

Suffolk **Carpet Bowls** *Association*

The Minutes of a Committee Meeting of the
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association
held at Needham Market Community Centre
on Monday 8th April, 1996

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

Those present:- Margaret Southgate (Chairman), Trevor Girling (Vice Chairman), David Schofield (Secretary), Keith Armes (Treasurer), Tony Webber (County Captain), David Cobbold, Arvon Evans, Sally Goodrich, Paul Goulding, John Hayward, Judith Longman and Joy Williamson.

1. Apologies for absence were received from David Jermyn, Chris Leach and Ron Smith.
2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 5th February, 1996 were approved as minuted and signed as being a true record by the Chairman.
3. The following matter arose from the previous Minutes:-
9 b) Joy Williamson was unhappy that she had been the subject of concern that people bowlers were playing in more than one County's Closed Championships and could qualify to represent more than one County. Complaints were being made against her and that she had heard from another County of the problem rather than being told direct. She was assured that there was nothing personal but had been the first to cause the problem to arise and that there was presently no rule to prevent such a situation occurring.
4. The Chairman had nothing to report.
5. The Secretary reported that membership remained at 105 full Members and 7 Associate Members - a total of 112.
He read out a letter from Raymond White who had contacted Durham CBA and suggested that fixtures between our two Counties, for the Cup that Ray had donated, be reinstated. Durham had suggested that the Cup be awarded to the winner of the match between us at the National County Championships. After some discussion the Secretary was requested to write to Durham suggesting that matches be started again but that they should be separate to anything else and that we would be pleased to invite them to Suffolk for the first weekend in December, 1996 or April, 1997.
Wearing the hat of Press Officer, he said as always, that he continued to send results and league tables every week to the Press. Although printing of this information had been slightly better lately the EADT had carried only a small piece on the Suffolk Pairs and nothing on the Fours.
6. The Treasurer reported that the Premium Account currently stood at £3,440.34 and the Community Account at £1,242.66. It was difficult to assess the true position at present because there were various bills outstanding and that money was being held on behalf of the English CBA raffle. The 1994/5 Accounts were now with the Honorary Auditor being audited. He requested that any expenses be applied for by the end of May.

7. a) The all but final Winter League tables were distributed and all Champion, promotion and relegation issues were settled, viz.

Champions Division 1 East - Belstead
Champions Division 1 West - Brockley
Champions Division 2 East - Tithe Barn, Sproughton
Champions Division 2 West - Needham Market
Champions Division 3 East - Martlesham

Relegated from Division 1 East - Stutton and Elmsett
Relegated from Division 1 West - Syleham & Wingfield and Risby
Promoted to Division 1 East - Tithe Barn, Sproughton and Somersham
Promoted to Division 1 West - Needham Market and Hitcham
Relegated from Division 2 East - Nayland and Hadleigh
Promoted to Division 2 East - Martlesham and Burstall

Joe Rice Cup Final - Hundon v Hintlesham & Chattisham
Chairmans Plate Final - Ousden v East Bergholt

It was agreed that the Joe Rice Cup and Chairmans Cup Finals be played together at 12.30 p.m. on Sunday next, the 14th April and that the County and Second Division Championships should follow at approx. 2.45 p.m..

It was agreed that a sudden death play off should take place in the event of a tie.

The Secretary and County Captain were asked to present the trophies in the absence of the Chairman and Vice Chairman.

b) The Secretary reported that there had again been a very good response from Members to the request for their views on the minimum number of bowlers in a Winter League or Cup match and whether 9 ends plus two trial ends or 11 ends straight in should be played. 31 Clubs had responded with 23 wishing a minimum of 12 bowlers and 16.5 wanting 9 ends and 2 trial ends. The Committee will decide in due course what should be the format at a later Meeting.

c) A letter had been received, and distributed to Committee Members before the Meeting, from the Bury Carpet Bowls League Committee proposing a merger of leagues ostensibly because of fixture congestion. The Committee discussed it in considerable depth but remained uneasy that it seemed more a takeover of the Suffolk West Leagues rather than a merger. Particular concern was expressed that it seemed that the Clubs in the Bury Leagues were unaware of the proposal, that administration of new West Leagues be removed from the day to day control of the Suffolk Committee, that the team of four Fours in the Suffolk Leagues and 2 Fours and 2 Pairs in the Bury Leagues would be a difficult matter to reach compatibility on and that a separate financing arrangement was unreasonable.

The Secretary was asked to respond with the Committee's concerns suggesting that discussions should take place after the Bury League Clubs had the opportunity to consider it at their AGM in June although the Suffolk Committee would be more than happy to discuss it further at the next Meeting if the Bury League Committee wished them to do so.

8. The distribution of Clubs for the Summer Leagues was settled upon with a space left for Tithe Barn, Sproughton if they had overlooked entry. Clubs views will be sought as to whether the Summer Leagues, 1997 should continue to be based upon a geographical distribution of Clubs or whether it should be changed to another system as Clubs were often playing the same Clubs year after year.
9. a) David Schofield and Tony Webber commented only that the Suffolk Pairs seemed to go very smoothly. The Suffolk Champions, 1996 were June Pettit

& Arvon Evans (Cockfield), the runners up Sally & Jim Goodrich (Claydon) and the semi finalists Linda & Malcolm Tricker (Claydon) and Malcolm Laflin & Taffy Skippings (Elmsett).

b) Margaret Southgate reported that there were fewer entries this year for the Suffolk Fours. She wanted to thank Angela Ashman for covering her whilst she was bowling. The Suffolk Champions, 1996 were Dorothy & Stan Andrews and Trevor & Steven Cain (Great Blakenham), the runners up June & Peter Pettit and Jean & Arvon Evans (Cockfield) and the semi finalists Phyllis Fitches, Paul Clarke and Joyce & Ron Smith (Barrow) and Colin Leach, Doug Goodchild and Jennie & David Hambling (Wenhaston). Special congratulations were kept for Wenhaston in their achievement of reaching the semi finals.

10. The County Captain reported that a coach had been used to go to Blakeney for the away match with Norfolk and that it had been a great success - everybody was together and we were a "team". The food at Blakeney was excellent and the Secretary will write to Norfolk telling them so and offering our thanks. The Suffolk team had bowled very well to beat Norfolk by 23 points to 13 and 149 shots to 135. Norfolk had tended to play with rather too much weight which might do them well when luck is going their way but not otherwise. This means that we need 16 points from our last match. away to Hertfordshire, on Sunday, 21st April to win the Eastern Counties League. We shall again travel by coach to the match which is at Shenleybury and it was decided unanimously that the profit made from the raffles at County matches should be put toward the cost of hiring the coach

11. Margaret Southgate read from notes submitted by Ron Smith who, with Keith Armes, had represented Suffolk at the English Carpet Bowls Association Meeting of 23rd February. Minutes had been received of this Meeting and distributed to the relevant people.

Since the last SCBA Meeting the Notice of the ECBA AGM had been received and following an ad hoc meeting between those Committee Members at Blakeney and the comment of several other Committee Members the Secretary had written to say that we had no proposals for changes to the Constitution nor to the Rules. In case it was required we had, however, nominated Margaret Southgate to continue as Vice Chairman and for Tony Webber to become the Development Officer.

As is required by the ECBA Constitution we received notice of other Member Counties proposals which were from Norfolk of a couple of minor clarifications to the Rules, which we would support. Durham had proposed that the Constitution should be amended to say that nobody should use the name of the English Carpet Bowls Association for personal gain and that nobody who made money from the sale of carpet bowls equipment or who used the ECBA name in running a competition should be allowed to serve as a Member of the Executive Committee. It was agreed that we would support the first matter in principle but with an amended wording but that we did not the latter. It was felt that a manufacturer/retailer of equipment could be of benefit on the Committee and that Member Counties should judge the person rather than the job they did when they voted. It was felt, however, that an interest must be declared and commercial interests known to other Members of that Committee.

It was decided that Arvon Evans and Paul Goulding would have the Suffolk vote but that David Cobbold would be our spokesman should he be able to get there in time.

b) Although an indication had been received from the ECBA Secretary that the MELD Leisure proposal to run the National County Championships and to present an English Singles, Pairs and Fours Championships for qualifiers from each County would not be discussed at the ECBA AGM it was agreed that Suffolk should decide whether or not to support it in case it did arise.

As David Schofield and Tony Webber were two, of the three, partners of MELD Leisure expressed their interest in the matter and withdrew for the Meeting.

It was decided unanimously, by those remaining, that it would be supported and that the opportunity for consideration by carpet bowlers as a whole should not be missed and that an opportunity to raise it would be sought.

12. A communication had also been received since the last SCBA Meeting from the Eastern Counties Carpet Bowls Association asking for matters for their AGM Agenda to be submitted before the end of March. The Secretary had written asking for a decision on the qualification requirements for representation of a County and, thus, to enter Closed County Championships.
It had also been proposed that the Eastern Counties League should be decided not on game points but on match points, i.e. 2 points for an overall win against another County and 1 point for a draw with games mattering only if Counties were level on points.
The Chairman said that she had maintained a list of payments in and out and would let the Treasurer have it immediately after the Hertfordshire match for him to submit to Jill Emms, the ECCBA Treasurer by 30th April.
13. The final entry for the English Pairs Championships at Pontin's, Hemsby on the weekend of 26th to 29th April is 444 Pairs and around a thousand people have booked in for the weekend. The Organisers expressed their pleasure at this entry having expected it to tail off rather more than this. Arrangements are all but complete and another super weekend is expected.
14. The following matters were raised under any other business, viz.
 - a) Judith Longman understood that David Jermyn would not be offering to run the SCBA Raffles next season so offered the Harkstead Club to do so in his place.
 - b) Judith Longman said that several raffle prizes had not been claimed during the course of the season. It was agreed unanimously that a free raffle would take place at the SCBA AGM on 24th June amongst those Clubs represented at it.
 - c) In answer to the question asked by Trevor Girling it was agreed that Ron Smith's offer to run a competition to raise monies to go toward the expenses of the County squad would be supported.
 - d) Paul Goulding criticised County players not helping to lay out and put away equipment at County matches. He received wholehearted support for his comment with the note that the same situation existed at County Championship days also. The idea that 6 people should be designated for a County match and a Club for a Championship day was discussed.
 - e) Judith Longman reported that entry for the Suffolk and Eastern Counties Charity Pairs at Thurston School on 12th May, 1996 had now closed and that the draw would be done the following week and sent out to Clubs. This is being organised by the Harkstead and Stratford St Mary Clubs.

The Meeting closed at 10.55 p.m.

There is only one more Meeting arranged for the present Committee on Monday, 13th May, 1996 at Needham Market Community Centre and the Annual General Meeting will be held at Hundon Village Hall on Monday, 24th June, 1996.