

Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association



The Minutes of a Committee Meeting of the
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association
held at Needham Market Community Centre
on Monday 5th February, 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, Sally Goodrich, Paul Goulding, John Hayward, David Jermyn & Judith Longman.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Arvon Evans, Chris Leach, Ron Smith and Joy Williamson.
2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 11th December, 1995 were approved as minuted except for recording that Chris Leach was at the Meeting and signed as being a true record by the Chairman.
3. The following matters arose from the previous Minutes:-
 5. Sally Goodrich expressed an interest in becoming Press Secretary.
 9. The Secretary was asked to record in these Minutes that the 1995 Suffolk Singles Champion was Paul King (Offton & Willisham), the runner up Steven Cain (Great Blakenham) and the two other semi finalists Simon Rees (Tuddenham St Martin) and Andrew Hensby (Brockley).
 9. Suggestions of venues for future Suffolk Championships had been received and were Northgate Sports Centre, Ipswich, Thurston High School, Stowupland High School and Stradbroke High School. Each will be considered although Northgate Sports Centre and Stradbroke High School were known not to be large enough.
 12. Easter Counties League matches are scheduled for 3rd Sunday in March and the 2nd or 3rd Sunday in April depending upon when Easter fell.
 13. Two Associate Members had expressed their disappointment that they would not, in future, be receiving the Minutes of Meetings.
4. The Chairman stated that she was perturbed that several subsidy payments to County players who had travelled to Scarborough for the National Championships in November had not yet been made. As complaints had been made to her then she requested that the Treasurer gave her cheques and she would send them personally to the people concerned immediately. She was also concerned that the 1994/5 accounts had not yet been passed to the Honorary Auditor for auditing as in less than 4 months the current 1995/6 year would end. She concluded by thanking John Hayward for a well run Juniors Tournament commenting that it was an enjoyable day.

5. The Secretary reported that membership had increased to 105 full Members and 7 Associate Members and was pleased to welcome the return after some years of Tostock CBC and from last year Battisford CBC, Bures CBC, Amber Club, Leiston CBC and Whatfield CBC. Only Honington & Sapiston CBC have now not renewed their membership.

Wearing the hat of Press Officer he said that he continued to send results and league tables every week to the Press. Although printing of this information was sporadic the EADT had carried everything he had sent without amendment. The Evening Star had apparently edited out all reference to West Suffolk.

6. The Treasurer began by apologising for not having paid the subsidy to 5 of the County players and for not yet having got the accounts (which were ready) audited adding that he had been exceedingly busy and it had been difficult to find the time. He reported that the Premium Account currently stood at £3,880.19 and the Community Account at £86.77. He had now received the payment from the Sports Council of £92.81.

7. a) The latest Winter League tables were distributed.

b) The Secretary reported that there had been a very good response from Members to the request for their views on the format of the Winter Leagues, Cup and Plate. He had summarised each of the 30 Clubs comments which were overwhelmingly in favour of maintaining the 16 in a team of 4 games of Fours. There were, however, 7 unsolicited suggestions that the minimum number playing should be increased from 10 to 12 and it was decided that Members views would be sought on this. Other suggestions that had come from Members were that the Cup and Plate should be played in the Summer, that a different system should be adopted for picking out those who bowl twice, that the Captain of the team that is short should be allowed to choose who plays twice, that the East 3rd Division was too large causing a pile up of fixtures, that the Rule that a visiting Club who cancel a match with less than 24 hrs notice should pay half of the other teams expenses be re-introduced and that whatever numbers in a team were settled upon it should not be allowed for people to play twice.

Comment was made by John Hayward, and supported by Trevor Girling, that trial ends could be done away with and games increased to 11 ends.

It was decided that the Secretary should request Clubs views on the minimum number of bowlers being increased from 10 to 12 and whether games should be played over 11 ends with no trial ends in the Winter Leagues, the Joe Rice Cup and the Chairmans Plate next season.

There was also some discussion over the viability of regional rounds in County Championships and this will be further considered at the next Meeting.

The idea of an Ipswich & District League had been mooted to one Committee member.

8. The up to date Joe Rice Cup and Chairmans Plate results were distributed.

9. a) John Hayward reported that entries for the Suffolk Junior Championship was down from 36 last year to 30. He noted, with pleasure, the first time entry of youngsters from New Astley, Thorndon and Horham & Athelington (14 bowlers). The day went smoothly and the bowling was good. He felt that the final was the best he had ever seen with hardly a wood wasted by either bowler. The 1996 Suffolk Junior Champions is Ed Simpson (Elmsett), the runner up Melanie Pinson-Roxburgh (Offton & Willisham), losing 8 shots to 6 in the final, and the two other semi finalists Sarah Lay (Hintlesham & Chattisham) and David Cockroft (Somersham). He thanked those who helped on the day and Tony Webber for organising and transporting the equipment back and fore.

b) David Schofield and Tony Webber reported that there was an entry of 198 Pairs for the Suffolk Pairs Championships and that the draw had been made and posted out to Clubs. For the first time bowlers from different Clubs had made up Pairs but there was no reason why this should not be the case. It was also mentioned that Joy & John Williamson had entered on the basis that they were members of a Club which was a member of the Association (the basic premise for entering Suffolk Championships), Stanton, although they lived and did most of their bowling in Norfolk. Indeed Joy is the contact for Norfolk Club Tasburgh. There was currently no rule which prevented this and it was therefore feasible that a bowler could be a Champion of more than one County at the same time despite them being Closed Championships. It is also the present situation that a bowler could play for more than one, indeed several County sides in the same season. This prompted much discussion but there was little that could be done as things presently stood. It was felt, however, that the English CBA should resolve the question of boundaries and who could play for and in which County and the Secretary was asked to write and ask for its inclusion on the Agenda of their next Meeting on 23rd February.

c) Margaret Southgate reported that the entry forms had been sent out for the Suffolk Fours Championships on 17th March. Judith Longman would be arranging the equipment and Ron Smith would be helping Margaret with the organisation on the day.

d) The catering for our events continues to be provided by Doreen Dedman and Val Porter and the Secretary was aware that although the Suffolk Singles, Pairs and Fours did create a profit for them it was not enough to cover the lesser trade on such as County match days. It was felt that we must not risk losing this much appreciated service and it was proposed by David Cobbold and seconded by John Hayward that a subsidy of £25 would be offered for such events as County matches, Finals Day and Suffolk Juniors. This would be reviewed annually in future.

10. The County Captain reported that we had entertained Essex in the Eastern Counties League and had won by 23 points to 13 and by 169 shots to 128. It had been a good day and Essex are a better team than their performances show. He felt that each of the Suffolk Fours played well including the several who were being watched closely. The team spirit was good and was helped by his advice that Fours should stick together between games. Trevor Girling, Selector, also felt that the team acquitted themselves well but felt that a couple of changes needed discussion.

It was decided that a coach would be arranged for the away trips to Norfolk and Hertfordshire.

Margaret Southgate said that there had been a profit of £23.00 on the raffle.

11. The inaugural Suffolk Bowls Council meeting did not go ahead in January as most other organisations had not had the opportunity of gaining their Committee's support but that a meeting would be held on Tuesday, 5th March, 1996.
12. There was little to report other than the Annual General Meeting will be held on Thursday, 6th June, 1996 at Exning.
13. The Secretary had compiled a response to the request from the English CBA for our views on the format and venue for future National Championships and, after gaining the approval of the Chairman and Vice Chairman had sent it by the required date.
He had written, with regard to the ECBA letter complaining of what was

written in our Minutes of the December Meeting saying that the Committee did not wish to make a formal response.

None of the three Association representatives would be at the ECBA meeting on 23rd February at Blackpool so Ron Smith and Keith Armes agreed to attend on our behalf.

He had also sent his views of what should go into a 4 Year Plan off to the ECBA Secretary and had made it clear that they were his views and not necessarily the Associations.

14. Something over 400 Pairs have entered for the English Pairs Championships and there is still 3 weeks before closing date. There are likely to be some 20 to 30 Pairs less this year than last but that had been expected. All in all an excellent response bearing in mind that this is the 6th year of the Championships. In all over a 1,000 people will once again be there for the weekend. Only 8 or 9 Pairs have booked to come on a non-residential basis. Replies have been received from most, if not all, of the Stewards, Rafflers and helpers and there are few who are not able to help again. The compilation of the Programme is under way with a couple of new and different articles this time. Entertainment details have not yet been finalised because of the changeover of the Pontin's Entertainments Manager.
15. The following matters were raised under any other business, viz.
 - a) Judith Longman reported that the Suffolk and Eastern Counties Charity Pairs would be held at Thurston School on 12th May, 1996 and that the invitation to enter would be going out in the next week or so. The organising Harkstead and Stratford St Mary Clubs had been looking for sponsorship of £1,000 but had been unsuccessful in obtaining it.
 - b) Hundon CBC had offered to host the Association's Annual General Meeting on Monday, 24th June, 1996 and this was gratefully accepted.

The Meeting closed at 9.55 p.m.

Subsequent Meetings have been arranged for Monday, 8th April & Monday, 13th May, 1996 at Needham Market Community Centre and the Annual General Meeting on Monday, 24th June, 1996 will be at Hundon Village Hall.