



Suffolk **Carpet Bowls** *Association*

SCBA Website is www.carpetbowls.org/suffolk

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association

Held via "Zoom" virtual meeting on 5th October 2020

Those Present: Andy Gilder (**AG**) – Chairman, Sally Goodrich (**SAG**) - Vice Chair, Neil Jolly (**NJ**), Paul Daniels (**PD**), Richard Sago (**RS**), Jane Sago (**JS**), Andy Pooley (**AP**), Jim Goodrich (**JG**), Sue Gilder (**SCG**), Adam Hubbard (**AH**), Keith Hull (**KH**), Peter Elmy (**PE**)

1. Apologies for absence

Peter Dent, Clint Watling

The main objective of the meeting was to discuss the current situation regarding Covid 19 and how the Committee see things progressing.

A lively discussion was held between all members present, with various topics raised. The main ones being:

How are the clubs who have already returned to social nights coping?

How does the Government's "Rule of 6" impact on the playing of carpet bowls?

What can we do as a committee to ensure our game continues after this pandemic?

Might we need to change our league formats, if playing numbers are reduced?

The SCBA remain in contact with the English Carpet Bowls Association (ECBA) for updates, further to the ever changing Government regulations. NJ and PD advised the Governments "rule of six" came into effect on 14 September and at that time, an exemption was indoor organised sport. Work is currently ongoing at ECBA level to put together an Action Plan, with the aim of getting carpet bowls classified as an organised sport. Then on 22 September, the Government regulations changed again and indoor organised sport was then no longer exempt from the "rule of six". This means that the "Rule of 6" applies to all social gatherings, therefore including the playing of carpet bowls.

It was agreed that the SCBA does not wish to discourage anyone from having a social gathering/ playing carpet bowls, as long as the club members are happy to do so, they follow Government guidelines, any playing venue guidelines and consider the ECBA Guidance document regarding the cleaning of equipment and following safe distancing.

Regarding where we think that things are going to go from here, the SCBA Committee agreed this cannot currently be predicted, but it was acknowledged that it could take a while yet. In the

meantime, the SCBA Committee will keep our fingers on the pulse, ears to the ground and will communicate any changes to our member clubs, as soon as we can.

Finally there was a discussion on the SCBA events that had start and were unfinished. These events had started some while ago and it is looking like being some while before any form of competitive bowls can start again. It was therefore agreed to:

- Void the 2019/20 winter league season (there will be no relegation or promotion), including Joe Rice Cup, Chairman's Plate & Discipline (Singles, Pairs & Fours) Finals

Looking ahead, given the current uncertainties, it was agreed that:

- There will be no 2020/21 Winters Leagues, cup competitions or other competitions

There will be a completely new start whenever we can and the SCBA Committee will keep clubs informed as and when that decision can be made. It was agreed that before any future decisions are made, the SCBA Committee will consult with member clubs, assess memberships/ playing numbers and potentially consider any appropriate format changes.

Meeting closed at 20.10 – Next meeting to be advised

STAY SAFE EVERYONE.