



# *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 13th June 2022**

The Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Representatives attended from the following clubs:

Barking, Bentley, Bramford, Brockley, Burstall, Chelmondiston, Claydon, Elmsett, Gt Blakenham, Hadleigh, Hintlesham & Chattisham, Hundon, Martlesham, Needham Market, Old Felixstowe, Thurston, Whatfield,

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanked all for making the effort to attend the AGM.

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

Barrow, Bentley, Brantham, Cockfield, Fornham All Saints, Harkstead, Leiston St Margarets, Offton & Willisham, Ousden, Sizewell, Stutton, Tattingstone and Tostock.  
Clint Watling and Adam Hubbard (SCBA Committee members).

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

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were confirmed as a true record.

Proposed by Hundon and seconded by Needham Market and duly signed by the Chairman.

### **3. Matters Arising**

There were none raised from the last AGM meeting.

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

Good evening ladies and gentlemen, I would like to welcome you all to the 2022 AGM of the SCBA. Given what we have been through in the last two years, I would still like to know how my predecessor knew when to leave the job! When I took over the Chairman's position from John, bowls in Suffolk was operating smoothly, as soon as I took over – Covid, and 2 years of stress and wondering what was happening, a nightmare for us all with cancelled tournaments, leagues, cups and no bowls allowed anywhere. Was the game finished, coming to its conclusion? Well, I can safely say a big fat NO to that question. With the help of my committee, we have managed to keep everyone informed of any situations as they became apparent, so you, the clubs, knew of anything that could be done to restart bowling was being done, and offering any advice we could to assist.

In 2021 it seemed that several clubs were looking to restart bowling and were looking to have matches against other like-minded clubs. Your committee got together and arranged for a Triples league for any club wishing to participate. These were split into local leagues and played over several months culminating in a final's night for the league winners and runners up. They all played against each other with the overall winner's, Chelmondiston,

receiving a one-off trophy for their endeavours. Congratulations to all the league winners and runners up but special mention must go to Chelmondiston, well done. We now find ourselves participating in the Summer League, all as we normally would, so things are starting to return to normality.

During the winter months we played out our County Championships, singles, pairs, triples and fours. Congratulations to the winners of each discipline, who represented our county in the Champions of Champions event in Stanley over the 11th and 12th June. We hope they all did well and I'm sure we will hear the results later in the meeting.

After the rigours of the Summer League, we will be looking to start the Winter League and Cup competitions. We will be discussing this in more detail later in the meeting and you will all have opportunity to air your views should you wish to do so. Suffice to say that this is the time to change things if that is the will of the clubs, as we are here to administer your wishes for the benefit of all clubs should the clubs request it.

This committee could not work without its members, from the bottom of my heart I would like to thank them all for their contributions to meetings, especially the newer members, and work they all do on behalf of the committee and you all. Special mention should go to Neil Jolly and Paul Daniels, they both go above and beyond, assisting me to balance work and committee commitments. That is all from me now, I will start the discussion later regarding the Winter League

#### **5. Secretary's Report**

Due to the relative inactivity over the last twelve months, there has been very little to report other than some clubs reporting the difficulty they were facing due to small memberships.

#### **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 and Expenditure figures as of 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022 explained that the Closed Competitions had made a profit and that the bottom line did include a sum of money being held for the county team relating to their uniform fund. The insurance premium had just been received and was very similar to last year. However as the SCBA now has slightly fewer clubs to share that premium, there would be a slight cost increase to the clubs. As regards the SCBA annual subscription, this had been discussed by the Committee and agreed we would not revert back to the pre pandemic £35, but proposed a £20 fee, to be reviewed again next year. Questions were invited from those in attendance, but there were not any.

The acceptance of the report was proposed by Barking and seconded by Claydon.

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

Our Chairman has just covered most of my report but after eighteen months of no bowls and recovering from the effects of the pandemic, the SCBA decided to launch a regionalised Triples league for Winter 2021/22, to cut down on both the number of games and travel. This ran from November through to April and 21 teams took part.

With finals evening held in early May, the top teams played off and congratulations go to Chelmondiston who came out as overall winners 3 points clear of second place Barking. Thanks to all who helped run the evening (as I was away) and thanks also to Paul Daniels for his continued help with keeping the web page and results in the correct format.

The 2022 Summer league is now up and running, May through to August and has 4 leagues, each with 6 teams, with matches consisting of 2 fours and 2 pairs.

Sorry about the email 'hiccup' when sorting dates and sending fixtures in as my computer had been hacked, all sorted now (I think / hope). Thanks for sending in results as soon as possible after the games played, however there are one or two clubs that I have to wait a bit longer before I receive them.

#### **8. Election of Officers**

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

The current elected Officers therefore remain as:

President – David Schofield (Ofton & 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)

All current Officers were re-elected en-bloc.

Proposed by the Chair and seconded by Needham Market.

#### **9. Election of Committee**

The current Committee were all prepared to stand again and the Chairman asked the meeting if there were any further nominations for Committee members. None were forthcoming, so it was proposed that all the current members of the Committee should be re-elected en-bloc. The Chairman said that if anybody knew of anyone who might be interested in joining the Committee, they should either contact the Secretary or himself with the relevant details. There was space for an additional Committee member.

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

The Committee members remain as follows:

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. Winter League preparation**

The Chairman opened the discussion with his own statement:

Over the past two years, when speaking to clubs, one issue has arisen on many occasions. That is the issue of members. The overall average of members is rising and recruitment of replacements has been falling. The older members do not want to travel so far, especially at night. This does create difficulties for all clubs. There have even been instances where clubs have got together and amalgamated with another to form one "healthy" club. But this decision is down to each individual club to decide for themselves if this is the way for them.

To try to encourage new members the committee has turned to social media, we have a "Facebook" site which keeps those who "like" the site informed of our activities in general. There is now a section which encourages those interested to get in touch and they can then be directed to their nearest club complete with the relevant contact details.

The Committee cannot try to recruit members for individual clubs as each club have their own criteria for membership. But if any club wishes assistance to encourage new members into their clubs, we will do anything we can to help.

The committee however can, under your guidance, look at possibilities of changing the format of the Winter League to assist those clubs facing issues.

We have, over several meetings, had discussions on how we can possibly change the format. We currently play four rinks of four, this could be changed to two rinks of four and two triples, two rinks of four and two pairs, as in the summer league. The committee are of the opinion that it is best to keep the rinks of four as this will assist with competitions as they are largely played as rinks of four. The minimum number of members attending matches could also be looked at. We could look at reducing the ends played from the current eleven to say nine. We could do a combination of any of the above.

The main people whom we are looking to assist are the clubs, so it is up to you how you would like us to proceed, so can we have any comments please.

Any points raised from this meeting will be taken and discussed at our next committee meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> July in order make a final decision as to any changes prior to the 2022/23 Winter League.

There followed a healthy discussion covering all aspects of winter league bowling, with a variety of views being shared with the meeting. Suggestions included:

Keeping the Winter League regional, as the Triples League was to maintain keeping travel to a minimum. However that, but that would mean playing the same teams season after season and would a weaker team want to play stronger teams and vice-versa. There was also the counter-view of returning to leagues involving promotion and relegation, to increase competitiveness, so teams would play against others of equal strength.

Regarding the draw out when teams are short, allow the captains to select for themselves, rather than a random draw. Conversely there was the view that the random draw out should remain, say with an amendment to allow a set number of players to be excluded from the draw who can't play twice. Perhaps write into the rules that captains are allowed to mutually agree that certain players may be excluded from the draw to play twice, i.e. due to infirmity or not being available to play in the latter half. Subject to the format, if say it was pairs in the first half and fours in the second half, this would allow more control over who plays twice, and not having to ask for players to be excluded from the draw

As regards the format, generally it was felt that a minimum number of eight bowlers should be unaltered, with a maximum of either twelve or fourteen mentioned, subject to the final playing format. There was a variety of suggestions for a format, including sticking with four triples, two triples and two fours or first half (four and a triple), then second half (triple and a pair). The number of ends was also discussed, with a reduction from eleven ends to either ten or nine end games (subject to the format) to ensure the match doesn't finish too late being suggested. Whatever was decided on could be done on a trial basis for a year and then feedback sought.

There was an observation that clubs maybe didn't feel like they had enough matches over the Triples League season. In response, it was suggested that all teams enter the Joe Rice Cup this coming season, where the early rounds would be regional (to reduce travelling) and would give teams some extra matches. It was also suggested that a list of clubs who are happy to play friendlies to supplement league matches could be drawn up.

Feedback was provided on the SCBA club survey carried out in May. Of the eighty plus member clubs, around fifty responded. As regards pre pandemic league playing clubs, we

know of five that have closed down and another four who are unlikely to enter the league. In terms of club bowling numbers, whilst there are a few clubs with twenty plus bowlers, these are the exception rather than the rule, with the majority of clubs saying their playing membership is between twelve and sixteen.

Finally there was a question about raffle and refreshments – it was agreed that it's entirely up to clubs to decide for themselves what they do - but to tell the opposition ahead of any match.

In concluding the discussion, the Chair assured everyone that all the suggestions would be discussed at the next Committee meeting in July, where hopefully a final decision would be made and reported back to the clubs in ample time for them to consider their position before the Winter League commences.

#### **11. Any Other Business**

There was no other business from the floor, other than a thank you to the SCBA Committee for their continued work on behalf of the member clubs.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.42pm