



**The Minutes of a Committee Meeting of the
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association
held at Needham Market Community Centre
on Monday 1st December, 1997**

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

Those present:- Margaret Southgate (Chairman), Trevor Girling (Vice Chairman),
Marion Brown (Secretary), Paul Goulding (Treasurer), Mick Adams, Keith Armes,
Derek Brown, David Cobbold, Arvon Evans, John Hayward, Judith Longman,
Richard Sago and Tony Webber

1. Apologies for absence were received from Sally Goodrich, David Mittell and Jean Roddham.
2. The Minutes of the last meeting were approved and signed.
3. The following matters arose from the previous Minutes:-

The date should have read Monday 6th October, 1997.

12.6 Tony Webber had been unable to go to Walsham Le Willows but Marion and Derek Brown had attended and reported that the members were very keen and have now obtained a carpet. The Chairman thanked Marion and Derek for their efforts.

4. The Chairman had only a brief report as the majority of her comments would come later on the agenda. She had received a letter from Brenda Ling from Burstall CBC praising the quality and reasonable prices of the refreshments provided by Doreen Dedman and Val Porter at the Hadleigh venue for the County Pairs Competition. The Committee are well aware of the effort put in by these two ladies and take this opportunity to thank them both for the service they provide. It is nice to know that their dedication is appreciated by others.
The Chairman would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone in Carpet Bowls a Happy Christmas and New Year.
5. The Secretary reported that there had been a very poor response to the Proposal made by Stutton CBC. Only 34 replies had been received, of which 28 clubs were in favour of keeping the Competitions played as they are now during the winter months, 3 clubs were for a change for playing over 12 months and 3 clubs abstained as they do not play in these competitions. An overwhelming majority to retain playing the Cup and Plate games during the winter months.

A letter had been received from the Sister at the Special Care Baby Unit thanking all who had been involved, both in running and supporting the Charity Pairs at which a magnificent sum of £971.00 was raised.

The results sheets for the Inter Counties League for Eastern Counties had been received and Rob Washbrook included his thanks to David Schofield who had previously been doing the co-ordinating.

A letter had been received querying the quality of prizes at the raffle at the Pairs Competition. The Committee would like to point out that because of playing the Competition in three different venues there were now 3 raffles to be furnished from the same amount of money for each competition. Dave Berry from Rivers Club had written to ask permission for some new club members who had moved into the area from Shotley to be allowed to play for Rivers. The Committee felt this an acceptable reason for changing clubs and as two clubs in question were not in the same division this would be permissible with the proviso that the bowlers in question would not be eligible to play for Shotley again this season.

6. The Press Officer had sent the League and Cup results and wished all the Committee members the compliments of the season.
It was brought to the attention of the Committee that some Clubs are not completing their Cup and Plate games by the stipulated dates. It must be stressed that late completion of games has a serious 'knock on' effect and consequently compromises 'innocent' clubs in future rounds of the competition. *CUP AND PLATE GAMES MUST BE PLAYED IN THE DESIGNATED TWO WEEKS SET ASIDE FOR EACH ROUND. THESE COMPETITIONS TAKE PRECEDENCE OVER ALL OTHER GAMES.* League matches can be re-arranged if necessary. The Clubs involved have been contacted and those unwilling to make Cup and Plate a priority should not in future enter these competitions.
7. Treasurer's Report - The finances stand as follows, £3079.28 in the Deposit Account and £3549.48 in the High Interest Account making a total of £6628.76. It was agreed to transfer some of the Deposit account money to the High Interest Account.
8. County Captains Report (See attached)
9. County Championships. It appears that the inaugural session of the County Competitions being run in three different venues was successful. Inevitably there were teething troubles but all were coped with on the day. All Competitions ran smoothly and ran to time. Some disruption occurred at the Leiston venue and steps have been taken by the Committee to see that this problem does not occur again.
Judith Longman reported that all arrangements were in hand for the Triples on Sunday 7th December. Sadly the entries are down considerably (less than 100 teams) and for this reason it was decided that the expense of 3 venues was not justified, so the Competition will be held at Hadleigh and Leiston venues only. Hopefully another year more entries will enable us to run all three venues. The invitation to enter the Singles Competition will accompany these minutes, so please be sure to send in your entries in good time.
10. Eastern Counties. Nothing to report except that the next event is the Team Bowl on 4th January at Putteridge.
11. English Carpet Bowls. Nothing to report.
The Chairman wished to thank Marion Brown for all the work she put in at the County Championships at Hemsby keeping all the scores.

12. Any Other Business:-

In spite of the item in the last minutes it seems that mobile phones are still being taken into Competitions. Can we remind bowlers that this will not be tolerated - consideration for other bowlers should be paramount and the committee feels that it is not unreasonable to expect arrangements to be made for each half hour sessions that a game is in progress.

Richard Sago asked if it would be possible to make more room on the score sheets so that both names of players can be entered. David Cobbold undertook to explore this possibility. This is perhaps the right place to remind all Clubs that surnames on score sheets are a requirement of the Competition. Can we also remind Club Captains of the correct procedure to follow if less than 16 players are taking part. The rules stipulate that the first 2 teams must be entered on the sheet first, a draw can then take place for however many replacements are needed. The numbers 1 to 8 to be drawn from. The named player in the position drawn must then play on the other may and in a different position.

It is our intention to hold the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association Annual General Meeting at Needham Market Community Centre on June 22nd, 1998 and to make this a fixed venue for the AGM in the future.

The Next Suffolk Bowls Council Meeting is on 19th January 1998. The planned open week-end for all disciplines of Bowls will be held on 2nd and 3rd May 1998.

The Meeting closed at 10.00 p.m.

Next Meeting 9th February, 1998.

The Committee would like to wish everyone in the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association a Very Happy Christmas and another good year of Bowling in 1998.

CAPTAINS REPORT

Since our last meeting, the County team have been to the English County Championships held at Pontins Seacroft Hemsby. On Friday 31st October we were able to defeat a much improved Northumberland team to retain the Inter - League Cup. In my opinion Northumberland are the most improved County of all, this coupled with the fact that they are such pleasant people to play against made the evening a real pleasure. The following day the Championships got under way using a new format which worked very well and kept the interest going right up to the last session on the Sunday. Unfortunately as a team we didn't perform consistently enough, dropping points to teams we would normally beat. However on the Saturday evening we were still in with a good chance, holding third position, behind Northumberland and Cambridgeshire. The first session on the Sunday morning went very well and we picked up on the two Counties ahead of us, but then we started to struggle and trailed off to finally finish in fourth place. The Championship was won by Cambridgeshire with Durham second and Northumberland third. Looking on the positive side, we have retained three of the titles we won last year, so we are still the team to beat. We now have a year to sort things out and get our title back.

Also since our last meeting the County trials have taken place. They were well supported and quite a number of new people entered the trials for the first time. Most of them found it difficult but nevertheless seemed to enjoy the challenge. The trials, as I said on the day, are not meant to be easy but are meant to put the bowler under as much pressure and scrutiny as possible.

The results have been sent to all clubs who had a bowler in the trials.

Three new County players have come from the trials and were included in the County match against Bedfordshire on Sunday 23rd November at the Hadleigh Leisure Centre.

This match was the first in the Eastern Counties League for 1997 / 98 and Suffolk was able to win comfortably by 27 points to 9 points. Bedfordshire are not the strongest of counties but do have some good bowlers and a win could not be taken for granted, so the need to concentrate and play to our best form was necessary. The new players settled in well and did themselves justice.

As I understand it after this first match, Suffolk's win of 27-9 means that we lead the table as Essex drew 18-18 with Cambridgeshire and Norfolk beat Hertfordshire 26-10.

The next competition for the County squad is the Eastern Counties Charity Team Bowl on January 4th 1998 organised by Bedfordshire.