



# *Suffolk* **Carpet Bowls** *Association*

## **The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association held at Needham Market Community Centre on Monday, 14th June, 2004**

The Chairman opened with a warm welcome to all and before the meeting was officially opened the Chairman presented the Division Two shield to Freddie Way the Stutton representative. This trophy had not been returned in time for the League Finals Day for presentation at that event.

1. Apologies for absence had been received from the following Clubs:-  
Kesgrave, Thurston, Cockfield, Ken Jennings (Haverhill) Capel St Mary,  
and David Mittell (St. Blakenham)
2. Approval of Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting.  
Acceptance of these minutes were proposed by Tony Webber and seconded by  
Jim Southgate.
3. Matters Arising.  
There were no matters arising.
4. Chairman's Report  
Enclosed
5. Secretary's report:-  
Enclosed
6. Treasurer's report.  
Accounts attached.  
The adoption of the financial statement was proposed by Margaret  
Southgate (Bramford) and seconded by Derek Brown (Offton & Willisham).
7. Amendments to the Constitution  
The Executive Committee's proposal to amend the Constitution to allow  
the AGM to vote on changes to the rules for Playing Carpet Bowls  
together with their proposals for some rule changes had been  
circulated to all clubs prior to the AGM.  
The proposed amendment to the Constitution at 1 ii) f)  
The effect would make the Constitution read 'The Association shall  
become members of the English Carpet Bowls Association, should the  
Committee so decide, and adopt the English Carpet Bowls Association  
Rules for Playing Carpet Bowls *subject to any alterations decided by a  
resolution carried at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. In  
the event of a change to the published English Carpet Bowls Association  
rules prior to the AGM of the Association the Executive Committee shall  
have the power to suspend the application of any such rule change until  
the date of the next Annual or Special meeting. (New proposed words in  
italics)*  
The change was proposed on behalf of the Executive Committee by David  
Cobbold (Belstead) and seconded Arvon Evans (Stanningfield)

David explained that at present Suffolk Clubs were not playing to English Carpet Bowls Rules in the matter of the jack weights and if this AGM wished that to continue it would need to vote an amendment to the constitution. This enabling amendment would also mean that other proposed changes could be considered.

Keith Armes (Burstall) commenced the debate by saying that the constitution should not be altered to enable the SCBA to make alterations to the English Carpet Bowls rules

Ray White (Polstead) said that although he had sympathy for the principle of one set of rules there should be a power to make local changes like the ones for the delivery area.

David Bailey (Burstall) pointed out that variations of the ECBA Rules will fragment and every County will then make their own.

David Cobbold detailed again at this juncture, the case for the alterations.

Dave Cask (Kelsale) said that there should be one set of rules and all games should be played to them.

Ray White (Polstead) again stated that these changes should be made.

Richard Sago (Burstall) commented that all carpet bowls should be played to the same rules pointing out that Football for example all games are played to the same rules.

David Schofield (Chairman) said that he had sympathy with those who's opinion is that alterations should be made and by a majority vote the Executive Committee decided to place these changes before this meeting.

Following the debate the vote was taken to amend the constitution and was carried 15 Clubs were for the changes 5 Clubs were against.

Before the debate on the changes to the playing rules David Bailey (Burstall) pointed out that no provision had been made on the agenda for this item and therefore was a need for a formal proposition to be made with regard to these changes.

The proposal relating to the weight of the jack was then moved by David Cobbold on behalf of the Executive Committee and seconded by Stanningfield. The result of this vote was 18 for and 4 against.

The proposal to amend the Playing Rules regarding delivery areas effecting a removal of the delivery area boxes were taken in one debate as they were interdependent. On behalf of the Executive Committee David Cobbold proposed the three circulated proposals and they were seconded by Hoggards Green and Claydon.

Before a vote was taken Richard Sago (Burstall) made the point that even if Suffolk made changes to their playing rules, the County Squad would still have to play their matches to the English Rules.

The result of the vote on the proposals was 18 for and 4 against.

Mick Watkins (Barking) suggested that we should fight the rules that we find not acceptable and should be fought at National level and not at County level.

At this time the vote had already been taken on the jack weight. (Steve Danby) Martlesham again referring to this, said that it should be possible to make these to a standard weight.

Tony Webber (Offton & Willisham) pointed out that only one manufacturer infact make jacks and there is not a standard weight.

Following this the Chairman gave his personal opinion against changing the rules but welcomed the debate.

Further to the rule changes for Playing Carpet Bowls carried at the AGM the below is how the rules for Suffolk Clubs now read.

Weight of jack

Rule 1.9 The Jack shall be 63.50mm (2.5ins) in diameter and weigh between 8 and 16 oz.

Delivery Area Boxes

Rule 1.3 There shall be a delivery space at the centre of each end of the carpet which shall be 457mm (18ins) wide marked by two guidelines which shall measure 2 ins in length.

Rule 1.4. Completely deleted (this one described how to draw a box)

Rule 9.2 Should a bowler after being warned by the opposing skip or a referee continue to infringe this rule then that wood shall be declared dead, stopped and removed from the carpet.

(The requirement to release the bowl in the delivery area has been removed)

David Schofield continued by saying that the Committee is concerned about the way things are going in carpet bowls at the ECBA. In his opinion it has to some extent lost its way and they should be developing this sport throughout England not just at County level. David also pointed out that the ECBA Annual General Meeting Suffolk proposed that the Officers, who through the posts that they hold do the majority of the work are excluded from voting at their meetings be allowed a vote. The result was that a seconder could not be found which illustrated the difficulty of getting change.

Further to this David pointed out that in the early days of this Association when membership was small each Club had in Suffolk 2 members on this Committee. Eventually the membership became too great for this and then representatives were then elected to the Committee. The ECBA, in his opinion should now introduce this system for electing their Committee.

David continued that he had read out a statement to the ECBA Annual General Meeting which had been put on the Agenda for the ECBA committee meeting in July which he hoped to attend.

8. The Election of the Officers.

The following were all returned for another year unopposed:

a)	Chairman	David Schofield	Offton & Willisham
b)	Vice Chairman	Margaret Southgate	Bramford
c)	Secretary	Marion Brown	Offton & Willisham
d)	Treasurer	Paul Goulding	Stanningfield
e)	Match Secretary	Sally Goodrich	Claydon
f)	Committee Members		
	Keith Armes	Burstall	Derek Brown Offton & Willisham
	Dave Cask	Kelsale	David Cobbold Belstead
	Arvon Evans	Stanningfield	Jim Goodrich Claydon
	Richard Sago	Burstall	John Varden Old Felixstowe
	Tony Webber	Offton & Willisham	

As there is provision for 11 Committee members and only 9 were re-elected the Chairman asked if there were any members present who would be prepared to fill these places.

Steven Cain (Gt. Blakenham) was proposed by Jeremy Brown (Gt. Blakenham) and seconded by David Cobbold (Belstead).

Carl Buckle (Tostock) was proposed by Anne Blundell (Hoggards Green) and seconded by Mark Ward (Risby).

Both agreed to stand and no further nominations ere received.

g) Honorary Auditor

The Chairman told the meeting that Paul Daniels did not wish to continue and there would be a need to find a new person prepared to do this. No offers were forthcoming from the floor and the Chairman asked the meeting if members would give this matter some consideration and pointed out that this position did not have to be held by a Carpet bowls player. Paul was thanked for auditing the books over the last few years.

10. Annual Membership Subscription

The Treasurer proposed that this should remain the same at £20.00 with a further £5.00 going towards raffle prizes for tournaments throughout the year making a total of £25.00 with Associate members paying £15.00. This was seconded by David Cobbold (Belstead).

11. Any Other Business:-

a) The matter of the venues for the Closed Championships was raised and various ideas were made.

The Secretary pointed out that Hadleigh, whilst the Sports Centre was available to hire in the future, the School would not be thus making it impossible to provide refreshments at tournaments.

Rita Daniels (Kelsale) urged the Committee to consider returning to three venues in different areas as recommended previously. The suggestions made were to continue at Moreton Hall, and consider using Needham Market Community Centre as a central venue and in the east of the County the Community Hall at Woodbridge.

Ann Blundell (Hoggards Green) suggested that the King Edwards Upper School in Bury St Edmunds might be considered. It was established that the hire for this venue would be in the region of £400.00 per day.

b) Ray White (Polstead) said that the matter of playing less than 16 players in league matches should be addressed.

Steve Danby (Martlesham) suggested that some clubs might be playing short on purpose.

David Cobbold (Belstead) asked that Clubs put their ideas to resolve this to the Committee for consideration.

Steven Cain (St Blakenham) suggested that deductions should be made for those who play twice in a match.

Neil Jolly (Brockley) said he would challenge anyone who has the advantage of playing short numbers.

Sally Goodrich (Claydon) felt that there was an advantage to those who were in to play the extra game as they would already have had a warm up game.

Arvon Evans (Stanningfield) said that in his opinion, teams playing short were more likely to win.

Eva Rolfe (Nayland) said that she was aware of members attending games but not playing even though the team was short of players.

David Bailey (Burstall) said that the Committee in the past have promised to address this problem and urges them to look at this more seriously.

Tuddenham St Martin representative asked about the English rules relating to this. It was clarified by the Chairman that the ECBA do not lay down rules for league matches, they only agree the rules for playing the game as opposed to matches, tournaments etc.,

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting saying that he felt it had been a very good meeting with most present making comment on one matter or another.

The meeting closed at 9.16 p.m.

The draw for raffle prizes no claimed at the Closed Championships was made.

 20/6/05

## SUFFOLK CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

### Chairmans Report to Annual General Meeting on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2004

Ladies and Gentlemen, carpet bowlers. I regret that I have not, by my standards anyway, been a good Chairman. Circumstances have been such that I have not been able to put in as much time as I would have liked but, should you elect me to serve as your Chairman for another year then I will do better!

A note of sadness first. At this time last year I spoke of the passing of Joe Rice well the other chap at that time who was most responsible for getting the sport of carpet bowls on to its feet in Suffolk 20 years or so ago was George Rous who was an uncompromising Treasurer. He thought long and hard about the game and was a stickler for the Rules, etiquette, indeed everything to do with it. As well as this he was a very good bowler and with Trish, his wife, a Pair that was extraordinarily difficult to beat. His work as Treasurer was exemplary. We pass to Trish our sadness at her loss.

Moving forward may I reassure you that you have a very good and hardworking Committee although not all have been as active as others. However I do not agree that it is a pre-requisite for a Committee member to lay out equipment for a tournament - we all have our skills and abilities and it is a blend of these that serve carpet bowls best.

I was very pleased that we were able to co-opt David Cobbold and Arvon Evans on to the Committee and their experience and common sense was valuable. I am pleased that they, and most of the rest of the Committee, are standing for election again. There is considerable expertise on your Committee and it would be excellent to see it added to by younger bowlers and those from the lesser known Clubs.

The initiative of us all having a Carpet Bowls Club Opening Day in the same week in March did not work too well and a couple of weeks beforehand there were only 11 Clubs who had let me know that they would take part. However it became apparent after we had cancelled it that more Clubs were intending to open up but we were unaware of these. I will leave it a year and then try again.

I have to tell you that we had, made against us, a very serious allegation of foul and abusive language in a County Match and apologies were demanded of an individual bowler and the County Association. We owe a vote of thanks to David Cobbold and Arvon Evans for their thorough and sensible investigation of the matter. That the allegations were withdrawn unequivocally is testament to that.

The year saw the introduction of a carpet bowls mid week break at Potters at Hopton and it was pleasing to see that Suffolk bowlers took away all the trophies. I understand that it was an enjoyable week but Potters will undoubtedly increase the price markedly within 2 years.

Although not able to attend myself I am very pleased to tell you that Suffolk did an excellent job of organising the English Triples maintaining the high standard that has become the norm in this County.

Our delegate to the ECBA has been Richard Sago and I do thank him for carrying out what has often been a thankless and boring task. He has had to suffer matters being discussed over and over again at one meeting after another and then had to come back to our Committee Meetings full of frustration at the lack of decision and progress.

Rita Daniels has taken the provision of refreshments at many, many of our carpet bowls events to new heights and it is very sad that she will not be continuing. She will be a hard act to follow.

Sally & Jim Goodrich have yet again worked hard as Match Secretaries and it is unfair that they should receive criticism for the lack of reports in the EADT, etc. The Press will report what they want, when they want and only then when they have got room for it!

May I thank Tony Webber and his Selectors for their work with the County team keeping Suffolk at the forefront of things. We don't always win but we are feared throughout the country!

I would like to finish by thanking Marion for her support and help through the year. She has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Association and we all owe her a great deal. It is always the same with a willing worker, we have taken advantage of her enthusiasm without always giving the support that we should.

# SUFFOLK CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

## SECRETARY'S REPORT TO THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 14TH JUNE, 2004

Thankyou Mr Chairman and it is a pleasure to stand before you once again and report on another successful year of carpet bowls in Suffolk.

Membership of the Association now stands at 104 clubs despite losing 3 of the previous member clubs, *Hawstead, Kirtling & Upend and Wetherden*, on the brighter side we welcomed *Freckenham* to the Association and hopefully after this evening *Westhorpe* will be joining.

We have again held very successfully the closed Singles, Pairs, Triples and Rinks championships, although entries were slightly down this year an excellent standard of bowling was achieved. The venues for these championships still causes some concern, the committee every year tries to find suitable premises for these.

These tournaments are, of course, our major source of income in the year and I must thank *Richard Sago* and his team for organising these. It would be nice if a few more clubs entered these tournaments.

On the County scene we were hosts for the English Rinks, this was held at *Hadleigh Leisure Centre*, I am very pleased to say that *Jean, Bill and Eddie Simpson* from *Elmsett and Colin, Avril and Roger Page* from *Hintlesham & Chattisham* won this event, We are also hosting the Eastern Counties Champion of Champions here next Sunday.

The County team has had a mixed year, all the results and reports have been sent with the minutes of meetings.

The annual Friendly match against *Durham* continues to be a success, its Suffolk's turn to go to *Durham* this year, this takes place in August.

The Winter Leagues and Summer Leagues and the *Joe Rice Cup* and *Chairman's plate* competitions continue to be a great success. The final tables, the current position in the Summer Leagues and the *Roll of Honour* are on the wall for your perusal.

I'm sorry we did not have a Charity event this year, please come forward if your club or clubs would like to arrange this.

The Insurance scheme for equipment and public liability has continued to be very popular, 93 Clubs insured through the association. I am sorry to say that there will be a slight increase again this year but its still good value.

A special thankyou to *Mick Watkins* for always making himself available at all of our matches and competitions for getting the equipment out.

Referee courses have gone well we now have quite a good number of qualified referees.

Thank you to *Richard Sago* for organising this.

Many thanks to the Committee for their hard work and support over the last year, special thankyou to *Rita* who has taken the minutes at all meetings, *Rita* has decided to stand down this year, she will be missed by all. Thankyou to *David* our Chairman,

