



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

SCBA Website is [www.carpetbowls.org/suffolk](http://www.carpetbowls.org/suffolk)

## **The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association**

Held at Needham Market Community Centre on 4th November 2019

The Meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Those Present: Andy Gilder (**AG**) – Chairman, Sally Goodrich (**SAG**) - Vice Chair, Neil Jolly (**NJ**) Richard Sago (**RS**), Jane Sago (**JS**), Ian Hunt (**IH**), John Varden (JV), Sue Gilder (**SCG**), Paul Daniels (**PD**) – Treasurer, Peter Elmy (**PE**) Keith Hull (**KH**) Adam Hubbard (AH), Peter Dent (**P-D**) - Secretary

### **1. Apologies for absence:**

Andy Pooley (**AP**) & Jim Goodrich (**JG**)

### **2. Approval of minutes:**

The minutes of the Meeting held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2019 were approved having been proposed by **JV** and seconded by **JS** and were duly signed.

### **3. Matters Arising:**

**NJ** reported that the 'Bowls Demonstration held at Laxfield on Sept 16<sup>th</sup> went very well with the help of Mick Watkins. A club had been officially formed, initially with around 12 members, equipment etc was in place as were the necessary finances. The committee wished the new club good luck.

**AG** asked **IH** if his club Martlesham had been successful in their hope of securing a sponsor. He confirmed that they had nearly finalised the deal but was unable to disclose who they were until the deal had been signed.

### **4. Correspondence**

There was no specific correspondence to report.

### **5. Chairman's Report:**

In between meetings there has been little going on, there has been the odd phone call which has been answered, and a little bit of good news to go with it.

Phone calls were nothing but rule clarifications, which I dealt with.

The good news is that we did not lose Great Blakenham from our club members list. They are still with us, and they have joined as full members until they are able to join the league again, they have also joined the insurance scheme. Good news indeed.

I was pleased to attend the Summer League playoffs during September. There was some great bowling from all attending clubs. Barking were the overall winners, congratulations to them, but also many congratulations to all other clubs represented, Stanningfield, Hintlesham and Chattisham, Copdock and Washbrook and not forgetting Elmsett. All were winners of their respective groups for the summer and had played well to get to the finals. The best bit for me was that I had my first official duty to perform, to present the winners with their trophies, proud moment for me.

Last Sunday the Suffolk Fours closed championships qualifying were held at Needham Market, it was nice to see new faces, and good to see some of the old faces returning and everyone enjoying

their day, win or lose. Well done Richard and his merry helpers for the work they do to make the day a success.

**6. Secretary's Report:**

There was nothing additional to report.

**7. Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer (**PD**) provided the latest *Income & Expenditure* report and added that there was nothing of particular to report, other than the Potters invoice for the upcoming Nationals and the ECBA subscription were up to date for the coming season.

**8. AP report (reference East Anglian Daily Times)**

**AP** apologised for not being able to give this report in person, however, with the help of **PD** and **NJ**, we have been sending in fortnightly reports to Mark Heath (East Anglian Daily Times), which contain league tables and results which are gradually beginning to be put into print, albeit slowly. A report was sent in detailing the ECCBA Teambowl win but was not published. It was agreed that we now start sending in weekly tables, results and reports and hopefully they might be reported upon a little more regularly. The league tables/ results however had been published on 3<sup>rd</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> October. Contact with Mark Heath was to be maintained on a regular basis.

An email was sent to Mark Heath telling him it was the National Championships this coming weekend, asking if he would like us to send a report and results through, but as yet we have not heard back from him. The thoughts are that we send something about it, maybe with a photo if we win, and see what materialises.

**9. Match Secretary's Report:**

**JG** reported that the leagues were running as expected, with match date changes happening quite regularly, but were sorted out speedily without any serious problems.

The Joe Rice Cup matches are proceeding well, and will hopefully be completed by Christmas, and we will carry out the draw for the Chairman's Plate early in the New Year.

I have received a telephone call from Frank Wilken, team captain for Hintlesham and Chattisham. Some of their players have left due to age and/or illness, so decided to organise an 'Open Day' on a Saturday in order to attract new bowlers.

Frank was approached by a gentleman who was moving from Stutton, where he played carpet bowls, and he wanted to know whether he could now play for Hintlesham. He has since moved house to Hintlesham and will cease playing for Stutton in December.

The Committee discussed the situation and agreed that this would not be a problem. This decision would be communicated to the parties concerned.

**10. County Captain's Report:**

Since our last meeting the Suffolk team have played in the ECCBA Teambowl, at Littleport Leisure Centre on Sunday 22 September. The event involves the six eastern counties, each fielding a team of twenty-four, consisting of four singles, pairs & triples, each playing one game against each of the other counties.

Defending the trophy, Suffolk got their day off to a reasonable start, scoring thirteen points (out of twenty-four) against both Cambridgeshire & Norfolk.

The third session saw an improved team performance, rewarded with eighteen points off Hertfordshire, which took Suffolk into top spot.

There was no looking back from there, eighteen points off Bedfordshire, then nineteen from Essex & Suffolk were the deserved winners, finishing fifteen points ahead of runners-up Cambridgeshire.

This was Suffolk's seventh consecutive Teambowl title & overall it was a solid all round team effort, with everyone contributing to the winning points total.

The Sunday before that was the squad's third & final fundraising event for 2019, the Chairman's Triples. A full entry of forty teams were secured & as always it was an enjoyable day of bowls, involving bowlers from all of the local counties.

After some quality group & knock-out games, the final was between Keybet Chasers (Tom Runnacles, Tony Cooke & Neil Tuckey) & Norfolk N Chance (Sam Runnacles, Stephen & Matt Frost). A low scoring final went to the wire, with the Keybet Chasers running out 5-2 winners.

More recently on Sunday 13 October was the Squad Trials for the 2019/20 season. All entrants played four rinks games, with every bowl scored on its accuracy, after which the captain & selectors had the difficult job of picking a squad. After some tough decisions, a squad of twenty-eight bowlers was selected, from which the team of twenty four will be chosen for the ECCBA league matches & competitions. The first outings for the new team are home league matches against Essex (24 November at Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston) & Bedfordshire (8 December at Needham Market). Both are 10.30am starts & spectators are more than welcome to come along & support the Suffolk team.

Before that, the last event for the current squad is the National County Competition at Potters, between Friday 8 & Sunday 10 November. On the Friday night, Suffolk play Sunderland in a one-off match for the Inter League Trophy & then the main event takes place on the Saturday & Sunday, with Suffolk being the defending champions in both.

Finally, after much thought, I have made the decision that at the end of this county bowls season, I will be standing down as Suffolk captain. I became a selector in 2003 & took over the captaincy from Tony Webber in 2006, so sixteen years on & with a new decade upon us, I've decided now feels the right time to step down.

My selectors (Sally Goodrich & Tom Runnacles) & Andy Gilder (SCBA Chairman) have been advised of my decision & we will work together to ensure a smooth transition period. Communicating my decision now allows plenty of time, as the new captain & selectors will be voted in at the July 2020 SCBA Committee meeting. I will put together something that details the responsibilities of the captain, to assist anyone who might be interested in getting involved.

In the meantime, my focus remains on playing my part in looking to maintain the success of the Suffolk team, at the upcoming Nationals & then the new ECCBA league season.

**Addendum:** **JV** said that he felt that we all owed a large debt of thanks to **NJ** for the many years that he has been County Captain, as well as his other duties, and that he knew that this view was shared by everyone else, not only at County level but also nationally. There is no doubt that he will be very much missed in this role, but hopefully he will still continue with all his other duties.

#### **11. ECCBA Report:**

**NJ** attended the last ECCBA Committee meeting, held on 10 October 2019.

The Suffolk team were congratulated on retaining the Teambowl title.

The meeting was advised that Bedfordshire would not be competing in the Six Counties

Championship in April 2020. A revised format for the remaining five counties will be drawn up.

There was a general discussion around team numbers for ECCBA events, with a couple of counties reporting possible difficulties in fielding a full team, albeit not for the current league season. It was agreed that discussions need to be held with the northern counties, to ensure a joined up approach across the game nationally. This issue will need to be revisited at ECCBA level if changes are needed around rules &/or team numbers.

#### **12. ECBA Report:**

**PD** reported that the last ECBA meeting was relatively uneventful. Following the Laxfield demo, the details for the Active Partnership had been circulated, with the hope that other Counties would follow, as a possible avenue to increase membership.

There were reports from the recent ECBA Triples event that some competitors were not wearing dress code compliant clothing for the event. This would be addressed with the relevant individuals/counties to ensure that the correct dress was worn.

#### **13. Forthcoming Events**

**Nov 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup>** National Finals

**Nov 24<sup>th</sup>** Suffolk v Essex at Bildeston.

**Dec 8<sup>th</sup>** Suffolk v Bedfordshire at Needham.

**Dec 15<sup>th</sup>** Suffolk Triples at Needham.

**Jan 12<sup>th</sup>** 2020 Charity Fours at Needham

**AG** thanked **JG** for arranging the accommodation for the forthcoming National event.

#### 14. Any other Business

**SCG** reported that the provision of the 'wooden blocks' was proceeding well and would be available for the next match. Once again, the committee requested that their thanks should be passed on.

**P-D** advised reference the **2020 Suffolk Triples**, East Bergholt school were very happy to accommodate the event and the preferred date was discussed. Costs were given for the hire of both halls however it was decided that the large hall would be adequate, holding around 12 mats. **P-D** said that he would check date availability and charges for the large hall at the school and report back at the January meeting.

**RS** reported that the **Suffolk Closed Fours** qualifying went very well and that he was very pleased with the money taken at the raffle.

**JS** raised the question of next year's charity to be supported at the Charity Fours event in January, and that the selection was 'Dementia Research' and this was to be via the Sue Ryder organisation. She also added that everyone was delighted that this was to be the selected charity. The Committee thanked **JS** for the work involved.

**AG** from the Chair asked **JV** what progress had been made with the details for the provision of the three circular 'County' discs for the centre blocks. The size requirements were discussed and as the logo needed to be incorporated it was likely to be no larger than A4 size. Set up costs had to be agreed and **JV** said that he would have additional details and cost available for the next committee meeting in January.

**AG** reported that he had received a letter from Great Blakenham club, that due to their current situation, they were looking for the loan of a mat and relevant equipment until theirs was available. This request was discussed and unanimously agreed to by the committee on the proviso that should the equipment be required by the SCBA for competition purposes, it would be readily made available.

**AG** reported that he had received comments from a number of clubs regarding the selection of players when a team is playing short at league matches. This was once again discussed and it was acknowledged there are guidance notes on the SCBA website with the suggested procedures to be followed. The Guidance Note will be included again with the Minutes.

It was however agreed that it was the two captains responsibility and there is proviso in the spirit of the game, to ensure that should there be any "special requests" to be made regarding the selection of players playing twice, this should be made clear to the opposition captain BEFORE any draw out has taken place and both captains are to be in agreement.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.32pm.

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 at Needham Market at 7.30pm