

# **EASTERN COUNTIES CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
held at The Racing Centre, Newmarket, on Thursday 22nd June 2023 at 8.00pm**

Present: Officers: G. Sutton - Chairman  
M. Giddens - Secretary & Treasurer  
P. Daniels - League & Tournament Secretary, also representing Suffolk  
County Representatives:  
J. Ellis - Bedfordshire, B. Giddens - Cambridgeshire, G. Evans - Essex  
and M Fisher - Norfolk

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from P. Orrin - Essex and N. Rixon - Bedfordshire.

## **2. Minutes from Previous Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 22nd June 2022 and the Extraordinary General Meeting held on the 30th March 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed.

## **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the AGM, the only comment from the EGM was the change to three woods pairs at the Champion of Champions worked better.

## **4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman gave the following report:

I would like to start by thanking Maureen and Paul for all their hard work over the last twelve months and to all the delegates of the counties who have attended the meetings.

Thanks to all counties who have run tournaments on behalf of the ECCBA.

Congratulations to all the winners at the English and Eastern Counties Champion of Champions, to Suffolk for winning the Eastern Counties Championships and went on to represent the ECCBA on the Friday night at Potters which they won, also winning the National Championship over the weekend at Potters in November.

At the moment the ECCBA league has not been finished due to circumstances and is taking place on Sunday June 25th between Suffolk and Hertfordshire when the winning league trophies will be presented.

It was nice to have Bedfordshire back playing in the Eastern Counties Championship where a rule was brought in to help counties who were short of players which I thought worked quite well, and hoping Bedfordshire will be in the 2023-24 season of the Eastern Counties league.

Unfortunately a mistake was made at the Champion of Champions at Littleport where a trophy was presented to the wrong team. We will be discussing this under agenda item 10.

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**5. Secretary & Treasurer's Report**

The Contacts List was updated and will be issued with these minutes.

Treasurers Report:

The Audited Statement of Account for the year ending 30th April 2023 was issued.

It was noted that should the final hall hire costs and full cost of trophies been included, this would have added a further £418.00 to the expenses. The hall hire of £240.00 relating to the outstanding match will fall in next years accounts. Within the expenses to bear in mind there was the one-off expense with the purchase of mats.

Acceptance of the accounts as presented was proposed by Essex, seconded by Suffolk and agreed by all.

The Treasurer recorded her thanks to Karyn Chivers for auditing the accounts.

**6. League & Tournament Secretary's Report**

The League & Tournament Secretary reported on the following:

The league is to be completed.

With the Eastern Counties Championship, it was not thought to be an advantage when a team was a player short and it allowed Bedfordshire to take part.

The change in 3 woods in the Pairs at the Champion of Champions worked well within the programme.

A discussion will need to be made regarding the Teambowl if only five counties attend, as the programme doesn't work with five counties. The Bedfordshire representative will go back to their county to inform them they are needed at the Teambowl.

The League & Tournament Secretary was asked if playing three woods in the Pairs at the Champion of Champions will be put forward to the English for the same format to be played at the Nationals. A proposal will be needed which Cambridgeshire confirmed they will put forward to the next English AGM.

**7. Election of Officers & Auditor**

Chairman

The current Chairman was willing to continue for this year but not guaranteed after that. Gerald Sutton was proposed by Cambridgeshire, seconded by Suffolk and with all in agreement Gerald was re-elected.

Secretary & Treasurer and League & Tournament Secretary

The current Officers who were happy to continue, were voted in block, proposed by Essex, seconded by Norfolk. With all counties in agreement, the following Officers were re-elected:

Secretary & Treasurer	Maureen Giddens
League & Tournament Secretary	Paul Daniels

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**7. Election of Officers & Auditor - continued**

The Treasurer advised the current Auditor was willing to continue and proposed that Karyn Chivers remains as Auditor. All counties were in agreement.

**8. Fees**

The Treasurer gave a forecast for next season based on predicted income and expenditure covering:

- Events – a profit is expected from all events and we will now receive 50% of the profit from Teambowl. The profit from the Champion of Champions held in May is already confirmed.
- Insurance – expected to see an increase at the inflation rate.
- League – with the increase in the cost of hall hires, if fees remain the same, a loss of between £300 to £500 is forecast.

Based on the forecast the Treasurer recommended increasing the fees to £96.00 per team each match (an increase of £12.00) and increase the fees at the Champion of Champions by 50p to £4.00 per player.

The Annual Subscription to remain at £60.00

Bedfordshire commented that the annual subscription should cover insurance. The Treasurer advised the annual subscription and profit from events is how the Eastern Counties look to cover costs and gain any profit, with the League fees to cover the league expenses.

It was proposed by Essex, seconded by Norfolk for the fees to be those as recommended by the Treasurer. All agreed.

The fees will be £96.00 per team each match (based on 24 players at £4.00) £4.00 per player (£40.00 per team) for the Champion of Champions

**9. League Matches**

The proposal for when a team arrives a player short at a league match, to play with 8 woods with no penalty, in the same format as played at the Eastern Counties Championship. To adopt for one season then review at the next AGM was proposed by Bedfordshire, seconded by Cambridgeshire. All were in agreement.

The rules to be updated with this format.

**10. Events**

The responsibilities of the host county were discussed and the following items were commented upon.

i. Champion of Champions

At this years Champion of Champions the scorekeeping was by hand and a genuine mistake was made with a wrong score. It was looked to see how to avoid this in future and agreed that handwritten scores are to be double checked.

**10. Events - continued**

ii. Raffle

The ruling is the winning numbers are to be displayed after the completion of the last match. At the Eastern Counties Championship this was not fully followed. The host county to be made aware of the ruling for future events.

Bedfordshire enquired why this ruling and advised it was to avoid people standing around the raffle table when space is limited and games are still being played.

It was acknowledged that once players have finished their games they want to go home but it is hoped that people will stay until after the presentations. If they do need to leave, their raffle ticket can be checked by others.

The Responsibilities of the Host County will be updated and issued to all counties.

The list of events had been updated with the dates and who hosts each event and will be issued with these minutes.

Bedfordshire questioned various tasks with running the Champion of Champions as they will be hosting this in 2024. Littleport will be booked on their behalf as they don't have a hall suitable for holding this event. Other queries were answered but will be clarified nearer the time.

**11. Dress Code at the Champion of Champions**

The proposal put forward by Suffolk for the dress code at the Champion of Champions to be consistent with the English dress code, was seconded by Bedfordshire.

Following discussion where the content of the Suffolk proposal and the Eastern Counties existing rules were looked at, the proposal was withdrawn.

Suffolk put forward an amendment to the existing Eastern Counties Dress Code Rules for the rules to include the wearing of smart tailored black shorts, and under what is not allowed, to amend this to state Blue jeans or skirt/trousers made of similar material or style.

This amended proposal was seconded by Essex.

Voting took place and with 4 in favour, 1 abstained, the proposal was carried.

The Dress Code Rules will read:

Top – team colours as specified by your own county for county team events, club colours or county team colours for the Champion of Champions.  
Smart/casual trousers or skirt, or black tailored shorts.

What will not be allowed are:

Blue jeans or skirt/trousers made of similar material or style; track or jogging suits of any type or T-shirts.

The Officers of the Eastern Counties CBA reserve the right to exclude any player wearing clothing that is considered as being outside the prescribed dress code.

**12. Date of Next Meeting**

Bedfordshire strongly requested the next meeting to be a zoom meeting.

The Chairman confirmed he would be against a zoom meeting and would stand down if changed to zoom meetings. The Secretary & Treasurer also confirmed she would be against a zoom meeting and would stand down if changed to zoom meetings.

Essex commented that as there are only two meetings a year, face to face meetings should be held and in agreement was Cambridgeshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

A Committee Meeting was arranged to be held on at The Racing Centre, Newmarket on Thursday 19th October 2023 at 8.00pm.

**13. Any Other Business**

Essex commented on the league matches in that the last game of the season should be played within a month of the last scheduled matches. The League Secretary responded that due to hall availability it was later this year, but rearranged matches need to be played as soon as possible.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.43 pm.

In confirmation of the foregoing minutes.

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Chairman

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Date