

Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association
held at Claydon Community Centre on Monday, 26th June, 1995

The Meeting was preceded by the presentation of a cheque to Jill Anderson, the Chairman of TAG, by Andrew Cooper, from Hundon Carpet Bowls Club, on behalf of the Association. This cheque brought the total raised at the English Pairs Championships and the Charity Pairs (hosted by Hundon CBC) to a marvellous £2,933.00. Jill Anderson requested that her heartfelt thanks be passed to all carpet bowlers with the assurance that this will enable the support of many afflicted youngsters and their families.

The Chairman then welcomed everyone to the Annual General Meeting and thanked Claydon Carpet Bowls Club for providing the refreshments for the evening. He looked to a West based Club to host the AGM in 1996 and looked for suggestions to be passed to the Secretary.

There had not been any proposals to change the Constitution, which explained why none had been circulated, so item 7 on the Agenda would be unnecessary. Voting for Office and Committee would be open to all and not just Club representatives.

Before commencing the Meeting proper a roll call was taken.

The Meeting then commenced at 7.40 p.m.

In attendance were representatives from the following 32 Clubs:-

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|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Barrow | Belstead |
| Bramford | Brockley |
| Burstall | Chelmondiston |
| Claydon | Cockfield |
| East Bergholt | Elmsett |
| Great Barton | Great Blakenham |
| Harkstead | Hintlesham & Chattisham |
| Hundon | Kesgrave |
| Martlesham | Offton & Willisham |
| Polstead | Rattlesden |
| Somersham | Tithe Barn, Sproughton |
| Stratford St Mary | Stutton |
| Tattingstone | Thorpeness |
| Tuddenham St Martin | Kenninghall |

In all there were 66 people in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence were received from the Clubs of Brantham, Felsham & Gedding, Nayland, Needham Market, Risby and Syleham & Wingfield and from Colin Platt, Judith & Brian Longman, Ray Frost, Eileen Makin, Joyce Revell, Jim Walker and Ken Shanahan.

2. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on 27th June, 1994, were approved as minuted and signed to that effect.
3. There were no matters arising.
4. A transcript of the Chairmans Report is attached hereto with the main points being his congratulations to Walpole & Cookley becoming our 100th member.
A good year and we were runners up to Cambridgeshire in the Eastern Counties Championship and League and in the National County Championships. He thanked those involved in putting on the Suffolk Championships for their hard work.
He thanked the Officers and Committee for their work in the past year and particularly the Secretary and his "Secretary".
The Secretary had drafted a Constitution, which will undoubtedly be altered for the Suffolk Bowls Council and he supported the strongly the formation of such a body.
He then announced that he would not be seeking re-election and thanked all for their support in the last 7 years.

There were no questions.

The Secretary, on behalf of all those present, recorded the Associations thanks for all Raymond White's work on behalf of the Association over the years adding that the continuity of those in Office, just two Chairman since our formation, was influential in the success of the Association.

5. A transcript of the Secretarys report is attached hereto with the main points being that membership now stood at 101 Members, an increase since last year of 2, and 10 Associate Members, an increase of 2.
He also said that we had slipped off the top perch in competition but the County squad had conducted itself well in all respects. The hosting of the Eastern Counties Championships had gone well.
Entries for the various Suffolk Championships had increased slightly but the National Championships had not taken place. At our Championships the catering was much improved and thanked Doreen Dedman and Val Porter for their hard work.
The Winter and Summer Leagues continue to be a great success and other competitive bowling is provided by the Suffolk Coastal and Bury Leagues. They are all much enjoyed by those that play in them.
Reports are sent to the Press every week and although they gave us good coverage on the whole they had not carried some crucial ones. Football seems to be their preoccupation. Sadly the World of Bowls magazine went out of business but may have been resurrected by the EBA and there had been a monthly broad sheet called Club Bowler but this may or may not now be being published.
The Suffolk Charity Pairs, in aid of TAG, was highly successful and he praised the Hundon Club and Paul Goulding and Ellen & Andrew Cooper in particular for their work. He noted the support from the lesser known Clubs in selling raffle tickets was most heartening. Next year will be a joint venture between Harkstead and Stratford St Mary in aid of Glaucoma. He then reported that the equipment insurance scheme remained popular with 179 sets having renewed their cover.
We continue to be members of the English Carpet Bowls Association but the

leaflets had sat in the Sports Council offices for the last 12 months and not been distributed. David Schofield had not stood again for office but Margaret Southgate had been elected Vice Chairman. She had been a Suffolk representative along with Tony Webber and Arvon Evans in the past year. Raymond White had stood down from the Chair of the Eastern Counties at their AGM in April.

The 5th English Pairs Championships were a great success and were again run entirely by Suffolk carpet bowlers. It was a tremendous effort by all those involved and, particularly the five on the Organising Committee. The 6th Championships will be held at the same venue 26th to 29th April, 1996. 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, and those who had helped run the Championship days.

Colin Platt had requested that the Ousden Clubs thanks be recorded for the Committee's work and, in particular, the Secretary for keeping everybody so well informed.

6. The Treasurer presented the Income and Expenditure (attached hereto) to the Meeting explaining 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.

It was agreed that item 9. on the Agenda should be brought forward and the Treasurer proposed that the annual subscription should remain as last year at £17.00 (with £5.00 being used for raffle prizes) for Members and £12.00 for Associate Members. This was carried unanimously.

There were no questions.

7. There had been no proposals for amendment of the Constitution.
8. For the Office of Chairman Mrs Margaret Southgate (Bramford) was proposed by Audrey White and seconded by David Jermyn and being the only nomination was duly elected.
For the Office of Vice Chairman Mr Trevor Girling (Claydon) was proposed by Reg Price and seconded by Malcolm Rees and being the only nomination for was duly elected.
For the Office of Honorary Secretary Mr David Schofield (Offton & Willisham) was proposed by John Hayward and seconded by Cyril Chard and being the only nomination was duly elected.
For the Office of Honorary Treasurer Mr Keith Armes (Burstall) was proposed by Ron Smith and seconded by Trevor Girling and being the only nomination was duly elected.
The Office of Press Secretary was held open until the next Committee Meeting in that David Schofield had indicated he would be prepared to continue if nobody else could be found but Judith Longman was proposed in her absence.
For the post of Honorary Auditor Mr Wally Betts (Bramford) was proposed by Keith Armes and seconded by Tony Webber and being the only nomination was duly elected.
The 11 nominations for the Executive Committee were duly elected (listed alphabetically):-

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Mr David Cobbold (Belstead) | Mr Arvon Evans (Cockfield) |
| Mrs Sally Goodrich (Claydon) | Mr Paul Goulding (Hundon) |
| Mr John Hayward (Belstead) | Mr David Jermyn (East Bergholt) |
| Mr Chris Leach (Stutton) | Mrs Judith Longman (Harkstead) |
| Mr Ron Smith (Barrow) | Mr Tony Webber (Offton & Willisham) |
| Mrs Joy Williamson (Kenninghall) | (Associate Member Representative) |

9. This item was brought up under Item 6.
10. The following matters were raised under Any Other Business:-
 - a) Martlesham CBC requested that the new Committee might consider at their first Meeting a clarification to the Winter/Summer League Rules with regard to the selection of those that play twice where a Club have less than the optimum team numbers. The Secretary undertook to include it on the Agenda for the Meeting on 24th July, 1995.
 - b) Chelmondiston CBC asked that it be made clear that surnames should be used instead of or as well as christian names alone and this was unanimously agreed.

The Chairman closed the Annual General Meeting at 8.15 p.m..

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP

We have broken the magic number of 100.

Earlier this year Walpole and Cookley became our 100 Club. A special event was arranged and a scoreboard was presented to the Club by Margaret Southgate, your Vice Chairman.

COMPETITIONS

We had a good year, but by our own very high standards, some may be disappointed.

- a) We were runners-up in the Eastern Counties Fours Championship.
- b) We were runners-up in the Eastern Counties League.
- c) We were runners-up in the National Fours Championship.

In each of those competitions the winner was Cambridgeshire, but we gave them a close run.

In the Eastern Counties League we actually scored more shots than Cambridgeshire, but they were still 15 points ahead of us. Cambridgeshire are the team to beat.

My thanks to all those numerous people, too many to mention by name, who in any way help the County Competitions run so smoothly. I know that the majority just turn up and play, but we also know that a lot of hard work goes on before and during the day for things to run like clockwork. Thank you.

COMMITTEE

I know I have said this before, but you are very fortunate to have such a dedicated set of Officers and Committee working for you. We may not agree all the time, but we do agree that we are here to promote CARPET BOWLS.

I would like to record my thanks for the hard work done by my Secretary, not forgetting his Secretary, and my Committee.

SUFFOLK BOWLS COUNCIL

This is a comparatively new item, but something I think worthy of mention. David has produced a draft constitution for the Council. I accept that there will be amendments to it.

However, if the Council can get all the different bodies talking to each other, by this I mean, EBA, EBF, Indoor, Short Mat and Carpet Bowls, again it is for the betterment of Bowls.

As David wrote in one of his circulars, I have been Chairman since 1988, and I think it is now time to step aside for a new Chairman. I wish my successor the best of good fortune and hope he or she enjoys their term of office as much as I have. Thank you all for your support over the years.

RAYMOND WHITE
26th June, 1995

SUFFOLK CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

SECRETARYS REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 26TH JUNE, 1995

It has been an historic year for two reasons - the first because we have completed our 10th year as an Association and the second because it also marked our 100th full member. Not the 100th to have joined us, because a number have not renewed membership each year, but the first time in our history that I have been able to come along to an AGM with that mark having been reached. In fact we currently have 101 full Members and 10 Associate Members an increase of 2 Members and 1 Associate.

As I said last year it is excellent news that we are able to maintain this level of membership.

We have again slipped slightly from our perch on the County playing front having finished as runners up to Cambridgeshire in all of the National County Championships, the Eastern Counties Championships and the Eastern Counties League. This is nothing to be ashamed of and your County squad has conducted itself well on all fronts under the guidance of Captain Tony Webber and Selectors Trevor Girling and Arvon Evans.

We hosted the 1994 Eastern Counties Championships at Holywell High School in Ipswich and this was, of course, well run.

Entries have taken an upturn for the Suffolk Championships and they have seen a very high standard of play. Our County Champions and other noteworthy achievements, are listed in the Roll of Honour posted on the wall and a copy will be sent to every Club with the Minutes of this Meeting.

I said last year that as an additional incentive to becoming the Suffolk Champions it is likely that the successful bowlers will qualify for National Championships which were planned to be held last May. Unfortunately these didn't take place and there is no news at present whether or when they will get under way.

Holywells School, Ipswich was the venue again for the Suffolk Championships last year and the catering was a distinct improvement on previous years and we would record our thanks to Doreen Dedman and Val Porter for their work.

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 49 participants, the Summer Leagues 42 and the Cup and Plate started with 37. The winners of these competitions are included in the Roll of Honour and they are a pleasure for all that take part in them.

Results, tables and/or 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 some crucial ones, i.e. the Suffolk Pairs, the last week of the Winter Leagues and the English Pairs. It seems that they, like television, think that football, and particularly the demise of Ipswich Town, is the only sport that the public are interested in! The rule of thumb seems to be that IF they have spare room they will print carpet bowls but won't, however interesting it is, otherwise.

Sadly the World of Bowls magazine went out of business during 1994 but the title was retained by the EBA whom I understand have revived it although I have not seen the rejuvenated magazine myself. One of the ex-staff of the original World of Bowls has set up a monthly broad sheet newspaper called Club Bowler and I was courted very

hard initially to provide them with copy, as was somebody from the North of the country, but they stopped printing it after a while and neither of us is now submitting any. Perhaps you know whether it is still going?

The Suffolk Coastal and Bury Leagues have continued and remain on a geographically restricted basis and I understand they continue to be successful.

The Suffolk Charity Pairs was held last month in aid of TAG and we shall be making a presentation to them later in this Meeting - it was a highly successful event and a pleasure to be involved with such a deserving cause. I would like to place on record the excellent job done by the Hundon Club and in particular Paul Goulding and Ellen & Andrew Cooper. Next year we shall be supporting the Glaucoma Charity, which I am sure most of you know is an affliction of the eyes and the Harkstead and Stratford St Mary Clubs will be combining to make that a success. Before I leave the charity can I say a very big thank you to those Clubs who support it with the sale of raffle tickets. It is not necessarily the so called big Clubs as it is often those who take very little part in the Associations activities who sell all their allocation of tickets.

Moving on - the insurance scheme for equipment and trophies has continued to be very popular and numbers of sets of equipment included at renewal this year are much the same at 179. This Association scheme is provided as a service to members and is NOT a profit making venture. We have again taken out the Public Liability cover and it is provided free to all members of Member Clubs of the Association.

We continue to be members of the English Carpet Bowls Association and to take a leading role in its administration. I was the Secretary until April last but didn't stand for a further year but I am pleased to tell you that Margaret Southgate became Vice Chairman. The Suffolk 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 have unfortunately sat in the Sports Council offices in London for a year and have still not been distributed around the country.

At their AGM in April, David Cobbold, on behalf of the Suffolk Association, once again did an excellent job in representing us on the proposed Rule changes and succeeded in persuading those present to leave them alone for a year at least.

Raymond White, our Chairman for some years, relinquished the post of Chairman of the Eastern Counties Carpet Bowls Association and was thanked very much by all of the other Counties for his work.

The 5th English Pairs Championships were, as usual, held at Pontin's at Hemsby and were a great success, probably the smoothest yet, and, again, they were run solely by Suffolk bowlers. It was a tremendous effort, by all in stewarding, selling raffle tickets, working behind the scenes, lending equipment, etc.. Congratulations to you all. The main organising team was Lin Schofield, Bidy & Tony Webber, David Jermyn, Paul Marden and myself. The 6th Championships will again be held at Pontin's at Hemsby from 26th to 29th April.

I would like again to 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 run the raffles and he was helped in this by Margaret Southgate and Judith Longman purchasing the prizes. Several members of your Committee took part in organising the Suffolk Championships and Margaret Southgate, in particular, should be singled out in that respect.

I have been asked by Colin Platt to record the Ousden Clubs thanks for the work carried out by the Committee over the past 12 months and in particular to the Secretary for keeping everybody so well informed.