

# *Suffolk* **Carpet Bowls** *Association*



The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the  
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association  
held at Barrow Village Hall on Monday, 27th June, 1994

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the Annual General Meeting and invited everyone to contribute to the debates however when it came to a vote he pointed out that there was just one vote per Club on proposals concerning the Constitution and the Rules for Playing Carpet Bowls.

He thanked the Barrow Carpet Bowls Club for providing the refreshments for the evening.

As the Annual General Meeting had this year been held in the West of the County then he invited a East Club to host it in 1995.

Before commencing the Meeting proper a roll call was taken and voting cards and slips handed out.

The Meeting then commenced at 7.40 p.m.

In attendance were representatives from the following 32 Clubs:-

Ashley	Barrow
Belstead	Bramford
Brockley	Burstall
Chelmondiston	Claydon
Cockfield	East Bergholt
Felsham & Gedding	Great Barton
Great Blakenham	Harkstead
Hintlesham & Chattisham	Ixworth
Kelsale	Kesgrave
Martlesham	Nayland
Offton & Willisham	Polstead
Rattlesden	Risby
Somersham	Stanningfield
Stutton	Tattingstone
Tuddenham St Martin	Wickhambrook
Wyverstone	Kenninghall

In all there were 67 people in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence were received from the Clubs of Alpheton, Barking, Barsham, Brantham, Elmsett, Fornham All Saints, Garboldisham, Sea Palling and Stratford St Mary and from Linda Bird & Chris Leach, Jean & Derek Roddham, John Mower, Marion & Derek Brown, Dorothy Pettit, Bryan Pretty and Cyril Chard.
2. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on 28th June, 1993, were approved as minuted and signed to that effect.

3. The only matter arising was:-

11. e) The request by Chelmondiston that an independent marker should be allowed to measure a tight head with out pressure from the bowlers had been implemented successfully at the English Pairs.

4. A transcript of the Chairmans Report is attached hereto with the main points being that membership was hovering around the 100 mark and that it would be a proud day when we do hit 100. The Press coverage has been disappointing despite the continuing efforts of the Secretary. He congratulated David Schofield on becoming Secretary of the English Carpet Bowls Association and Competition Secretary of the Eastern Counties Carpet Bowls Association. He also thanked all those involved in the English Pairs which was another great success.

The Rules Sub Committee, through David Cobbold, had proposed and seen through Rule changes. It was his view that our Association was the best organised in the country.

He thanked the Officers and Committee for their work in the past year. We had been recognised by the Sports Council (Eastern Region) and had received a trophy for "a special award for the most outstanding contribution to sport by an organisation".

We had in the last year retained the Eastern Counties Championships, runners up, by 1 point, in the National Championships and were again runners up in the new Eastern Counties League.

He commented that although discussed on a number of other occasions it had been decided by the Committee that Winter League and Cup matches should have a minimum of 10 players in a team.

There were no questions.

5. A transcript of the Secretarys report is attached hereto with the main points being that membership had risen to 99 Members and 9 Associate Members and that 2 or 3 more may soon join.

He felt that the award from the Sports Council and the maintaining of membership numbers were connected.

A "for sale and wanted" sheet on equipment had been a successful innovation during the year.

The Secretary also commented that only by measuring the seasons County successes against the previous all conquering season could it be considered to have been anything other than a success. Other areas are, however, catching us up so life will be difficult in the future.

Suffolk will be hosting the 1994 Eastern Counties Championships on Sunday, 30th October at Holywells School, Ipswich and it is the English County Championships a fortnight earlier at Hemsby. As an additional incentive it was likely that the coming seasons Suffolk Championship winners would qualify for National Championships.

Entries to the Suffolk Championships were again down but the completion of each in one day had been welcomed. The catering had not been successful but there was optimism for the 1994/5 season.

Since the Suffolk Championships had been going in their present form, i.e from the 1987/8 season, he had given points for placings and weighted them so that recent successes counted for more than older ones. The results were posted on the wall but added that he wouldn't be circulating these unless there was a call to do so (there was and they are enclosed with these Minutes).

A Public Address System had been purchased during the year and was available, for a small donation, for other events.

The Winter and Summer Leagues continue to be popular and other competitive bowling is provided by the Suffolk Coastal and Bury Leagues.

Reports are sent to the Press every week and although they gave us good coverage through the winter there were 4 glaring omissions. World of Bowls

carries a page on carpet bowls every month.

The Suffolk Charity Pairs will be held on Sunday, 7th August at Risby. He then reported that the equipment insurance scheme had increased to 174 sets being covered but another half dozen had applied too late for inclusion.

He warned Clubs that continue to rely upon their Village Hall insurance that it is probably inadequate and certainly will not cover equipment in transit.

We continue to be members of the English Carpet Bowls Association and they will be distributing leaflets throughout the country in the near future advertising the sport. A National Raffle was being held to boost funds. Our Chairman also chairs the Eastern Counties Carpet Bowls Association. The CookElectric English Pairs Championships had again been a great success and was run entirely from within Suffolk. He congratulated all those involved and, particularly the five on the Organising Committee. A "snatch" had appeared on BBC East Television but Sky had carried a 6 and a half minute recording which was first class however his live appearance with Tony Webber had not been a success. The doubt over the future had been resolved in an 11th hour change of mind by Pontin's.

He thanked Jane Pitcher for her photography, David Jermyn, and his helpers, for the raffles, for which Margaret Southgate and Judith Longman had bought the prizes, to those who had helped run the Championship days and Tony Webber for the thankless task of arranging equipment.

He saved his special thanks for his wife, Lin, for her support and help throughout the year.

There were no questions.

6. The Treasurer presented the Income and Expenditure (attached hereto) to the Meeting noting that it had not yet been presented to the Honorary Auditor for audit but would be so following the Meeting. These Accounts were accepted unanimously, subject to audit, and will be signed following audit.

There were no questions.

7. As Mr Raymond White (Polstead) was the only nomination for Chairman then he was duly elected to that Office.

As Mrs Margaret Southgate (Bramford) was the only nomination for Vice Chairman then she was duly elected to that Office.

Mr David Schofield (Offton & Willisham) was the only nominee for Honorary Secretary and was duly elected.

Mr Keith Armes (Burstall) was the only nominee for Honorary Treasurer and was duly elected.

There were no nominations for the Office of Press Secretary but David Schofield agreed to continue to cover this post.

Mr Wally Betts (Bramford) was the only nominee for Honorary Auditor and was duly elected.

The 11 nominations for the Executive Committee were duly elected (listed alphabetically):-

Mr David Cobbold (Belstead)  
Mr Trevor Girling (Claydon)  
Mr John Hayward (Belstead)  
Mr Chris Leach (Stutton)  
Mr Ron Smith (Barrow)  
Mrs Joy Williamson (Kenninghall)

Mr Arvon Evans (Cockfield)  
Mrs Sally Goodrich (Claydon)  
Mr David Jermyn (East Bergholt)  
Mrs Judith Longman (Harkstead)  
Mr Tony Webber (Offton & Willisham)

8. It was proposed by the Chairman, on behalf of the Committee, that the Constitution be amended as required so that Suffolk automatically adopted the English Carpet Bowls Rules without them requiring ratification at each years Suffolk Annual General Meeting. The proposal was carried unanimously.

9. This item became obsolete on the Agenda because of the adoption of the proposal to the Constitution under 8. which means the automatic adoption of the English Carpet Bowls Association Rules for Playing Carpet Bowls.
10. The Treasurer proposed, on behalf of the Executive Committee, that annual subscriptions should increase by £2.00 to become for Members £17.00, with £5.00 being used for the purchase of raffle prizes, and £12.00 for Associate Members. The Treasurer commented that the Executive Committee had decided at their last Meeting that entry to the Winter Leagues, 1994/5 and the Summer Leagues, 1995 would be £15.00, from £10.00, but that it would remain at £5.00 for the Joe Rice Cup and Chairmans Plate. The proposal to increase the annual subscriptions was carried unanimously.
11. The following matters were raised under Any Other Business:-
  - a) East Bergholt proposed a vote of thanks to the Officers and Committee for a job well done in the past year commenting that the fact that there had not been a vote for any office or committee place should be taken as a vote of confidence.
  - b) Upon the resolution at the last Committee Meeting to introduce a minimum of 10 people to play in Winter League and Cup matches Great Blakenham asked what the penalty would be if less than 10 were available. It became clear that a penalty was required and the Secretary agreed to put this on the Agenda for the next Meeting of the Executive Committee. Tuddenham St Martin asked the Chairman to explain the reasoning behind the introduction of this minimum of 10 players and he explained that it had come in after considerable debate. It was felt to be a balanced view of what the membership at large wished and took into account the views expressed by those Clubs with a small membership.
  - c) Barrow announced that entry was about to be closed for the SCBA Charity Pairs in aid of the British Diabetic Association to be held at Risby Village Hall on Sunday, 7th August, 1994.

The Chairman closed the Annual General Meeting at 8.30 p.m..

## SUFFOLK CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Income & Expenditure 1 June 1993 - 31 May 1994

### Income

### Expenditure

	£	Y/A		£	Y/A
Membership Subscriptions	1570.00	1015	Affiliation Fees	125	100
Raffles	940.44	2038	Raffle Prizes	517.50	505
Winter League	470	470	Trophies	832.10	1149
Summer League	245	250	Sports Hall Hire	1012.08	690
Singles Championships	382.50	507	Photos/Stationery	139.90	48
Pairs "	642	693	Insurance	888.67	575
Fours "	600	648	County Matches	686.00	2059
Joe Rice Cup	180	200	Charity & Other		
Insurance	930	670	Tournaments	70.00	5726
Sales	24.90	117	Sundries	106.00	3
County Matches	313.86	1428	SCBA Meetings	97.00	85
Charity & other Tournaments	98.38	5757	Postage	511.49	518
Sundries	43.28	-	Copying/printing	1856.25	1672
Sponsors/Donations	500	1050	Telephone	92.00	135
Interest	75.65	79	Bank Charges	114.92	NIL
			Equipment	485.00	NIL
	7016.01			7533.91	

### STATE OF FUNDS AT 31 MAY 1994

Accumulated Balance b/f 31.5.93	£4,034.10	Balances	Business	
			Premium A/C	3,133.01
Excess expenditure over income	<u>£3,516.20</u>		Current A/C	<u>383.19</u>
	<u>517.90</u>			<u>£3,516.20</u>

#### Stock in Hand

20 Badges @ £2.75	=	£55.00
24 Ties @ £6.50	=	£156.00
498 Stickers @ .35	=	<u>£174.30</u>
		<u>£385.30</u>

## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:

### MEMBERSHIP

We are still hovering around the 100 Club mark, it will be a proud day when we do hit 100.

### PRESS COVERAGE

It is disappointing that Carpet Bowls does not get as much Press coverage as in the past.

It is all the more galling as the amount of work put in by your Secretary in preparing the reports has not diminished.

### OFFICIALS

Congratulations to David on his appointment as Secretary to the English Carpet Bowls Association.

David has also been appointed Competition Secretary of the Eastern Counties C.B.A. League.

Thanks to everyone who contributed in any way to the English Pairs, it was another great success.

### RULES

A Rules Sub-Committee reviewed "The Rules for Playing Carpet Bowls" and submitted a comprehensive set of amendments to the English A.G.M. David Cobbold is to be congratulated on his presentation at the A.G.M. The Rules needed to be updated and Suffolk were again in the forefront. To me, it seems that Suffolk are viewed by some other parts of the country with mistrust and at the same time envy. There is no doubt about it that Suffolk are the best organised Association in the country and it is something we should all be proud of.

### COMMITTEE

My thanks to all Officers and Committee Members for the amount of work they have put in during the year, they have made my job as Chairman easy.

### SPORTS AWARD

Our impact on Carpet Bowls was recognised by the Sports Council (Eastern Region), when I received a trophy for "A special award for the most outstanding contribution to sport by an organisation".

Your Vice Chairman, Secretary and County Captain were also present and many nice things were said.

### COMPETITIONS

By our own high playing standards, the winter season may appear to have been poor.

- 1) We retained the Eastern Counties Fours Championship.
- 2) We were Runners-Up in the National Fours Championship, which we lost by one point.

3) We were Runners-Up in the newly formed Eastern Counties League to a very good Cambridgeshire team.

TEAM NUMBERS (MINIMUM)

A subject which has always been simmering just below the surface for a number of years is the number of players used in a team. This is a matter which is reserved to the Executive Committee and they have discussed it on a number of occasions.

At the last meeting it was agreed that all future Winter League and Cup matches should have a minimum of TEN players in a team.

RAYMOND WHITE  
27th June, 1994

# SUFFOLK CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

SECRETARYS REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 27TH JUNE, 1994

Let me begin as I do every year with membership numbers which remain as strong as ever. Currently we have 99 full Members and 9 Associate Members which is precisely the same as at this time 12 months ago however there are 2 Members and 2 Associate Members who await only the amount of the subscription before joining. I do not anticipate many, if any, of the existing membership not rejoining so anticipate that we shall be celebrating our 100th full member within the near future. With the euphoria of the first few years now over it is marvellous that we are able to maintain this level of membership.

I believe that one of the reasons for this was that recognised by the Eastern Region of the Sports Council in their awards for 1993 when they awarded all those in carpet bowls in Suffolk "a special award for the most outstanding contribution by an organisation to sport in 1993". We are well organised and everybody knows what is going on.

The year has seen the introduction of a "for sale and wanted" sheet on equipment and this had put several Clubs in touch with each other. Please let me know if you have satisfied your requirements so that they can be deleted from the next list.

The past year has not been as successful for the County team as the previous year but I believe this has been because of the rise in playing ability and organisation by other Counties. We stole a march on others and led the way with our pride, management and discipline but others have recognised this and followed our lead. I have little doubt that the mettle of your Captain, Selection Committee and bowlers is such that we shall not give in easily. I said the past year had not been as successful but that is relative to an all conquering 1992/3. In fact we are the current Eastern Counties Champions, the runner up, by the smallest possible of margins, 1 point, in the National County Championship and were 2nd in the first Eastern Counties League. It stands up as an excellent achievement! Tony Webber was again your Captain and Trevor Girling and Ron Smith were the 2 other members of the Selection Committee.

We shall be hosting the 1994 Eastern Counties Championships at Holywell High School in Ipswich on Sunday, 30th October and this follows, a fortnight earlier, the National County Championships at Pontin's at Hemsby. We shall, of course, be entering the Eastern Counties League again. I can promise you that although we may not win all of those it will not be for the want of trying, however, the standard of carpet bowls is increasing all the time and whereas we were undoubtedly the best in the country in 1992/3 others are now pressing us very, very hard.

Entries have again declined for the Suffolk Championships and undoubtedly this is because the bowler who has little chance of taking the title is loathe to turn up for what might be just one game. 1,024 people entered in 1992/3 with 1,099 in 1993/4. There is no doubt that, other than, perhaps, the English Pairs, there is no more a prestigious a Championship to win. The results of those Championships, and other noteworthy achievements, are listed on the Roll of Honour posted on the wall and which will be sent to every Club with the Minutes of this Meeting.

Whilst pointing to the wall you may also have noticed another list of names. Since the 1987/8 season when the present form of Suffolk Championships began I allotted points to those reaching the last 64 in the Singles and the Pairs and the last 32 in the Fours. Because what happened 7 years ago is not as important as current form so those points have had a factor applied to them, e.g. last year 100% but the year before 80% and so on. Although I have been keeping this since the 1987/8 season

modesty persuaded me not to publish it - as it is now 7 years since that time any such comment cannot be realistic. The list is, of course, alot longer than that and there are, in fact, 721 people who have now earned points! I shan't circulate to Clubs unless there is a strong call for it to be so.

As an additional incentive to become the Suffolk Champions it is likely that the successful bowlers will qualify for National Championships which are planned to be held next May.

Holywells School, Ipswich was the venue for the Championships last year and although the completion of the tournaments in one day was welcomed, I think, by all there one or two shortcomings. The catering was not satisfactory but an appeal last September brought no volunteers however we do now have two ladies who are going to give it a try and we are very hopeful that you will see a distinct improvement next year. You will have noticed that the Sundays that became free have quickly been filled.

During this year the Association have purchased a P.A. system and this is available to Clubs to borrow. Should you wish to do so contact Tony Webber who will expect a small donation. It will be up to you to fetch and return it.

The Winter and Summer Leagues and the Joe Rice Cup and Chairmans Plate competitions continue to be a great success with the Winter Leagues now having 47 participants and the Summer Leagues 48. The winners of these competitions are included in the Roll of Honour but they remain a pleasure for all those that take part in them.

Reports were sent to the EADT, the Evening Star and the Bury Free Press every week and although we had good coverage on the whole throughout the winter they didn't print 3 or 4 crucial ones, i.e. the Suffolk Pairs, the last week of the Winter Leagues, the Sports Council presentation and the English Pairs. Before leaving the Press may I mention that World of Bowls carries a page, at least, on carpet bowls every month. The response from other areas of the country has been most encouraging.

The Suffolk Coastal and Bury Leagues have continued and remain on a geographically restricted basis.

We were unable to hold the Suffolk Charity Pairs as intended in May but these have been rescheduled for Sunday, 7th August. Suggestions for the coming year Charity could be made under "any other business".

Moving on - the insurance scheme for equipment and trophies has continued to be very popular and numbers have increased this year 174. Unfortunately another half dozen or so sets were received too late and will have to wait until December for inclusion. May I again utter my annual warning to 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 profit making venture.

I did say at this time 12 months ago that I was looking into a scheme of our own for insuring equipment but I regret to tell you that this came up against all sorts of red tape including the Department of Trade & Industry saying that it would have to be registered with them and that it would cost around £25,000 to do so! There was a possibility we could do something unofficially but the administration of this would have been just too much for me, or someone else, to do have done in their spare time.

We continue to be members of the English Carpet Bowls Association and to take a leading role in its administration. Your representatives on that Committee during the last year have been Margaret Southgate, Arvon Evans and Tony Webber. The leaflets describing carpet bowls and where further information can be obtained which I talked a year ago of being imminent have still not gone out but they are likely to do so within the next couple of months. It is unlikely that the appointment of

a full time employee will be made in the foreseeable future. To finance present commitments, such as the promotional leaflet, it was decided to hold a once only National Raffle and each of you has had tickets for that. I was personally disappointed that the National Committee decided against a small subscription, in the order of say £1, per bowler which would have solved the question of finance in one fell swoop. I feel it is little enough for each person to pay to have others work hard on their behalf to further the organisation, administration and to secure the future of carpet bowls.

At their AGM in April, David Cobbold, on behalf of the Suffolk Association, did an excellent job in talking the meeting through a complicated set of Rule changes which carpet bowls will benefit from a great deal. They are now alot more sensible.

We are also members of the Eastern Counties Carpet Bowls Association and Ray White, as well as being the Chairman of this Association, has also chaired this body and it was they who introduced the Eastern Counties League. Margaret Southgate has accompanied Ray to each of their meetings and I have now taken over as League co-ordinator for the coming season.

The CookElectric English Pairs were again held at Pontin's at Hemsby and a great success they were. It was, once again, run solely by those from within Suffolk and it was a tremendous effort by all in stewarding, selling raffle tickets, working behind the scenes, lending equipment, etc.. Congratulations to you all. Although Anglia television didn't do anything this year there was a snatch on BBC East and Sky put out a 6 and a half minute recording. The live bit that Tony Webber and I did was close to disastrous and there is no doubt that if we had known it would happen as it did then we would not have done it. However we got it there and alot more now know of carpet bowls if not in the light that we would have preferred. The main organising team of Lin Schofield, Tony Webber, David Jermyn, Paul Marden and myself continue at the helm. The doubts over its future were eventually resolved and it will continue to be held at Pontin's at Hemsby with next years dates being 28th April to 1st May.

May I yet again thank Jane Pitcher for her excellent photography service - Jane turns up time after time, makes little or nothing selling the prints and yet charges this Association nothing more than the cost of the prints we buy. David Jermyn, has once again ran the raffles and he was helped in this by Margaret Southgate and Judith Longman purchasing the prizes. Tony Webber again carried out the thankless task of arranging the equipment for the Suffolk Championships and our thanks also to those who took their turn in running these Championships on the day.

Finally may I give my, and your, thanks to Lin without whose help, understanding and plain good sense I could not have carried out my duties to Suffolk carpet bowls and beyond. She is a tower of strength - truly the power behind the throne giving real meaning to the phrase "behind every good man there is a good woman".