



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

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

## **The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association**

**Held at Needham Market Community Centre**

**On Monday 27th September 2021**

**The Meeting commenced at 7.30pm**

Representatives attended from the following clubs:

Barking, Bentley, Bildeston, Bramford, Brockley, Burstall, Chelmondiston, Claydon, East Bergholt, Elmsett, Gt Blakenham, Hadleigh, Harkstead, Hintlesham & Chattisham, Hundon, Leiston, Martlesham, Needham Market, Offton & Willisham, Somersham, Stanningfield, Thurston, Whatfield

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone, & in particular thanked those for making the effort under the present Covid situation.

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

Brantham, Cockfield, Sizewell, Stutton, Fornham All Saints, Polstead & Tostock. Sue Gilder & Adam Hubbard from the Committee.

### **2. Approval of Previous Minutes:**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2019 were confirmed as a true record.

Proposed by Somersham and seconded by Martlesham and duly signed by the Chairman.

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

Due to the time elapsed, there were no matters arising from the last AGM meeting.

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

As Chairman, I believe it is time to seriously consider some changes to club league bowls in Suffolk.

Do we now look to move away from the standard "rinks" bowling over 11 ends we have done for years? Do we now look at somehow shortening the game in order for the less able of us to feel more comfortable whilst at the same time allowing everyone to bowl on equal terms?

How that is all done is something for your committee to come up with. I believe it can be done, but your committee will need help and the input from the clubs via the surveys we have sent out.

We currently run our "matchmaking" service, no not for the lonely! But for the teams that wish to compete in friendlies. This can be found on the website, all you need to do is contact the club of your choice and arrange your own friendlies at your own convenience, and yes these can be arranged at whatever time of the evening to suit the clubs involved and played in whatever format the clubs choose.

We now have the ideal opportunity to discuss some views now to start the ball rolling for the next stage.

**5. Secretary's Report:**

Due to the inactivity over the last twelve months, there has been nothing to report of any relevance or importance.

**6. Treasurer's Report:**

The latest financial report was made available to all those present, so all had the opportunity to examine the financial information including the balance sheet.

The Treasurer, referring to the attached 'Income & Expenditure' figures as of 30<sup>th</sup> April 2021, explained that due to the lack of any recent activity, predictably the income as shown was considerably below the previous year but as was the expenditure. He explained any possible anomalies and there were no questions from those present.

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

There was no report from the Match Secretary due to the absence of any league activity.

**8. Election of Officers:**

The current Match Secretary was intending to resign from the post & the Chairman thanked Jim Goodrich for his many years of service and asked if anyone would like to put their name forward or anyone else that they thought might be interested. There was no response of any possible interest, so the Chairman said that Richard Sago would take up the post of Match Secretary immediately.

All other current Officers were prepared to stand again and all those present were happy.

The current Elected Officers are therefore now:

- President – David Schofield: Oton & Willisham
- Chairman – Andy Gilder: Barking
- Vice Chairman – Sally Goodrich: Claydon
- Honorary Secretary – Peter Dent: East Bergholt
- Honorary Treasurer – Paul Daniels: Belstead/Kelsale
- Match Secretary – Richard Sago: Burstall
- Child Protection Officer – Andy Gilder: Barking.

**9. Election of Committee:**

The current Committee were all prepared to stand again, and the Chairman then asked the meeting if there were any further nominations for Committee members, as there was a single vacancy. None were forthcoming, so it was proposed that all the current members of the Committee should be re-elected en-block. The Chairman said that if anyone knew someone who might be interested, they should either contact the Secretary Peter Dent or himself with the relevant details.

The election was then proposed & seconded & the re-appointment of the current Committee was unanimously approved.

The Committee members are now as follows as all had indicated that they are willing to remain:

- Sue Gilder (Barking)
- Jim Goodrich (Claydon)
- Adam Hubbard (Chelmondiston)
- Ian Hunt (Martlesham)

Neil Jolly (Brockley)  
Andy Pooley (Claydon)  
Jane Sago (Burstall)  
Clint Watling (Claydon)  
Tom Runnacles (Barking)

#### **10. Where do we start:**

The Chairman opened the discussion by briefly reporting as to the current situation of minimal activity, and asked all at the meeting to give their views as to what we all should be doing in the next few months and how everyone felt:

- East Bergholt suggested that we should adopt 'friendlies', possibly through to next February;
- This seemed to be a shared thought and some thought that the friendlies should last for the rest of the season or until the summer;
- Hintlesham had an issue with a shortage of members, as had many other clubs. This was followed by a discussion amongst some of those present as to how clubs could look at increasing their membership numbers under the current restrictions;
- It was suggested that where necessary, all forms of advertising should be used – local magazines, all aspects of social media, open events, and probably the most important – by word of mouth;
- Whatfield said they had 20 members, no-one had left, the only real issue being a lack of confidence;
- There was a discussion regarding start times & some clubs thought that 7pm would be more suitable both for friendlies & league matches. It was suggested that maybe there should be no formal start time, but the time to be decided by the two club Captains when the fixture was confirmed. Some clubs even suggested that they would prefer to play on a Sunday afternoon – fine for friendlies but maybe not for future league games;
- Clint Watling felt that there should be much more publicity, mainly social media, but to include all forms of advertising, both press & radio, both demonstration & training days could be considered.
- The Offton & Willisham representative said they were hoping to organise a County Open day next April for the outdoor game, was this something that could be replicated in carpet bowls?;
- Neil Jolly acknowledged the need for most clubs to be able to increase their income, particularly if raffles at matches weren't going to happen. Perhaps the away team could instead contribute to the home team £1 for every bowler they brought? Clubs must have a positive attitude again if they & the game were to flourish again. He felt that competitions should be restarted, possibly in the New Year, including our county closed competitions. He felt it would be all too easy to fall into a state of 'not doing anything' which could be disastrous for carpet bowls. He said that he had met with the Needham Market Community Centre manager and made bookings for the SCBA through to the end of 2023;
- Mick Watkins proposed a vote of thanks to the Officers & Committee & this was supported by the other clubs present.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.15pm.