



**EPRA DELEGATES MEETING HELD AT THE  
STONEBRIDGE MANOR HOTEL, COVENTRY  
ON SUNDAY 5<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

OFFICIAL  
EPRA  
MINUTES  
7<sup>th</sup> Feb  
2016

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

[www.epra8ball.org.uk](http://www.epra8ball.org.uk)

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Meeting opened at: 10:25am

## 1 Chairperson:

The Chairperson welcomed everyone and convened the meeting.

## 2 Attendees

### 2.1 Present:

**Officers:** Sue Mitchell (R7) Chairperson / John H. Hope (R4) General Secretary / Robert Shore (R2) Examination Secretary / Yvonne Armitage (R2) Treasurer.

**Delegates:** R1: Vacant / R2: Richard Rhodes / R3: George Bradbury / R4: Ray Dean / R5: Terry Billingham / R6: Tony Coe / R7: Dom Chiu / R8: John-Paul Eames.

**Absent:** None

**Observers:** None

2.2 **Apologies:** Daniel Keeble (R3)

## 3 Minutes of Last Meeting

Minutes proposed as a true record:

Proposed: George Bradbury (R5)      Seconded: Tony Coe (R6)

Voting: For: 6      Against: 0      Abstentions: 4

## 4 Matters Arising From Minutes

None

## 5 Correspondence:

### 5.1 EPA

A lot of emails have been received from EPA how and when things are going onto the EPA Website, but won't go through each and everyone of them, but looks like all going well and that EPA is content with how things are running on the website at the moment.

### 5.2 Additional Referees required on CoC & European Championship

Email received from Alan Benton requesting additional referees on CoC very last minute, it is a struggle as referees can't get the time off to come to the Thursday and Friday to do the event. Every effort has been made to accommodate the request, quite successfully. Although Thursdays are proving extremely difficult to fill.

Shaun Baker asked for 4 referees and 1 senior for European Championship. 4 referees for 6 days, 1 referee for 1 day and 1 senior. Ray Dean expressed an interest to do all of them, whilst George Bradbury, Paul Lauder and two others wanted to do some days but not all. It was agreed that £300 will be paid for the full week duty, i.e. £50 per day.

### 5.3 Members change of Addresses

Email received from Daniel Keeble regarding his change of address and address clarification of address change from Tony Coe. All sorted.

### 5.4 Organisation Assets

Email received from Dom Chiu regarding proposal of reselling the badges but will stay as it is, i.e. will sell them as requested.

JLD (merchandise supplier) stated the last two invoices were not paid, but the payments were made 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2016. No further action required.

Letter received from Sue Mitchell – Old Laptop needs to be returned to the organisation by the General Secretary. John stated that the new laptop is not working properly so the old laptop is

retained to continue his duty until the new one is working properly. [General Secretary to keep the treasurer up-to-date with the status of the new laptop so the return date of the old laptop can be established.](#)

### **5.5 Rules queries**

Email received regarding a Rule query: two balls jammed in the jaws of the middle pocket, Procedure clarification requested.

[Definition: The play will continue until such time the ball is disturbed by a natural shot.](#)

### **5.6 Rules Revision Committee**

Email received from Robert Shore to why his name has been removed from Rules Revision Committee. Mike Perkins (sub-committee chair). Stated that Roberts name was never officially on the list of members for that committee.

### **5.7 Application to Upgrade – Clair Watts**

Email received from Dom Chiu regarding Clair Watts upgrade to A grade. Region 7 confirmed that her upgrade is being endorsed by the Region. This will be discussed at this meeting today.

### **5.8 Re-affiliation – Christine Robins**

Email received from Roy Clarke if Christine Robins can be re-affiliated so she can continue as a Senior referee and being an active referee.

[General Secretary to contact Mike Perkins \(EPA\) and advise R2.](#)

Dom Chiu emailed regarding Jon Baxter EPRA re-affiliation short of £2. No further action is required.

### **5.9 Organisational Issue**

It is agreed at the start of this meeting that Dom Chiu will produce this delegate meeting minutes and John Hope will produce the AGM meeting minutes.

Letter received from Sue Mitchell regarding new S grade referees not been given opportunities to progress further with running more events. John Hope has provided explanation during this meeting. New 'S' Grades are not ignored, a procedure is followed, it is also noted that if they do not make themselves available they cannot be selected.

It is also noted from the above letter that agenda header and affiliation form has been changed without prior consultation from the committee. John stated that it was a trial to see if the new form worked or not. It should be noted that any changes please at least let the executive know about it before rolling it out as a trial. It was noted that the Headers used had not been changed some had Executive Members full details some didn't, this has always been the case. It is also noted that the new affiliation form that the Regional delegates and the Treasurer endorsing signatures were removed from the form. This is agreed that the affiliation form will revert back to year 2016 format.

Finally the letter pointed out a concern over the Regional delegate being bypassed for their responsibilities, eg Clair Watts upgrade. Dom Chiu stated that this matter have been resolved and made clear that the Regional delegates should be passed on matters that relating to their region's referees. It was noted that the Regional Delegate had not been bypassed and the General Secretary had been contacted directly by the Referee concerned and that it was assumed that the Delegate was aware. It was further noted that the regional delegated are never bypassed in matters of importance, occasionally referees are contacted directly for expediency. eg.. When referees are required at short notice.

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## **7 Finance Report**

### ***7.1 Report:***

A copy of the report has been distributed during the meeting, please see also see the website for full details

### 6.2 Summary (the following statement is taken in account from 1<sup>st</sup> Nov 2016):

The Association is currently showing an excess income over expenditure of £1,158.06 but we should not rest on our laurels. Today's meeting will take that figure down to around £700 with the mid-year meeting taking that down to approx. £300. Since the majority of affiliations are now in, I would ask that Regions look to see how things could be improved by way of exams or encouraging previous members to re-affiliated etc. Don't forget to let me know if your region has planned exams – they can be advertised on the website.

In closing I would like to make special mention of and offer thanks to Tony Coe, Region 6, for his hard work and determination which has resulted in him successfully increasing the number of re-affiliations from 13 in 2016 to 21 this year so far.

Accounts proposed as a true record:

Proposed: Dom Chiu (R7).

Seconded: Robert Shore

Voting: For: 9 Against: 0 Abstentions: 0

## 8 Examination Secretary's Report

### 8.1 Report

Total no. of candidates taking examinations, from March 2015 to November 2015 inclusive.

	D Grade	Pass D	Pass E	E Grade	Pass	
Region 1						
Region 2						
Region 3	8	3	3			8x£8 = £64
Region 4						
Region 5						
Region 6	13	7		2	1	13x£8 + 2x£5 = £114
Region 7	8	3	1	2	2	8x£8 + 2x£5 = £74
Region 8						
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Grand Total 2016 = £252:00</b>

An examination that was held in Region 6, November 27<sup>th</sup> is included, but may not be included in the 2016 Financial Report.

Regions one two four five and eight did not conduct any examinations during 2015.

### 7.2 Upgrades

'A' grade assessments.

Colin Fryers and George Bradbury successfully completed their advancement to 'A' grade during 2016.

## 9 Events Reports

National Interleague Knock Out Cup: 8<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> October 2016: Sue Mitchell

To be inserted, waiting Sue Mitchell to email

Champion of Champions / Ladies KO Cup: 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> November 2016: Shaun Baker

The event started at 9 am prompt on Saturday with 32 tables being used in the main room and 18 tables in the games room for the Ladies KO Cup Group matches

The referees worked 8 on 4 off (1hour on / 30 minutes off) with extended breaks of 45 minutes from 1.30 pm. Once the three extra referees came on duty at 2.00 pm the rota became 30 minutes on and off from 3 pm. There were table referees on all four streaming tables throughout the day.

In the C of C event the last 2<sup>nd</sup> round match started at 12.15 pm and the last 3<sup>rd</sup> round at 3.15 pm, the last of the last 32 games started at 5.45 pm. There was one three-way play off in the group stage and one three-man play off in the last 32.

The majority of the day shift referees remained until the conclusion of the last 32 matches at 7.30 pm. The three afternoon referees then covered the conclusion of the Men's and Ladies singles events, which started from 6 pm, supported by three referees from the day shift (none of whom had worked on Thursday or Friday) with table referees on the quarters, semis and finals which concluded at 12.30 am.

The Ladies event was originally planned to play down to the Final on Saturday; however, due to the clash with the Ladies C of C Singles the semi finals were postponed until Sunday. All matches took place in the Games Room. There was one play off in the last 16 and two in the Quarter Finals, all performed without issue, The last 16 KO commenced at 1.45 pm and play finished at 7 pm.

On Sunday the event started at 9 am with the last 16 of the C of C team event with four walkabout referees and the Ladies KO Cup on the stream tables, which were all, refereed. The referees worked 8 on / 4 off, 1 hour on / 30 minutes off with table referees on the quarterfinals onwards.

There were three play offs in the last 16, two in the Quarter finals.

The event paused at 11 am in order to observe Remembrance Day.

The semi finals started at 12.20 pm and the final at 1.30 pm finishing at 2.15 pm, both rounds were played on three tables.

The Ladies KO Cup final finished at 12.50 pm.

The conduct and work of the referees was very excellent throughout the weekend, and I would like to thank all referees for their support during the event.

Meeting Adjourned: 12:40noon

Meeting Re-convened: 3:22pm

## 10 Regional Reports (written)

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

**Region 1:** Position Vacant

**Region 2:**

Richard Rhodes (Representative)

In the middle of January we held our annual general meeting. There is not a great deal to report back from this, attendance was very poor...I was hoping that I could get a volunteer to take on the position of assistant delegate (from which Peter Arundale resigned) for the remainder of this year until the elections at next year's AGM but there was no one forthcoming. This is disappointing, because it means there is no certain back up delegate to attend meetings on my behalf when I can't. This was the case with last year, there were several regional EPA meetings that I couldn't attend due to family commitments (holidays and birthdays) and no alternative delegate could be found.

As I say there's little to report; there have been no requests for upgrades in the last 12 months or indeed any new affiliations. I have to put down the lack of examinations held due to the fact that over the last 12-24 months I've lost all of my working examiners (apart from Robert Shore) of which there were four. And these were four very successful examiners. But moving on, I need to confirm dates to conduct a seminar and exam early in March in Macclesfield (Cheshire),

one in Merseyside and another in Crewe. So hopefully we will have a few new referees to welcome to the association.

Regarding membership, once again I've seen uptake on affiliations down from last year. So far I have 17 members for 2017. I intend to ask all those that were members in 2015 if they'd like to re-affiliate. 2015 was our best year since I have been the delegate and I would like to see those kinds of numbers again.

Finally, I'd like have a word about our outgoing examination secretary Robert Shore. Robert has been involved with this association from day one when it was formed in 1980, hence membership number 1! During this time he has held a number of roles of the executive committee and most recently this one when he replaced Len Beddis in 2005. I'd like to personally thank Robert for all his help and encouragement at a personal level, regional level and national level. I'm sure you'll all join me in thanking Robert for everything he has done for our association.

To conclude, I would like to propose that with immediate effect Robert is given the status as Life President. I think this only right for the all the work he has done in the past.

If there are any questions, let me know, I'm happy to help.

### **Region 3:**

#### George Bradbury (Representative)

Report for region 3, 2016, I feel quite pleased with how this year has gone, considering when I started I was the only ref in the region!! I now have 6 refs, I wish a couple of them could be more active, but obviously circumstances don't always allow this, I'm more than happy with the improvement in Craig Shufflebotham, who's now a C grade, & Lynn, who is also very keen. I'm optimistic about the coming year, looking to hold another exam in February, or March, I've actually got about 7 or 8 wanting to sit, so fingers crossed. Anyway, apart from still not having a paying in book, everything in region 3 is looking good.

### **Region 4:**

#### Ray Dean (on behalf of David Keeble)

Firstly to extend my apologies that I cannot be at the meetings on 5/2. Another engagement was already booked for that day.

2016 was my first year as the regional delegate and it has been eye opening to see what goes on behind the scenes and the tremendous amount of work done by the committee.

I would like to thank Colin for his efforts and huge contribution as a delegate. I understand at writing this that all relevant parties are now aware of Colin's (and indeed George Bradbury's) promotion to A grade. News of my own and Ray's own applications is awaited.

I would also, on behalf of region 4, like to extend my thanks and warmest wishes to Robert, who is standing down as Exam Secretary this year. He has served the EPRA enormously and with nothing but the best of intentions for many years. He will be missed. At the same time, acknowledging that she needs to be formally elected, I would like to wish Dom Chiu, the only nominee to replace Robert, the best of luck for the role.

As for region 4, we currently have 8 registered referees, with 2 yet to re-register due to personal circumstances. The breakdown of grades is as follows. 2 of our referees have applied to move from C to B with the outcome pending as I write this. One of our referees, as alluded to above, has secured promotion to A grade:

3x S, 1x A, 2x C (3 if re-registering happens), 1x D (2 if re-registering happens), 1x E

One of our referees qualified this year and we are pleased to welcome Andrea to the refereeing community as an E grade.

Region 4 is pleased to have provided approximately 5 referees per event at Yarmouth and Blackpool and we have representation at the Euros in a couple of weeks also. We are proud to have 3 Senior grade referees to impart experience and knowledge to others.

In region 4 our problem has been a lack of marketing and examinations for new referees. This is the target to improve for next year and I intend to work with Mike Perkins and Ray Dean to facilitate this across the region. Further update to follow at the summer meeting.

I am happy to field written questions on this report or anything else related to the region and its governance. Alternatively, Ray Dean (my representative at the meeting) will answer any questions he can. Thank you and look forward to a successful 2017

#### **Region 5:**

##### Terry Billingham (Representative)

We have lost our Regional Director – Graham Berruto and the New Regional Director may be Ady Williams from Gloucester pending his acceptance. Hopefully we will have some referee exams coming up in the near future just waiting for confirmation. One final note, I would like to apologise to Yvonne for not getting said information back to her sooner. I know if we do not get information back to her on time it makes her job harder. We are currently still struggling with the Youth side in our region, and Buckingham has no lady side.

#### **Region 6:**

##### Tony Coe (Representative)

Two exams were held in R6, one by Jamie Thompson 04/09/16, one by myself on 27/11/16, we gained 6 D grades and 1 E grade, a seventh D grade was achieved by a candidate from outside of region 6. I have received interest from other people wishing to take the exam including 2 retakes and someone from Hampshire who may know of others candidates from his area, I am happy to pass this info on to the region 7 delegate, I am hoping to arrange another exam ASAP.

I have been busy since November trying to get region 6 2017 yearly subscriptions up to date, so far I have 23 referees up to date on the EPRA 'current members' list plus one from Wiltshire, I am in contact with two others at the time of writing this Dave Gilbert E grade and Alison Wade D grade and I hope they will sort it out very soon.

Referees are beginning to show interest regarding refereeing in Gt Yarmouth, so hopefully there will be some new faces there soon not just Ron Hyett, Paul Crook, Martin Pearson and myself, those showing interest are Vanessa Scott, Emma Downes, Paul George, Hayley Desmond (nee Horler), Kevin Smith, Alex de Frates, Clive Brown (not till Oct), and Alison Wade.

#### **Region 7:**

##### Dominique Chiu (Representative)

Affiliation remain low in 2017 in region 7, with only around 12 referees re-affiliated.

Some suggestions have been proposed to the region to add a referee page onto the Region website page to boost membership and its functions around the six counties we have. Discussion has been had to start the ball rolling, aiming to have this up and running by end of first quarter of the year.

Number of Referee Seminars and exams took place in the region in 2016 is still promising with the help of Jason Davies, Jeremy Ruffer and Phil Davis' help. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all their hardworking and dedication to the region and the EPRA organisation.

Moving forward, I think we could set a target for each examiner to how many exams and candidates they need to hit each year to help the organisation to grow its membership number. But of course, this needs approval from the EPRA organisation.

**Region 8: Position vacant**John-Paul Eames (Representative)

- There is unfortunately little to report since last meeting. Jon Shapland has re-affiliated for 2017 and paid in his membership for 2016 as a good will gesture (lapsed membership).
- There has been no interest thus far from any referees to attend any Spring events at Great Yarmouth, nor the European Championships. This is disappointing for the region but not unexpected. One referee in particular has stated clearly he doesn't ever want to be canvassed for availability, irrespective of the event.
- I attended the Region 8 EPA AGM in January and discussed the matter of examinations and membership in the region. It seems that since the last regional EPA meeting I attended the counties have been generating interest, league level and up. This interest however only extends to the E grade examination. I will of course travel and hold whatever examinations are required, although I did explain that I would prefer to encourage the D grade exam. Sharon Lunn (outgoing RD) agreed, but thought candidates who successfully passed the E grade exam would then have more enthusiasm and confidence to take on the D grade exam. I asked her to leave it with me and I would attempt to find some suitable dates. Unfortunately the majority of players within the region have no desire to officiate as a referee.

Shortly after the last EPA meeting I attended in Summer 2016, I provided a series of dates where I was available to hold exams within the region. Despite the interest, with many clashing commitments, no date could be agreed on. This will be the priority going forward.

**11 EPA Report**

Please refer to 5.1 in Correspondence Section of this minutes. In addition:

- A written report is read out during this meeting by Terry Billingham (R5) about Alan Benton's attitude to the referee at VHP event duties.

**12 Forthcoming Events 2017**

EVENT	DATE	No: REFEREES
European Championship	12 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	4 Referees + 1 senior
UPC 8 Ball Championships	23 <sup>rd</sup> - 26 <sup>th</sup> Feb	6 Referees Thurs to Sat. 5 Referees Sunday
Seniors trials	1 <sup>st</sup> & 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	1 Senior Referee Wednesday 6 Referees + 1 Senior Thursday
Mens/Ladies & U23 Trials Seniors Intercounty Finals	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	12 Referees + 1 Senior
Intercounty Finals (B Section)	3 <sup>rd</sup> March	2 Referees
Intercounty Finals	4 <sup>th</sup> – 5 <sup>th</sup> March	24 Referees + 1 Senior
Mens World Champs Qualifiers	30 <sup>th</sup> – 31 <sup>st</sup> March	4 Referees Thursday 12 Referees + 1 Senior Friday 1 Referee to cover late finish
Interleague Finals	1 <sup>st</sup> – 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	12 Referees + 1 Senior
World Masters Qualifiers	5 <sup>th</sup> May	12 Referees + 1 Senior
Golden Cue + Singles	6 <sup>th</sup> – 7 <sup>th</sup> May	12 Referees + 1 Senior
WEPF World Championships	24 <sup>th</sup> June – 5 <sup>th</sup> July	4 Referees + 1 Senior
World Masters	30 <sup>th</sup> June – 3 <sup>rd</sup> July	(World Championships Referees)

**12 Next Meeting: Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017****13 Any Other Business**

- John Hope stated that a Senior Referee is required for the World Championship this year as he won't be attending. Sue Mitchell also cannot attend.



ii) Richard Rhodes proposed Robert Shore as Life President.

Proposed: Richard Rhodes (R2)      Seconded: John H. Hope (R4)  
For: 10      Against: 0      Abstentions: 0

iii) Euro8Ball website to be updated regarding Rules & guidance

iv) Regional Delegates to push for more Exams in their Regions.

v) Age restriction of 18years to apply for sitting Exams.

Proposed: Dominique Chiu (R7)      Seconded: John H. Hope (R4)  
For: 9      Against: 0      Abstentions 1

vi) Mike Perkins (R4) to be contacted regarding him becoming a Life President in 2018

**Meeting closed: 4:25pm**

## 14 Summary of Actions

Who	Summary	Reference
Gen. Secretary	Additional Referees required on Intercounty Finals & European Championship	Item 5.2 Correspondence
Gen. Secretary	Keep the treasurer up-to-date with the status of the new laptop so the return date of the old laptop can be established.	Item 5.4 Correspondence
Gen. Secretary	Re-affiliation – Christine Robins - ask Mike Perkins (EPA) and advise R2	Item 5.8 Correspondence
Gen. Secretary	Issue revised Constitution rules following from AGM	From AGM Proposal 5
Treasurer	Euro8Ball Web site update	13: iii)
Regional Delegates	Promote Exams	13: iv)
General secretary	Mike Perkins approached to be Life President 2018	13: vi)