event, also the Semi's and Finals of the Ladies Team. The Finals of the Mens World Masters was played as was the Mens Team Play-Offs. 2 Extra referees were brought in to assist with the Table refereeing.

Tuesday brought the start of the Televised stages, Mens Individuals Semi-finals and Mens Team Semi-finals. These were refereed by Richard Rhodes (R2), Terry Billingham (R5) and Lyndsay Draghoender (SA). Gordon Males Timekeeping. Unfortunately, Gordon had to be removed from his duties, he had been noted 'Nodding Off' on more than one occasion, he took umbrage to this and walked off, not returning or getting in contact, at all.

On Wednesday the 3 Finals were played, Lyndsay Draghoender (SA) took charge of the Mens Team Final, Terry Billingham (R5) the Ladies Individual Final and Richard Rhodes (R2) the Mens Individual Finals, they also took turns Timekeeping. Well done to all 3 referees.

All referees worked exceptionally well and I was called to the floor on very few occasions and happily there were few errors. Unfortunately, one overseas referee had to be spoken to regarding his attitude and timekeeping when returning from breaks, he was very lackadaisical, slow and cumbersome.

All in all a good, enjoyable event, long on hours, short on breaks and money.

9 Regional Reports (written)

Reports were read to the meeting in their entirety, they have been shortened for the purposes of the minutes.

Region 1:

Simon Baker

I now have 2 people interested in taking the exam outside county circles. as far as the region goes I have not been included in the emails going out from the region director ref region meetings and wasn't aware of last meeting. this has hopefully been rectified now so I can see what the teams responses are to previously mentioned exams. once I have spoken to all teams I will get in touch with peter arundale who was going to take the exam with phil turner overseeing it, although something else will need to be sorted out since phil is no longer a member.

Region 2:

Richard Rhodes

I must apologise for not attending today's meeting, I was fully intent on being present but have made a last minute decision not to due to my the fact that my wife is due in hospital tomorrow and we have many things to arrange.

This year has been very busy for me personally with the successful completion of my degree. Unfortunately this made it difficult to find time to hold a regional meeting and thus there hasn't been a meeting since January. There will be a meeting within the next four weeks as we have a number of upgrades to discuss including one referee from C-B and potentially 2 requests for advancement to S grade.

Apart from that, there is not a great deal to report within Region 2, there was an exam held by Christine Robins at the beginning of August which unfortunately yielded no successful candidates. We are still hoping to run exams for Merseyside and Cumbria and I am looking to hold one in the Crewe area before the end of the year.

Region 3:

No Report – Delegates position vacant.

Region 4:

No Report

Region 5:

No Report

Region 6:

Generally within Region 6 there are few issues to report, there are very few local duties for referees to perform except on inter county weekends.

I am continually being asked if certain referees are eligible for county matches and it would appear that we now have sufficient active referees available to run inter county pool matches. Two exam dates have been completed this year and there have been a few successful candidates at D and E grade level and not too many failures.

Training days prior to the exam are difficult to set up and we have to utilise multimedia platforms to assist candidates in more remote areas.

We are planning to do a third exam day within the region, this is mainly for successful E grade referees who have since found out that they require to pass the D grade exam (although this will be opened up to any candidate who wishes to attend)

Some referees still don't have photo ID's although this issue is in hand.

Martin Pearson (A grade) has now moved to R6 and is a welcomed addition to our ranks; we hope to use his experience in the development of referees.

I am hoping to gain examiner status and I have conducted an exam under supervision from current R6 examiner (and RD).

Region 7:

Dominique Chiu

Total Members on delegate database = 54

- 42 Affiliated for 2013,
- 12 outstanding still to be affiliated (Berks x 4, London x 3, Sussex x 5)
- Membership numbers still require for the following members:
 - Shaun Tuffnell (Berkshire)
 - Diana Kirk (Berkshire)
 - Stephanie Bridges (Berkshire)
 - Katie Jackson (Berkshire)
 - Claire Dormer (Berkshire)
 - Ilda Machado (Berkshire)
 - Caryl Flory (Kent)
 - Jason Barry Simmon (Kent)

Since meeting in January this year, 4 exams took place in Berkshire Counties and 1 in Kent. Another exam will take place on 22nd September in Kent's Jordan Snooker & Pool Lounge.

Roy Lambourne's position has not been filled. The region didn't see a need at present.

Berkshire Youth progressing well, ongoing seminar & exam for the remainder of this season.

CYP in West Berkshire will not be hosting any qualifying event, so top player per category will be sent to play the National event directly by CYP. No referee requirement was requested by CYP National event as yet. New Contact for CYP in Berkshire is Sam Ward – 0118 909 9127
Sam.Ward@berkshireyouth.co.uk

A website with WEPF rule test was posted on fb <https://testmoz.com/176895/student>, various players tried the test and only got 14-18 out of 25 questions. It was also quizzed if some of the answers were correct. National Examiner subsequently feedback said some answers were definitely wrong. Would we be interested to post the full set of correct answers to this as many players on fb were interested to know the correct answers. EPRA to advise please.

The EPRA website information is well out of date, can someone please keep it up to date? Or maybe give access to super-user to update it?

Alex Tearle passed his D grade in February. This is after his affiliation to E grade, should the difference of membership fees be collected from him?

Region 8:

No Report

10 EPA Report

EPRA members are not required to carry EPA Cards, unless, they are paid up members of both associations.

Any disciplinary action to be taken, where the offending person is a member of both Associations, will be carried out by both associations.

Referees will have their own section on the EPA Database, this will allow recognition of which referees are members of both associations.

Any referees to be used at EPA Events / Sanctioned Events / uni's etc. will, at all times, be done so through the EPRA General Secretary

11 Forthcoming Events

03-04/10/2013 Mens National Amateur Singles

05-06/10/2013 National Interleague KO Cup

07/11/2013 National Ladies Singles

08-10/11/2013 Ladies KO Cup

08-09/11/2013 Champion of Champions Singles

09-10/11/2013 Champion of Champions Team Event

Next Meetings

January 26th 2014 – 10:00am Delegates Meeting

12 Any Other Business

12:1 The minutes of the Delegates Meeting of 27/01/2013 were lost, together with other items. The laptop was subject to possibly a virus, some items were able to be recovered some were not. The minutes will be rewritten as far as possible.

12:2 Following complaints / threats by the EPA regarding the EPRA's attitude towards it's standing with the EPA & the use of referees who have officiated at other rule sets. Numerous e-mails were sent from EPA to EPRA and vice versa and meetings attended, advice was sort from Sport England regarding the EPRA position and the authority of the EPA.

EPRA held an EGM (see Minutes) and clarified it's position regarding officiating at other rule sets. The association agreed to being included in the EPA Database (separately). The EPA agreed that referees do not need to carry EPA & EPRA Membership cards unless they are members of both associations. Other threats and demands issued by the EPA appear to have been withdrawn. The EPRA has made it clear that although not a totally independent organisation (we work WITH the EPA) they are a Self Governing, Self Financing association, and as such do not, and never have, consider themselves to be a EPA Sub-committee, neither do they fulfil the widely accepted criteria required to be a sub-committee. It is hoped the situation is now resolved.

12:3 A question was raised regarding the Dress Code at County matches. It is apparent that some players are wearing footwear that does not comply.

Gen.Sec. to contact EPA

12:4 Mark Compton (R6) & George Bradbury (R3) requested to be upgraded from 'C' to 'B'. The request comes through the required channels.

12:5 It was suggested that Video Conferencing be looked into as an option for meetings.

Treasurer to investigate

12:6 Discussion re: the meaning of 'simultaneous' within the context of the 'Lag'. It was decided that the term should be regarded as explained in the lag rules. The referee should decide if a player has gained or intended to gain an advantage by striking their ball after the opponents ball has made contact with the foot cushion. The final decision lays with the referee.

12:7 The possibility of Referees Exams have been requested by Scotland (John Hay) and France (David Verey). John Hay had requested that they be sent Exam Sheets and model answer sheets so that they could conduct their own exams, this was unanimously declined.

Exam Secretary to investigate

Meeting closed:

13 Summary of Actions

Who	Summary	Reference
Yvonne Armitage	EPRA Database	5:3
Dominique Chiu	E-mail re: hiring Referees (suspicious)	5:4
Mark Compton	Complaint re: R6 Referee	5:10
General Secretary	County Dress Code	12:3
Treasurer	Use of Video Conferencing	12:5
Exam Secretary	Exams in Scotland & France	12:7