



Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association

SCBA Website is www.carpetbowls.org/suffolk

The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association held on 4th October 2021 at Needham Market Community Centre.

Those Present: Andy Gilder (**AG**) – Chairman, Sally Goodrich (**SAG**) - Vice Chair, Neil Jolly (**NJ**), Paul Daniels (**PD**), Andy Pooley (**AP**), Jim Goodrich (**JG**), Sue Gilder (**SCG**), Clint Watling (**CW**), Ian Hunt (**IH**), Tom Runnacles (**TR**)

1. **Apologies** received from Richard sago (RS), Jane Sago (JS) and Adam Hubbard (AH)
2. **Approval of minutes.** The minutes of the Meeting held on the 8th September 2021 were approved having been proposed by **AP** and seconded by **CW** and were duly signed.
3. **Matters Arising** There were no matters raised.

4. Chairman's report

Good evening, thank you for giving up your time to attend this executive committee meeting.

Well, we have now had the AGM and I for one, think that it went better than I had anticipated. I was pleased that people had turned out to partake in the meeting but understand the reasons why others did not. We really need to try to get more responses to questionnaires from our members in these circumstances, 23 is a start, but that leaves so many without their voices being heard.

There were several attendees who did have their say and put forward their ideas for the future, which was pleasing. The big thing for me was that a few members are still sceptical of re-starting bowling. There are a few who are looking for the competition to start as soon as we can. We must strike the balance. We must also do something regarding depleting numbers. CW has some great ideas, and he has the full support of the Chair, and I am sure from the rest of the committee.

Most other clubs are looking at starting well into the end of the year with some waiting till January or February before re-starting. The idea of a "Friendly" league was met with eager anticipation, to run till around April, with the thinking to restart normal league activity with the summer leagues May 2022. (Covid allowing of course!) The organising of the county competitions was also eagerly acknowledged as a good idea and should be arranged as soon as practical.

All in all, a good meeting, something for us now to think about and discuss tonight with the view of putting some of this into motion. As the saying goes "Let us begin

5. **Secretary's report.** - There was very little to report due to recent inactivity. However, Somersham had reported that due to having insufficient members the club had decided to close and withdraw from the SCBA club membership. The committee all expressed their sadness and hoped that the club may be re-vitalised at some point in the not-too-distant future.
6. **Treasurer's report** - PD said that there was nothing new to report.
7. **County Captains report – TR** reported that events were moving fairly slowly at county level at the moment. The captain and selectors were looking at two dates in the near future, initially to get the Suffolk Squad together (Sunday 17 October) and then possibly have some sort of inter county competition (Sunday 14 November) and contact had been made with a couple of other county contacts. It was agreed, after discussion, that bowlers be asked to bring their own refreshments, rather than use the Needham Market Community Centre kitchen, as this may come with cleaning responsibilities.
8. **ECBA report** - An online meeting was held on 18 September 2021. It was reported that all counties have seen a return to play, but not from all the clubs as yet. Most counties reported at least some clubs had closed, with Norfolk being particularly badly hit.
A few counties are planning to start club leagues shortly, but with reduced numbers both in terms of clubs and players.
The Nationals (November 2022) at Potters was discussed, particularly their new pricing structure, which is now all-inclusive with a consequent price rise for the weekend of c£60 per person. While it was felt too soon to make any decisions, the general feeling was that price would be an issue and as such alternative options should be investigated.
On other ECBA events, the Fours is scheduled for April 2022 in Durham and the Triples is booked for September 2022 in Suffolk. The Festival of Bowls at Potters is scheduled to go ahead in May 2022 and the Champion of Champions in June 2022, date to be booked at Stanley.
It is hoped that the next meeting will be in person, probably in November or early December.
9. **ECCBA report** – There was nothing to report, as still waiting to hear from the ECCBA as to their first meeting date.
10. **Match Secretary's report** - There was nothing to report.
11. **Survey Report** – there was very little further to report since the AGM. 20 teams (who previously played in our leagues) had not replied and 20 teams had responded positively to returning to some form of competitive bowls. It was agreed that the overall response from our 80 member clubs was disappointing, but understandable given the circumstances at the moment.

12. Matters arising from the AGM held on 27th September 2021 – There was a discussion on all the points raised at the AGM, the Chairman thanked all those who had participated in the discussions at the meeting. The consensus of opinion was that all points raised were valid and we needed to bear them in mind when making our decisions.

After a lot of discussion, it was felt we should start something. The idea of an interim league between clubs wanting to start competitive bowls now should be followed up. If clubs still wanted to wait a little longer it would be their choice to do so.

The committee decided on the following:

- Triples League, to run November to April 29th 2022;
- Format: 4 x Triples (therefore maximum of 12 bowlers), likely played over 11 ends;
- Minimum of 8 bowlers;
- Entry Fee: £10 per club;
- No expectation for clubs to provide refreshments or a raffle. However, to assist clubs financially, £12 be paid to the home team by the away team/bowlers;
- Participating clubs will be placed into groups on a geographical basis, similar to the Summer League. At the end, there will be a playoff in May (date: TBA) at Needham Market for the league winners;
- An entry form (completed at the meeting) would be sent out to all SCBA member clubs immediately, with a 14-day closing date. Also, included with these Minutes, see final page.

Longer term, it is hoped that we can start the Summer League as we know it in May 2022 and Covid allowing, Winter Leagues (format to be decided) as normal in September 2022.

13. Any other Business –

CW discussed the possibility of free entry to the Closed County Competitions in order to encourage more entries. This was discussed, but it was not generally felt this would have the desired effect, so it was decided not to implement this suggestion.

NJ reported that he had met with the Needham Market Community Centre manager to review our 2022 bookings (made prior to pandemic) and most had been honoured. We had cancelled some bookings that we no longer need and others retained, to be used for different events. NJ circulated a draft 2022 calendar and this will be reviewed before being published and sent out to clubs. NJ confirming that bookings had been made, through to the end of 2024, with only a few gaps that need to be reviewed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm

Date of next meeting: TBA (but as soon after the Triples League entry closing date, as possible)