

SUFFOLK CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

The Minutes of a Committee Meeting of the
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association
held at Needham Market Community Centre
on Monday 11th October, 1993

The Meeting commenced at 7.35 p.m.

Those present:- Raymond White (Chairman), Margaret Southgate (Vice Chairman), David Schofield (Secretary), Arvon Evans, Trevor Girling, Sally Goodrich, John Hayward, David Jermyn, Ron Smith, Tony Webber and Joy Williamson.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Keith Armes, David Cobbold, Chris Leach and Judith Longman.
2. The Minutes of the Meeting Held on 19th July, 1993 were approved as minuted, except that the date of the Meeting was amended to July (from April), and signed as being a true record by the Chairman.
3. The following matters arose from the previous Minutes:-
 - 10(a) The required amendment to the Winter Rules had been made prior to their distribution.
 - 12) Margaret Southgate sought guidance on how she should split the available prize money between the five days of raffles. Numbers likely to attend each of the days was suggested as being the criteria.
 - 12) Holywells School, Ipswich had been booked for the Suffolk Singles, Pairs, Fours and Juniors and Finals Day. The cost would not be alot less than on the three Sundays of previous years but each Championship would be complete in the one day. All trophies for the season, including those for the next Finals Day, had been ordered.
4. The Chairman had nothing to report.
5. The Secretary reported that the paid up membership stood at 94 full Members and 7 Associate Members. The position had improved in the last week in response to a reminder that had been sent to a number of Clubs. The Committee confirmed that Clubs who had not paid their subscription by the end of October would no longer be considered members. If any of those had equipment insurance then their cover would lapse and if playing in the Winter Leagues or Cups then they would be withdrawn. Those Clubs whose subscription as Members was still outstanding were HMP Haverhill (since paid), Sudbury Conservative Club and Woolpit (since paid) and as Associate Members were Felixstowe & District Council for Sport & Recreation and Stambourne. The letter of resignation from Culford was read out. Frinton had decided not to renew as Associate Members. Elmswell CBC were welcomed as new Members to the Association. The concept of the Mutual Benefit Society for the insurance of equipment had hit some difficulties and the Secretary commented that he currently had Solicitors working on it (at his cost not the Associations). It is not possible to set up as an insurance company, even if you call it by another name, without having full protection for those insured. The Secretary, however, commented that he was determined to escape the clutches of the big conglomerates particularly as there were, presently, several Clubs who were

desperately trying to insure their equipment and were not allowed to until 1st December.

6. In his absence the Treasurer had written a letter to the Chairman informing him that the balance in the Business Premium Account was £5,176.47 and in the Current Account £825.04 and that these balances were at much the same level as at this time 12 months ago. Several invoices were outstanding.

The Secretary commented that it had been very embarrassing at the recent English CBA Meeting to find that we had not paid our 1993/4 subscription which had become due on 1st May.

7. The Secretary reported that because of illness Ron Smith had been unable at the last minute to run the Summer Finals play off but that Chris Leach and Linda Bird had stepped in to run it on the day. The Secretary, despite being on holiday, had circularised Clubs involved with arrangements and prepared scoresheets, etc. for the day. He understood that the format had been changed at the last minute.

The winners of the PTS Trophy were Cockfield with 8 points followed by Barking with 7, Hundon with 5, Belstead also with 5 (Hundon scored more shots), Tuddenham St Martin with 4 and East Bergholt with 1.

The Secretary, as requested at the last Meeting, had bought Summer League trophies for presentation at the play offs rather than on Finals Day. There had been no time between knowing the group winners and the play offs for him to contact each Club and ask whether they wished a Club trophy or individual member trophies. He understood that there has been some criticism of this. There followed criticism of the arrangements from a Committee member who also felt that nobody taking part knew what was going on. The Chairman felt that the fact that it took place at all, and successfully so, was a credit to the flexibility of the Clubs involved.

8. The up to date Winter League tables were passed around. Syleham & Wingfield had written to the Committee to explain the difficulties they were having with illnesses and deaths amongst their already small membership and asking for the understanding of all for their predicament. There was considerable sympathy for their problems.

The Secretary confirmed that reports were now being sent weekly to the East Anglian Daily Times, the Evening Star and the Bury Free Press. Also World Bowls will be carrying regular carpet bowls news in the future.

9. In the First Round of the Joe Rice Cup Tattlingstone had beaten Bentley 10 - 6 (Tattlingstone would now play Burstall in the 2nd Round), Brockley beat Bramford 10 - 6 (Brockley will play Felsham & Gedding) and Hintlesham & Chattisham had beaten Woolpit on shots (74 - 66) having drawn 8 points each (Hintlesham & Chattisham now play Syleham & Wingfield). Elmsett had beaten Orford 6 - 2 in the first leg of their tie (the winner will play Needham Market). Post Meeting note - Orford won the return and the tie.

The 2nd Round tie between Risby and Great Blakenham had taken place earlier than scheduled and had resulted in a win for Risby by 11 points to 5 however Tony Webber had received a letter from Great Blakenham noting that in their home leg only four bowlers from Risby had arrived at the official starting time of 7.30 p.m.. A further four turned up just before 8 p.m.. The home team bowlers had been at their Hall since 7 p.m. preparing for the match. They noted that Rule 2 (ii) requires a start at 7.30 p.m. unless otherwise arranged and that Rule 2 (vi) is inadequate in these circumstances. With only 8 bowlers all of the Risby team had had practice (in the first two games) whereas the Great Blakenham 8 (not having bowled in the first half) had either not bowled at all or not for some 2 hours!

After some deliberation it was decided that the Secretary should write to both Clubs asking why the match was played earlier than scheduled and to Risby asking why it was that four bowlers did not arrive until 8 p.m.. A Sub

Committee was set up to consider the replies and decide whether any action was necessary.

10. The Suffolk Singles entry invitation had been sent out but unfortunately there was a clash with the first, of three, day of the Woolpit Pairs - undoubtedly this will affect entries to both. David Schofield and Tony Webber outlined the arrangements for the day and people and Clubs would be approached for help and equipment as required. The catering would be from a van parked outside the main entrance to the building and would serve hot food (burgers, hot dogs, pie and chips, etc.) but it is likely that drinks, sandwiches, etc. will be dispensed from within. It is possible that the last 8 or 16 may be the Suffolk qualifiers for a National Singles - if it gets off the ground!
11. Ray White had received a letter outlining the arrangements for the Eastern Counties Championships at Braintree on Sunday, 7th November, 1993 which he passed on to Tony Webber, the County Captain. In the absence of a sponsor each County was being asked to contribute £50 towards the costs and it was unanimously agreed that Suffolk would do so. There will be 6 Fours who will each play 5 games of 9 ends, or 50 minutes, with no trial ends. The first game would be at 10.15 a.m. and then hourly thereafter. It will be played to the ECBA Rules. Ray White did not know whether scoreboards would be used but would press for them to be so and it was agreed that we would be happy to provide them if there was any difficulty. Eastern Counties League matches had been arranged as follows:-

9th January, 1994	v Bedfordshire	home at Risby
16th January, 1994	v Cambridgeshire	away at Milton <i>Cambs.</i>
^{13th Feb} 30th January, 1994	v Norfolk	away at Wortwell <i>Norfolk</i>
27th March, 1994	v Essex	home at Risby

The away match with ^{*Wore*} (Hertfordshire) has yet to be arranged (Post Meeting Note - now arranged for 13th February so it will be necessary to rearrange the Suffolk Pairs, hopefully to 20th February).

12. Arvon Evans, Margaret Southgate and Tony Webber, as well as David Schofield, had attended the English Carpet Bowls Association meeting in Darlington, Co. Durham on 18th September. The ECBA currently hold a balance of around £3,750 but there is the major expenditure on the promotional leaflet due and it is hoped that distribution will be made in the new year. There is a chance now of some sponsorship help toward the cost. There are currently 9 members of the ECBA, i.e. Suffolk, Essex, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, Hertfordshire, Durham, North Tyneside, South Tyneside and Northumberland. Bedfordshire had not joined as they could not afford the £75 subscription. Essex, Norfolk and Suffolk had not paid their subscription. The Meeting had discussed in depth a 4 year plan and certain people had been requested to come back to the next meeting in February with proposals. It is possible that a National Singles, Pairs and Fours with qualification from the last 8 or 16 in a County Championship will take place next year. A play off will take place between the winners of the Eastern and Northern Counties Leagues on the Friday night of next years English County Championships. Essex and Hertfordshire have domestic Championships on the same day as this year Championships, this coming weekend, so had not entered but there would be six again taking part, i.e. Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Norfolk, North Tyneside, Durham and Northumberland. Margaret Southgate undertook to buy a raffle prize worth around £20 to donate to the Raffle. Ray White commented that Ron Amore, the Essex Captain, had told him that he had warned Eve Warren to avoid the 21st November as it was the day of their Championships. David Schofield commented that the Essex Chairman had rung him about the clash and he had tried to change the date. Unfortunately the only

alternatives would have clashed with County Championships in Durham or Suffolk so no change was made.

Those staying, whether playing or not, contribute £7 per person to the costs of staging the weekend so it was decided that any Suffolk team bowlers would be expected to pay this £7 also. Tony Webber clarified that for these Championships the 3rd bowler in a Four could visit the head only if invited by their Skip.

13. No sponsor had been secured for the English Pairs Championships so the costs would be rising to £10 per Pair (from £5) bowl and accommodation costs would rise by £4 per head. Half board accommodation for 150 people was being introduced this time. The Booking Form is now with the printers and distribution is expected in mid November. All those who helped last time will have their choice of accommodation reserved for them providing they had returned the questionnaire. There will again be stands but consultations were taking place with the Fire Authorities to see if they can be put back against the walls and away from the mats by a further 6 to 7 ft..
14. The following matters were raised under any other business:-
 - (a) Margaret Southgate advised that the next Bramford Heartbeat tournament would again be held at the Willis Corroon Sports & Social Club on Sunday, 4th September, 1994.
 - (b) Arvon Evans advised that Cockfield CBC would be holding an Invitation tournament on Saturday, 19th February, 1994.
 - (c) Ron Smith had now been paid by all but one person for the cost of the coach to Blackpool and back.
 - (d) David Jermyn enquired as to what free dates there were in May, 1994 for the East Bergholt Open Triples and provisionally booked the 15th.
 - (e) Ray White spoke of an occasion where an opposition bowler had picked up a wood whilst his opponent was bowling and that when it was pointed out to him, after the game had finished, that it was against the Rules he replied that he didn't recognise the Rule because he felt they were wrong. It was agreed that a Rule is a Rule even if unintentionally broken but that it was up to the organisers or the opposition to decide whether to invoke it or not.

It had been discussed at an earlier Meeting that the Rules should be considered carefully prior to the next ECBA AGM so a Sub Committee of David Cobbold, Tony Webber and Trevor Girling with Ray White, as Chairman being an ex-officio member, was set up and they would report back to the Committee at the appropriate time.

The Meeting concluded at 9.45 p.m..

The dates of future Meetings, which will be held at Needham Market Community Centre, are the Mondays 6th December, 14th February, 4th April and 16th May.