

Opening Remarks:

WELCOME

Welcome every member to the A.G.M.

DEBATE

Everyone is welcome to contribute to any debate; when it comes to a vote, it will be one vote per Club.

NEW HALL

Congratulate Hintlesham and Chattisham on the opening of their new Community Centre. It appears to be a building the villagers can be proud about.

REFRESHMENTS

Thank the Bowls Club of Hintlesham and Chattisham for providing refreshments before the meeting.

When we come to the Agenda Item concerning elections, we will have a short "comfort break".

NEXT A.G.M.

If any Club would like to host the 1994 A.G.M., preferably in the western half of the county, please get in touch with David Schofield.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

COMMITTEE

I would like to thank the Officers and Committee for all their hard work during the past year. It is not just a question of turning up for four or five meetings per year. A lot of time is put in behind the scenes and much forward planning has to go into a number of events.

97 CLUBS

At present we have 97 full members. It would be nice to see more of them joining the Winter League and County Competitions.

Could I suggest to them that they play in the Summer League. This is a grand opportunity to meet a new circle of friends.

COMPETITIONS

It is pleasing to see more and more members going further afield and entering competitions arranged in other counties.

E.C.B.A/PAIRS

The creation of the English Carpet Bowls Association and the continued success of the English Pairs, with the fantastic support from Suffolk, are the reasons why we are becoming more aware of what is happening outside of Suffolk.

As Carpet Bowls become more widespread, it is an unfortunate fact of life that some competitions will clash.

SUDBURY

After years of being messed about at the Leisure Centre at Bury St. Edmunds, we moved our competitions to Sudbury. Unfortunately that has not been the resounding success we had hoped for.

As usual, the organisation of the Carpet Bowls was first class. A number of niggling points outside the control of the S.C.B.A. continued to happen throughout the year.

HOLYWELLS SCHOOL

Only a few days ago David Schofield and Tony Webber took a look at Holywells School in Ipswich. It is probable that next season the County Competitions will be played there.

The venue is such that it may be possible to play the Singles Competition on one day, rather than be spread over three Sundays.

EASTERN

During the coming winter, Suffolk will be playing in the newly created Eastern Counties League. (The opposition will be Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire and Norfolk.)

This is in addition to the Championship organised by the Eastern Counties Carpet Bowls and the National Championship organised by the English Carpet Bowls Association.

HIGHLIGHTS

To me, the highlight of last winter was Suffolk winning the Eastern Counties Competition at the beginning of November, and then following that up three weeks later by winning the English Carpet Bowls County Championship. Anyone who was at Hemsby will tell you that mere words cannot describe the situation, the atmosphere was electric.

The selectors, Tony Webber, Trevor Girling and Ron Smith are to be congratulated on getting the right blend of players together.

Thank you.

SUFFOLK CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

SECRETARYS REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 28TH JUNE, 1993

Membership numbers remain strong at 97 full Members and 9 Associate Members which is 2 Members and 3 Associate Members more than at this time 12 months ago. I find this most encouraging as I had expected that after the initial explosion a few years back in the growth of the game that numbers would drop back before steadying out. In fact I anticipate 2 or 3 more Clubs joining us in the next few weeks.

Our Chairman has already commented upon the success of your County team at Eastern Counties and National level so I shall not dwell upon those.

Entries for each of the Suffolk Singles, Pairs, Fours and Juniors were down a few on last year and this was particularly so for the Fours. In response to the question "why?" most replied that they enjoyed round robin tournaments more than knockout. This is understandable but it is impossible with the numbers who enter to run it in any other way than on a knockout system - instead of three Sundays for the Singles it could be 8 or 9. What remains dear to my heart is that they are County Championships and they cannot be called that if you have to restrict entry. Every person who wants to try can become the County Champion not just those who got their entry in first! The other popular reason was that Sudbury was too far away for some Clubs.

As our Chairman has said we are going to give Holywells School, Ipswich a try next season. Although it is very much in the east its accessibility from the A45 is very good and because of the room available it should be possible to run our Championships off in one day. That I feel will be a very popular move. It will have the added advantage of releasing from the calendar some five Sundays for other tournaments and, importantly, Eastern Counties league matches. As we may well need up to 30 carpets for these tournaments then it will be vitally important that Clubs lend one or more sets and it may well be for each of the tournaments and not just one. Consequently the organisation next season will have to be on a bigger scale but I have no doubt that the network of helpers built up for the English Pairs will yet again be there to support us. Catering will be a problem and we are prepared to let the rights to a commercial concern if necessary however if your Club would like the concession to provide the food, etc., for your own profit, then you should let us know as soon as possible.

The Winter and Summer Leagues and the Joe Rice Cup and Chairmans Plate competitions continue to be a great success and all those who take part in them thoroughly enjoy the social and competitive bowling that they provide.

Other competitive bowling in Suffolk is provided by the Suffolk Coastal and Bury Leagues which are played on a geographically restricted basis and, I believe, there are small leagues crossing the boundary into Essex and another into Norfolk. The growth, and success, of the Suffolk Coastal League is to be admired and it was a pleasure for your County Captain and I to be invited to present their trophies.

Moving on - the insurance scheme for equipment and trophies has continued to be very popular and numbers this year have again increased to upwards of 140. May I again warn Clubs who rely upon their Village Hall insurance that it is very probably inadequate and certainly will not cover you in transit and in use elsewhere! The Association scheme is provided as a service to members and is NOT a profitmaking venture.

Whilst on the subject of insurance I have to tell you that there have been a lot of problems with our Brokers and Insurers this year. A 25% increase in the premium was not that surprising but changes in terms has made life very difficult. I will not bore you with all the details but one result of their changes has been that we cannot accept further units of equipment under the scheme until next December and then no more until the renewal next 31st May. As a consequence I have taken advice over the last fortnight from both legal and insurance people and I may be proposing to you that we form a Mutual Benefit Society where each Club will pay the equal of their insurance premium into a central fund from which any claims will be settled. If I tell you that there has not been one claim since the inception of the insurance scheme and something like £5,000 has been paid in premiums then the benefits of keeping the money within carpet bowls is obvious. The risks are small! This year we are paying around £700 in premiums which is one and a half sets of equipment! If we can get this off the ground then we could offer membership to other carpet bowls organisations throughout the country. It would not be possible to offer Public Liability cover so this would have to be purchased from an insurance company however if other organisations do come in with us then there will be a much greater buying power. I suspect that within a year or two it would be possible to pay the premiums out of the Mutual Benefit Society funds at no extra cost. The details of this will be worked upon so that if it is feasible then it will be in place in time for renewal next year.

The English Carpet Bowls Association, of which we continue to be members, continues as the national governing body of the sport and they will be taking very positive steps in the next few months to spread the word on the game to those areas that don't already play. Leaflets describing carpet bowls and where further information can be obtained will be distributed to County and District Councils, Sports Councils, Sports Centres, etc. throughout the country. The major difficulty remains that we all have full time jobs and do not have the time to be travelling to Barnstaple, Cardiff or Carlisle to further this growth. A four year plan is being devised and it is likely that one objective will be for a full time Director within four years. The funding of this is an important consideration and a suggestion has been made that a lead should be taken from other sports and ask each carpet bowler to pay just £1 more on their annual subscription which would be passed on to the ECBA. A further £1 per bowler would solve financing at both County and National levels at a stroke.

The CookElectric English Pairs were again held at Pontins at Hemsby and a great success they were. It was decided this year to run it solely from within Suffolk and it was again a tremendous effort by all in stewarding, selling raffle tickets, working behind the scenes, lending equipment, etc.. Congratulations to you all. May I say, to those that haven't been, that this really is a very professionally run tournament and would repeat that said by the television company director that it was presented and run superbly with an organisation better than many run by full time professionals in sports presentation. If I am being a little smug then so what Suffolk has the ability and courage to do it - obviously a great debt is owed to the main organising team of Lin Schofield, Tony Webber, David Jermyn, Paul Marden and myself.

Regrettably the massive re-organisation within Eastern Electricity has meant the closing down of the Marketing Public Relations department which sponsored us so we are looking hard for a new sponsor. Any suggestions would be very greatly appreciated.

May I give our thanks to Jane Pitcher, for yet again doing our photography for us, to David Jermyn, for again organising the raffles, to Tony Webber, for carrying out the thankless task of arranging the equipment for the Suffolk Championships, and to Ron Smith (with support from Margaret Southgate and Bidy Webber), for carrying out the administration on the day of these Championships.

On looking back it has to have been a very successful year which ends with Suffolk at the very top both on the mat and in organisation. I finish, ladies and gentlemen, with the proud fact that Suffolk continue to lead carpet bowls.

SUFFOLK CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Income & Expenditure 1 June 1992 - 31 May 1993

<u>Income</u>			<u>Expenditure</u>		
	£			£	
Membership Subscriptions	1,015.00	(495)	Affiliation Fees	100	(100)
Raffles	2,038.66	(1181)	Raffle Prizes	505	(-)
Winter League	470	(460)	Trophies	1149.80	(1003)
Summer League	250	(225)	Sports Hall Hire	690.25	(1593)
Singles Championships	507	(567)	Photos/Stationery	48.79	(33)
Pairs "	693	(723)	Insurance	575.39	(1130)
Fours "	648	(756)	County Matches	2059.63	(2944)
Joe Rice Cup	200	(200)	Charity & Other		
Insurance	670	(1088)	Tournaments	5726.99	(-)
Sales	117.30	(93)	Sundries	3.00	(-)
County Matches	1,428.13	(2395)	SCBA Meetings	85.00	(84)
Charity & other Tournaments	5,757.49	(-)	Postage	518.93	(536)
Sundries	138.00	(-)	Copying/printing	1672.56	(1657)
Sponsors/Donations	1,050	(760)	Telephone	135.00	(152)
Interest	79.31	(35)			
				<u>13,270.34</u>	(10500)
			Balance of Income		
			Less expenditure	1,793.55	
	<u>15,063.89</u>			<u>15,063.89</u>	

STATE OF FUNDS AT 31 MAY 1993

Accumulated Balance b/f 31.5.92	£2,240.55	Balances	Business
Excess income over expenditure	<u>£1,793.55</u>		Premium A/C 3,157.36
	<u>£4,034.10</u>		Current A/C <u>876.74</u>
			<u>£4,034.10</u>

Stock in Hand

26 Badges @ £2.75	=	£71.50
26 Ties @ £6.50	=	£169.00
509 Stickers @ .35	=	<u>£178.15</u>
		<u>£418.65</u>

I have examined the accounts of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association for the period 1 June 1992 to 31 May 1993 together with the vouchers afforded to me and find them a true record to the best of my knowledge and belief. W.C. Betts, Honorary Auditor W.C. Betts