

## **HAMPSHIRE UMPIRES' CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT 2023**

Umpire requirements have returned to pre-covid levels, with the main events being concentrated at the County Headquarters at Banister Park. This puts an extra strain on the umpires in the Southampton area although they are augmented by assistance from a few in the Bournemouth area who are willing to travel to Southampton to fulfil the requirements. There was one Middleton Cup match between outside counties in our area which we were able to cover.

There has been a review of the Areas of the Umpires Association, meaning that Hampshire is now in the South East Area comprising Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Middlesex, I.O.W. and Hampshire, the Area Secretary being Carol Watt Sullivan from Kent.

There have been a number of requests for Markers and Umpire Courses. These are run by the Development Officer of the English Bowls Umpires Association (EBUA). Following the resignation of the incumbent, there was a delay until a new Development Officer was appointed. He is in the process of reviewing the entire training programme and, until the review is complete, hopefully before the end of the year, all training courses are delayed. Anyone interested in attending a Marker's course or becoming an umpire should contact me and, when the new system is up and running I will contact them with the required details.

I would like to close this report by thanking all those umpires who have put themselves out this year to ensure that the game we all love runs smoothly.

Tony Prince

(Hampshire Umpire Co-ordinator)