

SUFFOLK CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

The Minutes of a Committee Meeting of the
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association
held at Needham Market Community Centre
on Monday 6th December, 1993

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

Those present:- Margaret Southgate (Vice Chairman), David Schofield (Secretary), Keith Armes (Treasurer), Arvon Evans, David Cobbold, Trevor Girling, Sally Goodrich, John Hayward, David Jermyrn, Chris Leach, Judith Longman, Tony Webber and Joy Williamson.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Ray White and Ron Smith.
2. The Minutes of the Meeting Held on 11th October, 1993 were approved as minuted and signed as being a true record by the Chairman.
3. The following matters arose from the previous Minutes:-
 6. The English Carpet Bowls Association subscription had been paid prior to the English County Championships.
 9. The Secretary informed the Committee that he had written to Risby and Great Blakenham with regard to the late start and the earlier than intended playing of their Joe Rice Cup match. The Sub Committee had considered their responses and had decided that the result should stand and that no action should be taken. The correspondence was read out.
- 14(e) The Vice Chairman passed on the Chairmans comments that some people reach out a long way in front of the end of the mat before they bowl. Although the Committee did not consider that any advantage was being gained they suggested that the Rules Sub Committee consider whether a Rule change should be proposed.
4. The Vice Chairman had nothing to report.
5. The Secretary reported that membership now stood at 105 Clubs being 96 Members and 9 Associate Members and he welcomed Shotley as Members and the return of Felixstowe & District Council for Sport & Recreation. A set of equipment had been lent to an enthusiastic Shotley to help them get under way. Since the last Meeting 2 Clubs had renewed their membership, i.e. Newmarket Foods (formerly HMP Haverhill) and Woolpit, and Sudbury Conservative Club and Wattisfield had declined to do so. Stambourne had not rejoined because they were not allowed now to enter the Suffolk Championships. At the half way stage of the insurance year a further 19 sets of equipment were being covered making a total of 165 sets in total. There was nothing to report on the alternative insurance scheme. David Cobbold commented that Badingham intended to start carpet bowls and that he would be giving them a demonstration in January.
6. The Treasurer reported that there was a balance of £994.48 in the Current Account and £4,176.00 in the Deposit Account. A further £144.00, being the surplus from the County Trials, had been given to him that evening but there were invoices for the hire of Holywells School for the Singles and for Risby Village Hall for the County Trials yet to be received.

7. The up to date Winter League tables were handed out by the Secretary and there seemed to be no particular problems that anyone was aware of. Press reports were being sent weekly to the East Anglian Daily Times, the Ipswich Evening Star and the Bury Free Press and we are getting good coverage in the East Anglian. Arvon Evans said that only once has the Bury paper included anything but did carry reports on the Bury Leagues. The Evening Star does include the articles but only in an abbreviated form. The Secretary had received complimentary copies of "World of Bowls" and a page on carpet bowls had been included and he had received confirmation that this would be repeated each month provided they received enough material. He had been invited to a lunch launch of the magazine in its new form and to a meeting following it but had had to decline as they were during the day and business commitments were of greater priority.
8. The current position in the Joe Rice Cup and the Chairmans Plate was handed out and the playing of matches at the incorrect time in both was discussed. It was recognised that matches in both the 1st and 2nd legs of the First and Second Rounds of the Plate and the Second Round of the Cup was confusing to all. It was decided that no action would be taken but the Secretary was asked to write to the Clubs involved pointing out when the matches should have been played and asking for their co-operation in the future.
9. a) Tony Webber reported that the Singles Championships day seemed to go well but that a number of matters would be improved upon for the Pairs, e.g. more chairs would be laid out, the food was satisfactory but it was necessary for tea, coffee, etc. to be served from inside and people could sit in the Reception area, that the administration tables should be less accessible to people, that extra car parking should be made available, that more rubbish bags, etc. should be provided inside and out. He felt that the playing side went well, that it was a good floor, that the building was warm on a very cold day, that the School staff were very helpful, that the positioning of the mats was good. All agreed that the quality of bowls was high with a good final. Thanks were expressed to the admin. team of Bidy Webber, Margaret Southgate, June & Ken Laws and Sally & Jim Goodrich for an excellent job well done. Tony Webber wished to place on record his thanks to Clubs for the lending of the equipment and for the willingness of doing so. David Jermyn reported that there had been a nett income on the raffle of £194.00 and that this was well down on last years 3 day total of £509 even taking into account that the entry was 82 people down on last year. It was noted that there would be some saving on the hire costs by the same comparison but not the two thirds lower that some assumed. Thanks were given to David Jermyn and the East Bergholt Club for their hard work on the raffle.

b) It was decided that a Public Address system should be purchased rather than hiring or borrowing each time there was a tournament. Tony Webber was authorised to spend up to £500.00 to purchase one. It is intended that it will be made available for hire to Clubs, etc. for their tournaments.

c) Due to an Eastern Counties League match being arranged on the same day as the Suffolk Pairs Championship it was decided to swap the dates of the Pairs and the Suffolk Juniors Championship. It had not been possible to arrange another date with Holywells School because every other Sunday that did not clash with an Eastern Counties League match was already booked by others. It was felt that Holywells School was too big a venue for the Juniors where the entry this year is likely to be between 40 and 50. The Secretary was asked to book Needham Market Community Centre for the 13th February, 1994 and cancel Holywells School. Judith Longman, David Cobbold and John Hayward volunteered to undertake the organisation of it with entries being returned to John. Thought would have to be given by them to the catering. Margaret Southgate will buy the raffle prizes.

10. Suffolk had retained the Eastern Counties Championship at Braintree on Sunday, 7th November. They scored a total of 45 points whilst Essex were runners up with 38, Cambridgeshire next with 35, Norfolk 28, Bedfordshire 25 and Hertfordshire 9.

Margaret Southgate said that she, Ray White and Tony Webber had had a meeting and decided that as it was Suffolks turn to host this Championship next year then it would be held at Holywells School on 30th October, 1994 starting at 10.15 a.m.. The School had been booked, Ray White had organised trophies and decided how the mats would be laid out and that a master scoreboard would be made. They had not yet had thoughts on the food.

The Eastern Counties Carpet Bowls Association had decided that each bowler should pay a match subscription of £1.50 each and that this would be given to the host County to help with expenses but if there was any profit then it should go to the ECCBA. Upon objection from members of the Committee it was decided, in the light of the £140 profit made out of the Suffolk County trials and that bowlers would have to pay all their own travelling expenses, even when going to Hertford on 13th February, that the Association would pay the match fees of £36.00 per match. For the first home match on 9th January Margaret Southgate will purchase the prizes for the raffle where all monies raised will be kept by Suffolk. David Jermyn had already been approached and he had agreed to run the raffle.

Tony Webber went on to say that the County Trials had been very successful and that although having some doubts before the Eastern Counties Championships the much changed team had come good on the day. He then announced that the squad would be chosen from 28 bowlers who had performed well in the Trials and that if more than four bowlers were not available for a match then one or more from the four reserves would be chosen.

The Secretary reminded the Committee that at the next Meeting, on 14th February, 1994, he would be needing to arrange dates for next seasons County Championships if we were to get the bookings we wanted and he asked if the Eastern Counties League fixture list would be available by then. Margaret Southgate undertook to have all the dates arranged for then.

David Cobbold asked for the congratulations of the Committee to be extended to the successful team that became the Eastern Counties Champions.

11. The Secretary commented that there had not been a Meeting of the English Carpet Bowls Association since the last Suffolk Meeting so there was little to report. Some progress had been made with the promotional leaflet.

Discussion then took place upon the proposals of the National Referee of a National Singles, Pairs and Fours to be played on the Sunday coinciding with the English County Championships.

In his capacity of Secretary of the Suffolk Association David Schofield was asked to respond to the National Referee saying that we approved of one single, pair and four representing a County but we did not consider it satisfactory to run it at the same time as the County Championships as several bowlers would be committed to both. It was also felt that too much was being crowded into one weekend as it was planned that the winners of the respective Eastern and Northern Counties Leagues would be meeting in a play off on the Friday night. The Committee felt that it was up to us how we chose our representatives and how we financed them, that it would make for a very long day on the Sunday and that 7 ends was inadequate to decide a National Champion and that it should be a minimum of 11. It was felt that a National Championship was a good idea in principle but that holding it on the same weekend as the County Championships was not feasible.

It was also pointed out that those who were qualified for the National Championships would probably not be allowed to go to Pontin's (if that is where the next County Championships are held) as a day visitor because of the difficulties with licensing laws and insurance.

12. David Schofield told the Committee that despite less than 3 weeks having elapsed since the Booking Forms for the next English Pairs Championships were

posted 2nd Class there were already some 400 entries, i.e. 800 people. It seemed possible that entry might have to be closed prior to Christmas this year. Clearly the English Rinks and the increased cost has not affected the entry. The Organising Committee will be approaching Stewards in due course asking them if they would be willing to officiate again.

Unfortunately there had been changes in management at the Centres by Pontin's which was a further hassle that we would have preferred not to have had. David Bryant had been invited to be our special guest and to present the trophies but was unavailable and a decision had yet to be made upon a replacement. Contact with a possible major sponsor for 1995 was being maintained.

13. The following items under any other business were raised, viz.

a) Tony Webber received the Committees approval to three bowlers, Eileen, Alec & John Stewart, being available for selection for Offton & Willisham although it may be that they have already played for Tithe Barn, Sproughton.

b) Joy Williamson asked for a clarification on who was available for selection for Suffolk in County matches and pointed to the possibility that Hopton, which was just inside the Suffolk boundary, may start a Club. If, then, somebody that lived just over the border in Norfolk played for Hopton would they then be able to play for Suffolk? As this provoked considerable discussion it was agreed that it would go on the Agenda for the next Meeting.

c) John Hayward asked if the Secretary had received a complaint from Hintlesham & Chattisham that there was a bowler who was playing for two different Clubs in the League. No such complaint had been made.

d) David Cobbold, not knowing that the Chairman would not be at the Meeting, asked the Vice Chairman if Ray White had spoken to her about the letter he had sent to the Chairman with regard to the Sports Council Awards for Sport. Margaret Southgate had not been made aware of his letter and, after comment that it was a matter for the Committee, undertook to speak to the Chairman to make sure action was taken.

e) Trevor Girling requested that the County Trial dates be booked earlier next year but it was felt that the Selection Committee should decide when they wished to hold them. Tony Webber said that the difficulty was that it was not clear until the Annual General Meeting at the end of June who would be on the Selection Committee and was it right that the previous Committee should decide for them when they should hold their trials. It was decided that they would be held in early September and the Selection Committee would make the booking.

f) Chris Leach, on behalf of Stutton, handed over a receipt from the British Retinitis Pigmentosa Society for the donation of £3,386.18 from Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association. An excellent result and the Stutton Club is to be congratulated for the considerable involvement in that fund raising.

g) The Secretary was requested to renew his registration under the Lotteries and Amusements Act, fee £17.50, so that further raffles for charity could be held.

h) It was decided that printed letterheads should be purchased and that they did not want Officers names included on them. The Secretary was authorised to accept the quotation of £83.00 for the first 1,000 copies.

The Meeting concluded at 10.10 p.m..

The dates of future Meetings, which will be held at Needham Market Community Centre, are the Mondays of 14th February and 16th May. The planned date of 4th April is Easter Monday so it will be moved to 28th March, 1994 if possible.

confirmed.