

Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association



The Minutes of a Committee Meeting of the
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association
held at Needham Market Community Centre
on Monday 21st, 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, Judith Longman, Richard Sago,
John Hayward, and Tony Webber

In her opening remarks the Chairman welcomed Richard Sago to the Committee after his election at the AGM.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Jean Roddham, Sally Goodrich, and David Mittell.
2. The Minutes of the last meeting were approved with the amendment that Eve Warren is the Secretary of English Carpet Bowls, not Jill Emms as recorded.
3. The following matters arose from the previous Minutes:-
In the newly organised Champion of Champions Competitions Suffolk had been successful in two counts. Our congratulations go to Neil Jolly of Brockley who is now the 1997 Singles Champion of English Carpet Bowls and Jeremy Brown and Eddie Simpson of Elmsett who lifted the Pairs title at the Eastern Counties Championships held at Braintree.
4. The Chairman's Report.
The Chairman thanked Ron Smith for all the work that he had done during the years that he had been on the Committee, amongst other things he was a County Selector and on several occasions helped to run the County Championships. She had received a letter from Durham thanking Suffolk for an enjoyable weekend at Risby. They especially mentioned the excellent meal provided by the members of the Risby Club. The Secretary informed the meeting that a letter of thanks for their hospitality had already gone to Risby. Durham have asked if once more this can become an annual event and have suggested the same weekend each year. So next year it will be Suffolk's turn to go north on 13/14th June 1998.
5. The Secretary had received letters from :-
 - 1) Great Blakenham asking if a "NO SMOKING" rule in all Village Halls could be enforced by the Association. The Committee felt that this was beyond their brief and the Secretary was asked to reply to Great Blakenham and say that this should be a policy for individual halls to implement. The "NO SMOKING" at the carpet rule is still in force.

2) David Schofield, laying out the details of ownership of carpets and equipment currently available. One carpet is on loan to the SCBA, the rest belong to English Pairs and Meld Leisure. These are often loaned to the Association (free of charge) for Competitions. One other carpet was on loan from Lodge Sports which has since gone into liquidation.

The Secretary reported that already subscriptions had been received from 86 Member Clubs and 3 associate members.

May we remind you that your subscriptions are now due for those who have not already paid.

6. Press Officer's Report.

In her absence Sally had sent a message to say that the Summer League results were now being sent to her on a regular basis. For the Winter League she has made the offer that if anyone likes to include a stamped addressed envelope with their results sheet she will be happy to provide an up to date "hot off the press" league table. This will make considerably more work for Sally but I am sure that there will be times when some of you will be glad of this service. We are indebted to Sally for making this offer.

7. The Treasurer reported that we currently have £3518.37 in the Premium Account and £2557.33 in the Current Account. He had received a letter from the Bank offering the facility of opening a Special High Interest Rate Account. This information was circulated at the meeting and the decision was taken to take up this offer.

8. Matters arising from the AGM:-

It was agreed to defer the sending of the letter with the proposal made by Stutton CBC until September when all the clubs will be returned from the Summer break, if they had one. A copy of the Winter league rules have gone out with the Winter League Divisions.

9. a) Elections. Tony Webber was again elected as County Captain.
b) Tony Webber and Arvon Evans were willing to remain as Selectors but will need to approach a third person to assist them, preferably someone from the East of the County.

c) Financial support for the County Squad. It was agreed that all County Players should receive £20 towards expenses for the County Championships. SCBA will continue to pay the match fees for Eastern Counties. Margaret Southgate and Ron Smith are again running a Triples Competition in August to raise funds for the County Squad.

10. Winter Leagues. As the two West Divisions were somewhat unbalanced it was agreed that Needham Market should remain in the 1st Division West for next season.

11. The draw was made for the Joe Rice Cup and the first rounds of the Plate Competition.

12. Summer League Play Offs are on 21st September at Needham Market. John Hayward undertook to organise this day.

13. Suffolk Bowls Council:- Tony Webber and Derek Brown attended as Carpet Bowls representatives. Amendments to the proposed constitution were asked for and will be ratified at the next AGM. It appears that other Bowling Disciplines are not as organised as Carpet Bowls, for example there is no insurance cover as organised by SCBA.

The Outdoor Bowls associations are concerned about their membership dropping and are looking at ways to advertise and promote bowling in 1998. It has been suggested that an open weekend to include all bowling disciplines could be organised. They are particularly concerned about poor press coverage, it was admitted that this had improved now that results were being sent by fax.

14. Eastern Counties CBA:- Margaret Southgate reported that ECBA had monies in hand and a decision had been taken not to charge entry fees for inter County matches in 1997. It was asked at the meeting that an independent person be available at inter County matches to act as Referee in measuring disputes. It was felt that was not practicable but that a non-playing Captain or someone specifically designated before the match should suffice.

15. English Carpet Bowls Association:- Arvon Evans and Paul Goulding as Suffolk Representatives attended the meeting on the 12th July, Arvon commented that when these meetings were held in the North some Southern Counties were not always represented, the reverse did not apply. He felt that this is unfortunate but that hopefully this will be rectified in time. He reported that the July meeting was a great improvement on previous ones. Tony Webber, the new Development Officer (elected in April) gave a report which was possibly the first for about 4 years!. Tony has put in a lot of hard work in the last 3 months, contacting people in local government responsible for Village Hall activities. So far he has received replies from 3 Counties all requesting information and leaflets. Bristol and Avon had contacted him to say that they planned to include an article on Carpet Bowls in their next newsletter going out to all Village Halls in their area. He was updating all contact names and addresses on the leaflets before sending them. He stressed that he is not trying to get these Counties to join the ECBA but that this would be a natural progression once they were stronger within their own Counties. Arvon informed the meeting that following the success of the Champion of Champions Competition the same venue had been booked for 6th and 7th June, 1998. The National County Championships will be at Hemsby the weekend of 31st October to 2nd November and the ECBA agreed to assist with transport costs at £1 per mile. The ECBA Triples Championships is no longer with Potters even though it is still being advertised as such.
In future this event will be run by ECBA, this year on 10th to 13th October at Haggerston Castle. There are still places available. Entry Forms are available from Margaret Southgate (01473 743875). Arvon and Paul are prepared to represent Suffolk for another year and were duly elected. The Chairman proposed that expenses should be forthcoming from the County for delegates to these meetings. The Committee agreed that petrol costs and up to £30 subsistence fee should be paid. This amount to be reviewed annually.

16. Any Other Business:- Arvon Evans suggested that the Suffolk AGM should be held centrally at a fixed place instead of haphazardly around the Clubs. Needham Market is a possibility. He asked for reimbursement for expenses for the people who represented the County at the Champion of Champions Competition as some had to pay an extra supplementary charge. This was agreed by the Committee.

The Meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

Date of Next Meeting:- Monday 6th October, 1997