

**The Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting of
The Suffolk carpet Bowls Association
Held at Offton Village Hall
On Monday 21st March 2005**

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Those present: David Schofield (Chairman), Marion Brown (Secretary), Jim Goodrich Keith Armes, Richard Sago, Carl Buckle, Margaret Southgate (Vice Chairman), Tony Webber, John Varden Sally Goodrich, David Cobbold, Derek Brown, Paul Goulding, Arvon Evans.

1. Apologies for absence:- David Cask, Steven Cain
2. The minutes of the previous meeting were taken as read and confirmed by the meeting as a true record and signed.
3. Matters Arising:-
 - a) from item 8 c) *The new county team uniforms*, sponsored in part by Portmak Joinery, have been distributed and a photograph will be taken at the next match. The changes requested to the ties made production very difficult and further supplies from this source will not be available. A decision was made that when players leave the squad they will return the tie and sweater/cardigan.
 -) from item 11 - *Changes to Winter league rules*. Some correspondence had been received from clubs critical of the decision to change from the present system of allowing players to play twice. The correspondence was circulated and discussed together with all clubs playing records for the current system.
The committee felt it was necessary to set out again the reasons for the change.
The last AGM discussed the continuing problem at length and gave the Executive Committee the clearest of directions that the present system must be changed. The option to stay as we were, as the correspondents wanted, was not open to us. The choice was not between the present system and a new one but between the new systems being considered over a three month study by a sub committee. Their report was debated and a unanimous decision was taken in favour of the new system set out in the last minutes. The alternative, which was rejected, was to allow players to play twice but with a more complicated selection system plus shot penalties where players played a second time.
All decisions regarding the Winter leagues are made by the Executive Committee, elected by the AGM and responsible to it. The very strong feeling expressed at the last AGM left us with a clear task that could not be shelved any longer.
We are mindful of the concern of small clubs who have to field less than 16 players and they were represented on the Sub Committee that studied the problem. We would ask that all clubs 'give the new system a go' in September for a season, whilst we monitor the position and we may all be able to draw some conclusions next spring.
Richard Sago asked that we revive the idea of an 'Open Bowls Week' at clubs throughout Suffolk to get publicity and encourage interest and new members. The Committee would welcome a response to this idea and ask that Clubs indicate their interest so that a follow up may be planned.
 - c) from item 12 *AOB* - Rita Daniels has offered to do the refreshments for County home matches for this season.

4. **Chairman's Report:** - The Chairman said that everyone may not be aware of the efforts by the County Squad players and their friends to raise funds to help with the considerable costs of some County matches. The County Squad elect a Sub Committee and funds are raised by the Chairman's Triples, Team Bowl and recently by a Quiz. They run raffles, buying and obtaining prizes, and are well supported by squad members and friends. The Committee were grateful for their efforts.
5. **Secretary's Report:-** The Pairs at Holbrook will be on 7th August, this will clash with the Durham weekend but was the only date available to Stutton. An invitation had been received to give a bowls demonstration for the opening of the new Lavenham Village Hall in mid April. A club had been formed with 30 members.
6. **Match Secretary's report:** - The Joe Rice final will be Barking v Great Blakenham, the leagues were not finalised yet and the meeting confirmed that promotion and relegation should be 2 up and 2 down.
7. **Treasurers report:** - Paul Goulding had circulated a report to the meeting which showed details of the accounts and a total held of £5,521.73. At this time last year it was over £6,000 but this a result of one off expenditure and there was no cause for concern.
8. **County Business:-**
 - a) **Captain's report:-** Tony Webber had prepared a report for circulation with details of the wins against Norfolk, Hertfordshire and Suffolk Leagues v Heritage all by the same score 26 - 10.
 - b) **Closed Tournaments - -** Richard Sago circulated details of the arrangements for April 3rd the 6 mats will all be mastermats, Rita Daniels was providing refreshments and John Varden and Joy would run the raffle. Other Committee members had been co-opted to help Burstall volunteers on the day
 - c) **Closed Finals day :** May 8th Leagues, Cup and Plate. Marion Brown and Margaret Southgate to run the day with help from Committee members and John Varden and Joy will do the raffle
9. **Eastern Counties Carpet Bowls Association:-** At the Team Bowl Suffolk were placed 3rd instead of 2nd due to an error and although representations were made the next day the scorecards had been destroyed and the result had to stand.
10. **English Carpet Bowls Association:-** In the absence of a delegate Margaret Southgate represented Suffolk at the meeting of 5th March. It is clear that in funding the Government had decided to deal with one body representing bowls and that Carpet Bowls has not got a place at the top table. There is little interest in many of the northern associations to fight for inclusion but a vote was narrowly won to remain in the Bowling Alliance to be able to take advantage of future developments. The next meeting will be April 2nd when Tony Webber will attend when a draft constitution is to be discussed.
11. **Summer Leagues :** A proposed grouping of the 40 clubs was circulated and discussed. It had been a little difficult to meet all the club's preferences but the Committee confirmed the provisional groups for circulation as the agreed leagues.
12. **Any Other Business :** In view of the decisions of the AGM and the Executive Committee new Winter league Rules will be needed and David Cobbold produced a draft revision which Keith Arnes undertook to study and liase with David before any final presentation to the Committee. The Chairman requested that the amount of paper being sent out to clubs was reduced. The meeting then closed at 9.45 pm and the date for the next meeting was May 9th

Margaret Southgate
 Vice chairman.
 9/5/05

FROM COUNTY CHAIRMAN

There have been a number of comments, both for and against, about the proposed changes to the Winter League Rules for the 2005/6 season and these were discussed at our recent Committee Meeting where it was decided that this note should be sent to all Clubs.

The playing of Winter League matches without the full team of 16 bowlers has been a problem for 15 years or more and, once again, it was a matter for heated discussion at the Annual General Meeting in June last year. It was very clear indeed that an overwhelming majority of Clubs represented at the meeting considered that in these circumstances there was an advantage for a Club having bowlers playing twice. It was also believed that some Clubs had taken advantage by purposely bowling short and then packing the first half with their best bowlers so that they would have a greater chance of one or more of these bowling twice.

Your Committee appointed a sub-committee to explore the matter in depth and then recommend to the Committee changes to the Rules that they felt would make the situation fairer. This they did and the Committee discussed, debated and accepted their recommendations at the Meeting of Monday, 24th January, 2005.

It is not my intention here to explain those Rules nor to justify them to you but I do wish to make it clear that there is an overwhelming call for change. Your Committee felt that these amendments to the Rules give the best chance of a level platform for all to play league bowls.

I urge you all to give these amended Rules a chance and for the 2005/6 season.

2004 / 2005 ECCBA LEAGUE

SUFFOLK v NORFOLK Sunday 20th February 2005

This year's annual battle between the two counties was fought out at the Needham Market Community Centre in Suffolk. The Suffolk team went into this match on a high, having disposed of both Essex and Bedfordshire in their previous two matches. Both of these games were played away from home, which added to the pleasure and left Suffolk firmly at the top of the table.

As usual Suffolk went for the four carpet match, not the three carpet format which had been favoured by both Essex and Bedfordshire.

Session One, went to Suffolk by 2 games to 1 with the other game being halved.

5 points to 3 with the shots being 34 – 25.

Session Two, also went to Suffolk this time by 3 games to 1. Most of the games so far had been decided by just 1 or 2 shots and could have gone either way.

6 points to 2 with the shots being 31 - 27.

Session Three, consisted of just 2 games and here honours were even as each county won 1 game. 2 points each and the shots were 25 – 10 for Suffolk.

Session Four, this again went the way of the home team by 3 games to 1.

6 points to 2 and the shots were 40 – 20

Session Five, the final session and Norfolk were still fighting hard, making Suffolk struggle in 3 of the games right up to the last wood. Suffolk finally won the session by taking 3 games with the other one being halved.

7 points to 1 with the shots being 32 - 22

The final result was a win for Suffolk by 26 points to 10, the shots were 162 – 104.

A good win for Suffolk in a very tight match with only 8 games being won by more than 2 shots.

Suffolk now have 2 more matches to play, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire both are at home. Is this to be Suffolk's year let us hope so, the squad deserve it.

Tony Webber

County Captain

SUFFOLK CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

SUFFOLK LEAGUES versus HERITAGE LEAGUES

This, an annual fixture between the two leagues is usually played about November each year. Unfortunately the 2004 event never took place on time and was eventually contested on Saturday 5th March 2005.

As usual each side fielded 6 Rinks to play off over 18 games, played to the Eastern Counties format.

The Clubs represented were : -- from Heritage Leagues, Kelsale, Knodishall, Sizewell, Thorpeness, Walpole and Wenhaston.

The Clubs from the Suffolk Leagues were : -- Chelmondiston, Offton & Willisham, Somersham, Needham Market, Barking and Great Blakenham.

The Competition is played on 4 carpets over 9 ends, with each rink playing 3 games, during the 5 Sessions.

The first session went to Suffolk Leagues by 3 games to 1 and by 42 shots to 24.

Session two was a complete reversal, with Heritage Leagues winning by 3 games to 1, shots were 47 to 26 also to Heritage.

The third session consists of just 2 games and Suffolk took both of them, with the shots count being 25 to 11.

Session four also went to Suffolk by 3 games to 1, although the shots were very tight at 33 to 29.

The final session was all Suffolk, as they won all 4 games, but in 2 games the score was 9 – 8 and could have gone either way.

The final result was a win for the Suffolk Leagues with 26 Points to 10 and the shots were 166 to 139.

This was a really good match played in the right way – competitive but friendly. Thank you to all the Clubs that sent a rink at such short notice, I hope you all enjoyed the day

Suffolk Leagues will host the 2005 competition sometime in November at Needham Market Community Centre.

Tony Webber

County Captain

EASTERN COUNTIES CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION
2004 / 2005 LEAGUE

SUFFOLK v HERTFORDSHIRE

This match was played at Needham Market Community Centre on Sunday 20th March and was the penultimate match for this season's championship. Having won their previous three matches, it was important that the Suffolk team held their form if they were to take the title this season. Although Hertfordshire are not one of the top teams, they have some good players and if things go for them they can be hard to beat. Once again the four carpet format was used for this match.

Session one saw Suffolk win 3 games losing the fourth by 2 shots after fighting back from a bad start: -- 6 points to 2, the shots were 39 – 25.

Hertfordshire fought back in session two taking 2 games: -- 4 points each, the shots were 35 to 32 in favour of Suffolk.

Session three saw Suffolk take both games, although one was a real struggle (at 10 – 8). Shots were 21 – 11.

The fourth session again went the way of Suffolk by 3 games to 1 : -- 6 points to 2, shots were 37 – 26.

In the final session Suffolk had hopes of a clean sweep, but narrowly lost one game (6 – 7) 6 points to 2, with the shots at 37 – 16.

The final score was a win for Suffolk by 26 points to 10, shots were 169 to 110.

This was a hard fought match, with Hertfordshire playing very well at times and not giving Suffolk an easy ride. The Suffolk team were playing a bit below the form they showed in the Essex and Norfolk matches and will have to raise their game again, when taking on Cambridgeshire next month.

While Suffolk were playing this match Cambridgeshire were defeating Bedfordshire by 29 points to 7. This means that in the final match Suffolk have a 4 point advantage when we take on Cambridgeshire. Will it be enough?? We must think that it is.

Tony Webber

County Captain