

Suffolk **Carpet Bowls** *Association*

The Minutes of a Committee Meeting of the
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association
held at Needham Market Community Centre
on Monday 15th May, 1995

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

Those present:- Raymond White (Chairman), Margaret Southgate (Vice Chairman), David Schofield (Secretary), David Cobbold, Arvon Evans, John Hayward, David Jermyn and Chris Leach.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Keith Armes (Treasurer), Tony Webber (County Captain), Trevor Girling, Sally Goodrich, Judith Longman, Ron Smith and Joy Williamson.
2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4th April, 1995 were approved as minuted and signed as being a true record by the Vice Chairman.
3. The following matters arose from the previous Minutes:-
 3. 7. The Secretary said that he had papers from the National Lottery.
 7. The complaint from a Club regarding the behaviour of a person from an opposing Club had now been settled amicably by the Clubs themselves and there was no need for action by the Committee.
 12. The Secretary had put together a draft Constitution for consideration by prospective members of the prospective Suffolk Bowls Council and the Chairman confirmed that he had received a copy through the mail. It is unlikely, however, that a meeting to decide or otherwise upon it cannot take place until August.
This Association does not need to decide anything at this point although it was confirmed that the Constitution allowed the Committee to decide whether or not we should join.
The Secretary outlined the main points of the draft Constitution.
 13. The Association representatives expressed their disappointment that the Treasurer had not notified the Eastern Counties CBA of our finances in connection with League and Championships. It had not been possible at the Eastern Counties CBA AGM for their Treasurer to present Accounts because of this. Apparently we were owed still for the hire of Holywells High School for the Championships last November as well as a shortfall on raffles of £75.00 - it may be that around £470.00 is owed to Suffolk from the Eastern Counties!
4. The Chairman had nothing to report.
5. The Secretary reported that membership remained at 101 Members and Associate Members at 10.

As Press Officer he said that he continued to send results, tables and

report weekly to the East Anglian Daily Times, the Evening Star and the Bury Free Press but that the printing of them had been highly disappointing. This was discussed in some depth and it was thought that the reason why nothing had been printed on Finals Day was because the newspapers considered the relegation of Norwich and Ipswich football teams to be more noteworthy!

It was suggested that the Press Secretary might approach the East Anglian Daily Times and suggest that we would be willing to have the leagues called the EADT/Evening Star Leagues if they would undertake to print results, etc. each week.

6. The Treasurer had asked that all expenses be passed to him before the end of the month.
7. It was generally felt that Finals Day had gone very well although the one end decider to the County Championship was felt to be an anticlimax however no other way of resolving such a situation could be thought of.

The County Champions are Brockley who beat Belstead in a sudden death extra end. Great Blakenham were 2nd Division Champions beating Cockfield in the play off and 3rd Division Champions are Hadleigh.

The Joe Rice Cup Champions are Great Blakenham with Barking runners up whilst Brockley took the Chairmans Plate from Risby in the final.

8. There was no County Captains report.
9. Raymond White, the outgoing Chairman of the Eastern Counties CBA, summarised the proceedings of their AGM. In his report on the year he congratulated Cambridgeshire on winning the Championships and the League. Although they had lost the play off with the Northern League Champions, Durham, they had succeeded in becoming National County Champions. He noted also that they had won the English Pairs for the third time running. He did not stand for re-election so Mr Ron Amor, of Essex, had been elected Chairman with Jill Emms (Norfolk) continuing as Secretary/Treasurer and David Schofield as League Secretary.
The 1995 Eastern Counties Championships will be held at the Woodson Centre, Ware, Herts. on Sunday, 29th October and the 1996 Championships at the Putteridge Centre, Luton on Sunday, 3rd November.
It was agreed that the Norfolk Open Triples on 11th June would be renamed the Eastern Counties Triples and that Association would buy and present a perpetual trophy as would they for Singles and Pairs. The Suffolk offer to run the Pairs in or around September, 1996 was accepted. These Championships would donate 10% of the proceeds to the Eastern Counties Association with the remainder going to a charity of the host Counties choice.
It was agreed that the possibility of all Counties playing League matches on the same days would be explored with a view to introducing it for the 1996/7 season.

10. The English CBA Annual General Meeting had been held at Hemsby on Friday, 28th April. David Schofield did not stand for re-election as Secretary and was thanked for his work in getting the Association up and running. Margaret Southgate was elected unopposed to be Vice Chairman. A number of amendments to the Rules were proposed but all were defeated so the Rules stay precisely as they were before however all agreed that they would ask all their members not to use a 32oz. jack.
The Chairman spoke of the need for a better Constitution but was not explicit as to how it could be improved. On the Rules he wanted to see a sub committee set up to consider the Rules so that they could be made watertight.

It was decided not to hold the next National County Championships at Pontin's, Hemsby so they will be held in Scarborough on the weekend of 4th and 5th November with play taking place in the Spa Leisure Centre. People would stay in hotels which were close to each other. Scarborough Corporation would give sponsorship of £400.

11. David Schofield opened up the subject of the English Pairs Championships by congratulating the large Suffolk contingent of helpers on an excellent job. It was a very professional performance carried out in a quietly efficient manner.

It was agreed by all to have again been an excellent weekend.

The Chairman commented that he had received complaints from people in Essex about having to bowl on carpet on carpet. David Cobbold explained that the only real problem was one mat in the Norfolk Room where it was a matter of the carpet beneath that had split and opened out during play. Arvon Evans confirmed that the carpet on carpet had been fine in the Nelson Ballroom. David Schofield explained that if there wasn't carpet on carpet then he would have to turn away a quarter or more of those people wanting to go. He also said that the organising committee, and Tony Webber in particular, had spent many, many hours looking for ways around the problem. He asked for ideas which were not too expensive and were practical, e.g. boarding out an area would be expensive and could not be taken up and put down again (if necessary) in the time available let alone the numbers of people who would be needed.

Arvon Evans complained that the bars in the individual rooms were closed during the bowling and asked that this should be changed for next year.

Although won by a Cambridgeshire Pair Suffolk had a great deal to be proud of in that we had 2 Pairs through to the semi finals. In the match of the day, full of excellent quality bowling and excitement for the spectators, Paul King & Jane Pitcher (Offton & Willisham) just got the better of 14 year old Robert Mittell and father David. It seemed that marvellous semi final had taken the edge off Paul & Jane who were not able in the final to reproduce the quality bowls of earlier on.

12. The forthcoming Suffolk Annual General Meeting was discussed and it was decided that the Committee would not be making any proposals to amend the Constitution. They felt that the annual subscriptions should remain at the 1994/5 levels of £17.00 for Members and £12.00 for Associate Members with £5.00 from each going towards the purchase of raffle prizes.

The Chairman, Mr Raymond White announced that he would not be standing again in any capacity. The unanimous thanks of the Committee were expressed to Ray for his work over the years.

13. The level of entry fee for the next seasons Suffolk Championships were discussed in that they had remained at £1.50 per head for many years now. It was decided that it should be referred to the new Committee to decide but a figure of £2.00 per person was recommended. Presently the entry fees were barely covering the hire of venues. The holding over of the decision would give an opportunity for members to comment. The Winter League and Cup entry fees would remain at the 1994/5 levels.

16. The following matters arose under any other business, viz.

a) John Hayward pointed out that the shields for winning the East and West 1st Divisions were now full and alternative suggestions were discussed.

b) Comment was made about the Suffolk public address system being not loud enough and very crackly at times. The Secretary felt that it was really a matter of it not being turned up enough because there seemed to be plenty of extra power available.

c) David Cobbold handed out several copies of the Suffolk Acre quarterly magazine, Suffolk Scene, and pointed out the article on the 100th Suffolk CBA member club, Walpole & Cookley. The suggestion by the Secretary that we might make a donation to Suffolk Acre or to become a member was well received but held over for the new Committee to decide upon.

d) David Jermyn, on behalf of the East Bergholt Club, thanked the Vice Chairman and Secretary for informally attending their Triples competition the previous Sunday.

e) Despite the decision earlier in the year to spend the Sports Council award of £100 on a Friendship Trophy it was clear that many members of the Committee had since had considerable doubts that it would work. It was decided that nominations would not be invited and the new Committee should discuss the matter. An alternative suggestion for the £100 was made for purchasing new shields for the 1st Division Champions and the Chairman was asked to make contact with the Sports Council and seek their approval for spending the £100 in this manner. If the Friendship Trophy was subsequently resurrected then the Association would purchase it.

The Meeting closed at 9.35 p.m.

Meetings of the Committee elected at the Annual General Meeting have been provisionally booked for Needham Market Community Centre on the Mondays of 24th July, 9th October and 11th December, 1995 and 5th February, 8th April and 13th May, 1996.