

Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association



The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association
held at Hundon Village Hall on Monday, 24th June, 1996

The Chairman opened by welcoming everyone to the Annual General Meeting and thanked Hundon Carpet Bowls Club for providing the refreshments for the evening. She asked for an East based Club to host the AGM in 1997 and asked for offers to be passed to the Secretary.

She also explained that only Club representatives should vote for the proposed change to the Constitution but that voting for Office and Committee would be open to all.

The Meeting then commenced at 7.40 p.m.

In attendance were representatives from the following 33 Clubs:-

Barking	Belstead
Bramford	Brockley
Burstall	Chelmondiston
Claydon	Cockfield
East Bergholt	Elmsett
Felsham & Gedding	Great Blakenham
Harkstead	St Mary's, Haverhill
Hintlesham & Chattisham	Horham & Athelington
Hundon	Ixworth
Kesgrave	Kirtling & Upend
Martlesham	Nayland
Offton & Willisham	Polstead
Rattlesden	Somersham
Stanningfield	Stradbroke
Tattingstone	Tostock
Walpole & Cookley	Whatfield
Tasburgh	

In all there were 76 people in attendance.

1. Apologies for absence were received from the Clubs of Brantham, Risby Tuddenham St Martin, Elmswell, Capel St Mary, Thorpeness, Wickhambrook and Syleham & Wingfield.
2. The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, held on 26th June, 1995, were approved as minuted and signed to that effect.
3. There was just one matter arising, viz.

10 a) The Martlesham CBC suggestion that the League Rules were not clear with regard to the selection of those that could bowl twice had been considered by the Committee but no clearer wording could be found.

4. A transcript of the Chairmans Report is attached hereto with the main points being her thanks to those who had organised the County tournaments and congratulations to the County team for winning the Eastern Counties League. She thanked the Committee for their efforts and the Secretary for his help but reserved special thanks to the fundraising work of David Jermyn over the past 5/6 years when he has raised over £7,000.

5. A transcript of the Secretarys report is attached hereto with the main points being that membership now stood at 105 Members, an increase since last year of 4, and 7 Associate Members, a decrease of 3, but there at least 4 more waiting to join.

He was disappointed that in an otherwise successful year media coverage had been poor and would suggest to the new Committee that we should all get together and write to the newspapers and perhaps also have a carpet bowls week.

Both the Heritage and Bury Leagues were successful although there was a little doubt over the latter for the future.

Entries for the various Suffolk Championships had fallen but not enough for a round robin system to be possible. They had again been held at Holywells School, Ipswich but that a new venue was desired. Doreen Dedman and Val Porter were thanked for their hard work in providing the catering.

The Winter and Summer Leagues and the Cups continue to be a great success with higher numbers in the past year than ever before.

The Suffolk Charity Pairs, in aid of the International Glaucoma Society, was highly successful in raising £2,134.95 and he praised the Harkstead and Stratford St Mary Club for their work in running them.

The equipment insurance scheme remained popular with approx. 200 sets but he criticised the lackadaisical approach of Clubs to renewing cover.

We continue to be members of the English Carpet Bowls Association with Margaret Southgate continuing as Vice Chairman but they had had a troubled year. The National County Championships at Scarborough had been an organisational disappointment. We are also members of the Eastern Counties CBA and it may be that County Champions, at least, will qualify for an Eastern Counties Championships in 1997.

The 6th English Pairs Championships were a great success, excellently organised, and were again run entirely by Suffolk carpet bowlers. It remains the most prestigious tournament in the country.

He particularly thanked Jane Pitcher for her photography and David Jermyn for the raffles over the years - he will be sorely missed.

6. The Treasurer presented the Income and Expenditure and State of Funds (attached hereto) to the Meeting, it had not yet been presented for audit, and ran through the salient points. He noted that the Accumulated Balance carried forward a year ago of £4,828.20 was a misleading figure in that it contained monies pertinent to the 1995/6 year whereas this was not so much the case this year. The accounts are a snapshot of the finances on a given day and are not representative of the ongoing situation. In answer to a query from the floor the Treasurer explained that the County match expenditure was for two years whereas the income was for one and there was a further £240 yet to come in. It was also acknowledged that there were charity donations spanning two years included in the expenditure. These Accounts were accepted unanimously, subject to audit, and will be signed following audit.

As Keith Armes would not be standing again as Treasurer he wished his successor every success.

7. There had been one proposal for amendment to the Constitution which had been put forward by the Association s previous Committee and which was seconded by Martlesham. It was voted unanimously to amend the last sentence of 3. Administration i) to read "The Executive Committee shall be

elected at the Annual General Meeting and those elected shall be members of Member Clubs of the Association and shall not be a member of another County Committee."

8. For the Office of Chairman Mrs Margaret Southgate (Bramford) was proposed by David Cobbold (Belstead) and seconded by John Mower (Hintlesham & Chattisham) and being the only nomination was duly elected.

For the Office of Vice Chairman Mr Trevor Girling (Claydon) was proposed by Arvon Evans (Cockfield) and seconded by John Hayward (Belstead) and being the only nomination for was duly elected.

For the Office of Honorary Secretary Mr David Schofield (Offton & Willisham) was proposed by Ron Jenkins (Whatfield) and seconded by Ken Jennings (St Mary's, Haverhill) and being the only nomination was duly elected.

The Chairman thanked the outgoing Honorary Treasurer for his 4 years in office and Mr Paul Goulding (Hundon) was proposed by Keith Armes (Burstall) and seconded by Roy Lonsborough (Barking) and being the only nomination was duly elected Honorary Treasurer.

For the Office of Press Secretary Mrs Sally Goodrich (Claydon) was proposed by David Cobbold (Belstead) and seconded by Jimmy Green (Tattingstone) and being the only nomination was duly elected.

The past Honorary Auditor Mr Wally Betts (Bramford) had declined to continue in that position and the Meetings thanks were to be passed to him. There were no nominations for the Office and it was referred to the new Committee to fill the position.

There were 12 nominations for the 11 places on the Executive Committee and after a vote the following were duly elected (listed alphabetically):-

Mr Mick Adams (Stanningfield)	Mr Keith Armes (Burstall)
Mr Derek Brown (Elmsett)	Mr David Cobbold (Belstead)
Mr Arvon Evans (Cockfield)	Mr John Hayward (Belstead)
Mrs Judith Longman (Harkstead)	Mr David Mittell (Great Blakenham)
Mrs Jean Roddham (Barking)	Mr Ron Smith (Barrow)
Mr Tony Webber (Offton & Willisham)	

9. Mr Keith Armes, the outgoing Honorary Treasurer, proposed that the annual subscription remain at £17.00 for Members, with £5.00 being used for the purchase of raffle prizes through the season, and £12.00 for Associate Members and they were adopted unanimously.

10. The following matters were raised under Any Other Business:-

a) The Chairman proposed on behalf of the Secretary that the Community Resource Unit at Hadleigh be adopted as the Suffolk Charity for the year with the County connection being that David's son had been a voluntary helper there for some 12 months or so and as there were no other suggestions this was adopted. The Community Resource Unit is a day service for adults who have learning difficulties.

b) The Rev. David Streeter made an impassioned plea for the birth date for determining whether a youngster was under 16 and thus eligible for the Suffolk Junior Championships be put back from 31st March to 1st September. The matter will appear on the Agenda for the first Meeting of the new Committee.

c) Fred Hunter (Martlesham) asked if a final decision had been made on a minimum number of bowlers in a team in the Winter Leagues and Cups and John Turner (Rattlesden) requested that it not be increased from 10 to 12. No final decision had been taken by the Committee and it will be discussed by the new Committee at their first Meeting.

d) Eddie Fagg (Somersham) asked that a close eye be kept on the amount of cover on the equipment insurance. The Secretary reassured him that it is kept under close scrutiny but that he believed a new set could still be bought for the £550 presently covered.

e) Paul Goulding (Hundon) asked if the new Committee would consider buying trophies for the Summer League play off winners in the future. This also will go on to the Agenda.

f) Tony Cooper (Kesgrave) asked that a ruling be made to decide a winner in Cup matches where both points and shots are equal and again this is a matter that the new Committee will consider.

g) Peter Harvey (Barking) suggested that it would be better if all Clubs who qualified for the Summer League play offs were to play each other although he appreciated that this would be a longer day. This will be considered by the new Committee.

✓ The Chairman closed the Annual General Meeting at 8.50 p.m..

There followed a raffle of prizes which had been unclaimed during the last season with each Club attending the Annual General Meeting being put into the hat. This was not necessary for the Charity draw as all remaining prizes were claimed that night.

Chairmans Report.

This is the first report I have had the privilege of giving as your Chairman

It has been, as usual, a very busy year for Suffolk with the normal Closed Championships, both Summer and Winter League Play Offs as well as the County Matches. All these events need to be organized to ensure that all goes smoothly on the day and I would like to thank everyone who has helped in any way, there are too many to mention by name and I could be in trouble if I left someone out, so I will just say Thank You, it was appreciated.

The County Team has had a full programme again this year, the Eastern Counties Championship at Ware was the first turnout for the new Squad and although everyone tried their best, Norfolk got the better of them in the first set of games and Suffolk never made up the lost ground, and ended the day in 3rd position. That position was repeated a week later in the National Championships at Scarborough which were won by Cambridgeshire. However, the Team settled down to the Eastern Counties League in December and were undefeated throughout the season and they now look forward to playing Northumberland in November for the National Inter League title. Congratulations must go to Tony Webber the County Captain and his fellow selectors Arvon Evans and Trevor Girling

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Suffolk Committee who work very hard on your behalf, our Meetings are always interesting and I can assure you that if you contact any Committee member with a problem it is discussed fully before any decision is made. I wish to say thank you to two of my colleagues in particular, the gentleman on my right, David Schofield, for all his assistance during the past 12 months, especially his notes at committee meetings, they have been invaluable to me. My other personal thanks go to David Jermyn, whom I think has sold Raffle tickets for Suffolk for almost as long as I have been bowling, however, he has decided to call it a day, at least for the time being. David recently gave me a breakdown of the Assn. raffles he has run for the last 5/6 years and I was absolutely staggered when I realised how much he has raised on our behalf for the Association. David and his merry band of helpers from E.Bergholt have contributed in excess of £7000-00 to Suffolk funds. Would you please join me in thanking David, he will be a hard act to follow. We hope you enjoy your rest from the committee and you make the most of playing the game and buying instead of selling raffle tickets.

I hope I have made a reasonable job as your Chairman for the last 12 months, it is a commitment which I take very seriously. I have always considered it to be an honour to serve on the Suffolk Committee. Thank you

Margaret Southgate.

Suffolk **Carpet Bowls** *Association*



Secretarys Report to the Annual General Meeting - 24th June, 1996

Ladies and gentleman this is the 10th year that I have been Secretary and the 10th time that I have been able to report an increase in membership. At this stage last year we were 101 full Members and 10 Associates but we now have 105 full Members and 7 Associates. With 3 more Clubs about to join as Members and another as an Associate the game in Suffolk goes from strength to strength.

Your Committee have worked hard throughout the year and there have been a number of interesting and healthy debates. Very rarely, if ever, have members fallen out although there is much contrary view at times and I can assure you that where you, the Members, have asked for an issue to be brought up it has been done so. I doubt if any issue has been decided without a full discussion. Comparisons have been made recently between our Committee's meetings and those by other bodies and I can tell you that Suffolk is way out ahead.

Our Chairman has congratulated the County side on its success in winning the Eastern Counties League and we now go forward to represent the Eastern Counties against Northumberland, the Northern Counties Champions, at Hemsby on Friday evening 1st November for the National League Championship. This is followed, over the next two days, by the National County Championship.

Congratulations to our County Captain, Tony Webber, who has shepherded us through the season with the able support of Selectors Trevor Girling and Arvon Evans. Their job is a very difficult one as we all have different ideas on who should be in the team but they have put us back on top in the Eastern Counties by choosing wisely and by generating a good team spirit.

It has been a tremendously successful year yet again in Suffolk in so many ways but not on the press front where we have struggled to maintain a decent coverage in the newspapers. You should all help on this front in the coming year by supporting your new Press Secretary and telling the newspapers that you want carpet bowls to appear. Perhaps we should all write to the East Anglian, the Evening Star and the Bury Free Press at the same time? I shall suggest to the new Committee that we select a date and ask all of you to do that with a copy of your letter sent to the Press Secretary so that she can take it up with them. Perhaps also we should have a Suffolk carpet bowls week in the next 12 months where we all open our doors to the public in a particular week which will not only catch Press attention but also bring in new bowlers.

The Suffolk Heritage League, which is played in the North West of our County, and the Bury Leagues each enjoyed successful years although the latter may not continue this next year because a number of Clubs belong to the Suffolk Leagues also. This means a great deal of games in a season for them and they are finding it very wearing. There has been consideration toward combining the two leagues but there remains basic differences which have yet to be resolved for this to happen. Entry to the Suffolk Leagues, however, is open to any and every Club.

There were more entries in both the Winter and Summer Leagues and for the Cup competitions than ever before with the magic figure of 50 being reached in the last Winter Leagues. Interesting to see that half of our Clubs enter and half don't!

The Suffolk Championships continued on a knockout basis because the high level of entries precludes a round robin system and this may be the reason why we have a steadily falling entry year on year. The Juniors also had a smaller entry but that tournament remains the greatest joy for many of us - their etiquette, enthusiasm and bowling skill surprises us every year.

The names of each of the County Champions appears in a Roll of Honour which will be circulated to all Clubs with the Minutes of this AGM.

Holywells High School, Ipswich was the venue for the Singles, Pairs and Fours but it is not considered ideal. Thurston School is alot better but the cost perhaps prohibitive. So what is the answer? I can promise you that much thought will be given to this by your new Committee.

With regard to Suffolk tournaments may I express our thanks to Doreen Dedman and Val Porter for their catering efforts. The standard is very good and we would miss them terribly if they were to stop. Your past Committee has taken steps to avoid this happening.

The Charity of the year was the International Glaucoma Society and the Suffolk Charity Pairs was an excellent day run quite superbly by the Harkstead and Stratford St Mary Clubs. A total of £2,134.95 was raised and a letter of thank you has been received from the Society.

The depth of organisational ability in Suffolk seems bottomless with Club after Club running highly efficient tournaments which are a pleasure to play in. It makes you wonder why so many events run by, and in, other Counties don't measure up to our standards?

The insurance scheme on equipment continues to be a popular service to members however by the closing date for renewal this year of 31st May only 145 sets had been confirmed and paid for of the likely 200 and even now 3 weeks later there are 36 sets that have not been renewed and I am quite sure that the Clubs involved have forgotten. If I were to exclude them then those Clubs would be most upset but it is there apathy that causes the problem.

We continue to be members of the English Carpet Bowls Association with Margaret Southgate being its Vice Chairman. It has, however, been a disappointing year for them with much discord and personal differences meaning that little progress has been made. Our representatives have become very frustrated.

The National County Championships at Scarborough were something of a disappointment so are returning to Hemsby this year although they will be organised by the English CBA and not Suffolk as has been the case in the past.

In an attempt to heal a rift that seems to have developed with Durham we have invited them down to Suffolk for a weekend but early indications that they would accept have not yet been confirmed. We hope that they will do so.

We also remain members of the Eastern Counties CBA although they have few meetings in a year and are primarily the vehicle for the arrangement of the Championships and Leagues. It does look likely that, in the continued absence of National Championships, an Eastern Counties Singles, Pairs and Fours will appear in 1997 where the Champions from each County will meet in a play off. I can tell you that at a recent meeting it was decided that bowlers who had qualification for more than one County must decide at the beginning of a year which County they belong to. It is very likely that in Suffolk we shall restrict the entry to our County Championships to those who have elected themselves Suffolk bowlers.

The English Pairs Championships continues to be organised and manned by volunteers from Suffolk. The overall organisation of this is excellent with around 70 people playing their part however special congratulations should go to the main organisers Bidy & Tony Webber, Paul Marden, David Jermyn and myself. It is, without doubt, the most prestigious tournament in the country and it still attracts around 1,000 people despite it being in its 7th year.

I have two matters left which I wish to comment upon. The first being our grateful thanks, yet again, to Jane Pitcher for the photography - we take her for granted! She is there at every tournament photographing the winners even though she may not have been able to play in them herself. It is a labour of love for her and I am quite sure it costs her money. We are lucky to have Jane and we would miss her greatly if she packed up - thank you once again, Jane.

My last comment is to record, sadly, that three members of your Committee are not standing for re-election this year. Of these Chris Leach has been a member for many years but finds it very difficult to combine work and carpet bowls Committee work. I would, though, like to add my thanks to the earlier remarks of our Chairman and to recognise the superb work that David Jermyn has done for you over many years of running the raffles. He has done a thankless task with considerable good humour and has played a major part in putting this Association on the sound financial footing that it is. David you will be sorely missed and thank you from us all. The third is Joy Williamson who has been on the Committee for several years.

That ladies and gentleman ends my report to you.

SUFFOLK CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION
Income & Expenditure 1 June 1995 - 31 May 199

INCOME	1995/96		1994/95		EXPENDITURE	1995/96		1994/95	
Membership Subscriptions	1856.00	1828.00	Affiliation Fees	75.00	125.00				
Raffles	964.68	1297.70	Raffle Prizes	552.50	825.50				
Winter League	780.00	735.00	Trophies	1072.81	919.42				
Summer League	450.00	235.00	Sports Hall Hire	1641.92	1095.43				
Singles Championships	486.00	445.00	Photoc/stationery	100.07	69.87				
Pairs Championships	800.00	675.00	Insurance	1091.69	1016.00				
Fours Championships	684.00	588.00	County Matches	1425.75	743.00				
Joe Rice Cup	220.00	185.00	Charity and Other Tournaments	4430.42	114.56				
Insurance	1080.00	1101.00	Sundries	65.20	149.20				
Sales	3.10	3.80	SCBA meetings	75.00	75.00				
County Matches	751.00	241.50	Postage	713.40	619.83				
Charity and Other Tournaments	3364.18	1209.00	Copying/printing	1692.85	1855.65				
Interest	86.63	44.24	Telephone	260.00	127.60				
Sundries	523.04	517.26	Bank Charges	45.54	33.94				
	12048.63	9106.00		13242.15	7770.00				

STATE OF FUNDS AT 31 MAY 1996

Accumulated balance b/f 31/5/96	£4828.20	Balances Business Premium A/c	£3461.69
BALANCE 31/5/95	£3634.68	Current A/c	£172.99
Excess income expenditure over income	£1193.52		£3634.68

Stock in Hand

1 Badge @ £2.75	=	£2.75
23 Ties @ £6.50	=	£149.50
450 Stickers @ .35	=	£157.50
		<u>£309.75</u>