



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 16th May 2022 at Needham Market Community Centre

Those Present: Andy Gilder (AG) – Chairman, Sally Goodrich (SG) – Vice Chair, Paul Daniels (PD) - Treasurer, Peter Dent (PD1) – Secretary, Neil Jolly (NJ), Clint Watling (CW), Jim Goodrich (JG), Sue Gilder (SCG), Andy Pooley (AP), Adam Hubbard (AH)

1. **Apologies:** Received from Tom Runnacles (TR), Richard Sago (RS), Jane Sago (JS)
2. **Approval of Minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on 21st March 2022 were unanimously approved and were duly signed.
3. **Matters Arising: NJ** asked whether there had been any response to the request for First Aiders at our SCBA events. **AG** confirmed that Peter Fellingham and Emma Watling had agreed to offer their services should they be at an event where First Aid was required. Our grateful thanks to them both.

NJ asked whether any progress had been made regarding the disc template for the cover of the centre blocks (incorporating the SCBA logo) for county matches. **JG** reported that he had spoken to the supplier who had provided the template, which **JG** showed the meeting. It was agreed that **JG** would check out the costings of the options and report back at the next committee meeting.

4. **Chairman's Report**

Good evening everyone, well we're all here again, nice to see you.

All the closed championships have been done and dusted now, congratulations go to all those who won, commiserations to all those who didn't and thank you to those who entered. I think it was a great success, well done to **RS** for his work with it all, even through difficult times.

The Triples League has also finished and concluded with a great finals night at Needham. Again, well done **RS** for overseeing it all while it was running. Many congratulations to all group winners and the eventual overall winners, by a mere 3 shots were ... Chelmondiston! Well done to the whole club. I will leave any further details to **RS**.

We have the Summer League now up and running with some games being played already! Thanks to members who have made this possible by entering, good luck to you all.

Last Wednesday the Suffolk League v Bury League match was held at Needham Market, congratulations go to the Bury League for their victory in the match. But on a personal note, I think that carpet bowls came out the overall winners. Played in the right way and in a great spirit, everyone had a fantastic evening. Well done to **SCG** and Steven Mayhew for their organisation of the evening.

Before the next meeting we have the ECBA Champion of Champions in Stanley, Good luck to all our representatives, may they enjoy the experience and banter with our northern friends.

Next comes the AGM. We will be talking this over later, but we need to find the magic formula to get the life back into those who are still unsure of things, we will all endeavour to do our best. Hopefully we may get some ideas at the AGM!??

5. **Secretary's Report: PD1** advised there was nothing to report.
6. **Treasurer's Report: PD** reported that nothing of any significance had occurred since the last meeting. The current surplus now stood at £680, which was very satisfactory considering the lack of activity during the pandemic years. Included in that total is c£318 from our county team sponsors which is set aside for squad uniforms.
Looking ahead, we will only know the true picture of active SCBA clubs post pandemic when the SCBA membership and insurance forms are sent out/ returned by clubs and this will take place after our AGM. We already know that some clubs have sadly already ceased operating.
The question of the SCBA annual subscription was discussed by everyone and it was decided that for the forthcoming season that £20 should be charged as opposed to the pre pandemic figure of £35. This being a gesture to assist our clubs in getting back into the flow of normality. This would then be reviewed in 2023.
7. **Match Secretary's Report: RS** absent, there was nothing to report.
8. **Captain's Report: TR** absent, there was nothing to report.
9. **ECBA Report: NJ** reported that he had attended the in person ECBA meeting and AGM, held on 23 April. The main points to come out of the meetings were:
All counties, with the exception of Bedfordshire, committed to entering teams at the ECBA Champion of Champions event (at Stanley on 11/12 June) and the National County Championships (at Potters on 4 – 7 November).
The dress code for future ECBA events was amended, to be less prescriptive.
Future ECBA meetings would be a mixture of online (February and September) and in person (April, including the AGM).
At the AGM, the existing Committee were voted back in en-bloc to include, from Suffolk, **NJ** (Vice Chairman), **PD** (Treasurer) and Mick Watkins (National Referee).
Over the week of 9 to 13 May, the ECBA ran their Festival of Bowls event at Potters. Around 100 bowlers took part, including a good number from clubs in Suffolk. Notable performances were Neil Jolly (singles runner-up), Sally and Jim Goodrich, Ally Hobbs and Neil Jolly (Fours runners-up) and best of all, from Withersfield, Lisa Edmead and Stuart McNeill, winners of the pairs. Well done to them all.
10. **ECCBA Report: TR** absent, no report but **PD** said that there was very little to report since our last meeting. There was some concern that Bedfordshire, due to lack of organisation/ activity, may not take part in the 2022/23 ECCBA events.
11. **AGM Business: NJ** and **PD** reported back on the recent online club survey that had been carried out. Generally there had been 50+ replies from our 80+ SCBA member clubs. Looking at the pre pandemic Winter League clubs (40), most had replied, five are no longer running and a further five had indicated that a lack of numbers now may prevent them entering the 2022/23 Winter League. For the others, the reported bowling membership numbers on the whole had decreased and this will likely have an impact on the format for next Winter League season.
It was agreed that at the AGM we will look to discuss the format for the upcoming Winter League, relative to club membership numbers and it maybe that a further meeting with league clubs will be needed to finalise this.
The Committee discussed at length their ideas for a format and the majority opinion was two fours/ two pairs, so a twelve player team, with a minimum of eight, games over eleven ends. To be further discussed at the AGM.

Given the survey results, reducing clubs and club bowler numbers was also generally discussed. **AP** agreed to post an article on the SCBA Facebook page encouraging anyone that was interested in still playing the game, whose club has ceased operating, to make contact and we could direct them to their nearest club(s)

12. Forthcoming Events

18th May: East v West – Needham Market – both teams have been organised

11th/12th June: ECBA Champion of Champions – Stanley - participants had been provided with the Playing Schedule

13th June: SCBA AGM – Needham Market – clubs had been notified and a reminder, nearer the time will be emailed out

19th June: Marion's Fab 4's – Needham Market – entry form sent out

26th June: ECCBA Champion of Champions – Littleport - participants had been provided with the Playing Schedule

4th July: Next Committee meeting – Needham Market

13. Any other Business

SCG reported back on the recent Suffolk League v Bury League match, won 19-5 by the Bury League, specifically wanting to thank all the helpers who assisted on the night, a great effort by all concerned and an enjoyable night was had by all who were there.

AG asked all committee members if they were prepared to stand again and all agreed to do so. **PD1** to speak with Ian Hunt to establish if he wishes to remain on the Committee.

SAG discussed the situation with regard to SCBA event trophies, specifically engraving and the question of whether the trophy winners should be responsible for the engraving or the SCBA. It was agreed by committee that the winners should be responsible for the trophy engraving/cost, but this could not be enforced.

JG raised the point of engraving that had not been done by previous winners that then was the responsibility of the current winners, to ensure the winners history was correctly maintained. It was felt that the previous winners should have the responsibility of paying for their engraving, by refunding the current winners. Should that not happen, then the SCBA (as owner of the trophy) should bear the cost.

AH raised the topic of SCBA competitions and the getting out of equipment, etc, in that to some extent, it seemed to be the same people every time. It was agreed that as a Committee, this was a matter of communication prior to future events, to ensure improved organisation between us.

CW advised that work had started to research an alternative to the current Suffolk team shirts. He provided the Committee with a picture of a polo shirt by way of an initial example. He agreed to email the picture to the Committee and this would also include an initial indication of potential costings. This would also be shared with the current Suffolk squad and generally discussed before any final decisions are made.

NJ reminded the County captain and Fundraising Committee that the recently advised date (Sunday 25 September) for the ECCBA Six Counties event now clashed with the date we had previously set for the Chairmans Triples. The latter will have to be re-arranged.

NJ and **AG** raised the subject of the county team selection committee, as it was understood that this had changed. It was agreed that the county captain and selectors were all voted in at the July SCBA meeting and could not be done outside of this. It was agreed that communications around these positions should be clear and transparent, so that anyone who might be interested in the roles have an opportunity to put their name forward and be involved in the election process at Committee.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm

Date of next meeting: Monday 13th June 2022 (AGM at Needham Market)