



# 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 12th June 2023

The Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Representatives attended from the following clubs:

Barking, Belstead, Bentley, Bramford, Brockley, Burstall, Chelmondiston, Claydon, Elmsett, Felixstowe, Gt Blakenham, Hadleigh, Hintlesham & Chattisham, Hundon, Needham Market, Offton & Willisham, Copdock & Washbrook, Withersfield, 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, Cockfield & Harkstead, Great Whelnetham, Tostock

### 2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2021 were confirmed as a true record. Proposed by Burstall and seconded by Chelmondiston and duly signed by the Chairman.

### 3. Matters Arising

There were none raised from the last AGM.

### 4. Chairman's Report

Good evening everyone, thank you for giving up your time and attending this AGM.

It is difficult to believe it is 12 months since our last AGM already.

A lot of changes have happened in 12 months, some good, some not so good. But we are still learning how to cope from the fallout of the pandemic. The loss of member clubs and players has been both sad and understandable under the circumstances, subsequently we must try to incorporate these changes in our discussions.

Some great news to begin with, Suffolk Carpet Bowls now have a sponsor!

Oak Employment Ltd., a new employment agency based in Ipswich, have come to us and offered a donation to advertise their business on our paperwork and website. We have accepted this money so you will see their logo on our letterhead, Facebook page, emails etc. The amount sponsorship we have received is £250 for this year and similar amounts to follow in the coming years. The committee has yet to decide on how best to use these funds.

We, your committee, have tried some different things, first summer league after the pandemic was the 4x Triples and last summer was back to 2x rinks and 2 pairs. For the winter league we tried a different format totally, a combination of rinks and triples and triples and pairs. These changes were met with very varied comments from all clubs. Some clubs liked the triples, a lot did not. Majority of members were not in favour of the combination of disciplines in the winter, some liked the change. The committee have had lengthy discussions on this subject which we will be talking about later in the meeting.

During the past year our bowlers from Suffolk have done us proud. Right from the county team achievements, retaining the 6 counties title, retaining the National title, the intercounty title at the nationals in November. The league title still has a game to go on 25<sup>th</sup> June due to unforeseen circumstances, but they are in a great position to hold onto that title to. Apart from the county team, Suffolk bowlers are Singles champions, rinks champions from the Festival of bowls at

Potters, notable runners-up coming from Suffolk clubs also, Rinks winners, and runners-up in singles and Triples in the ECCBA Champion of Champions, and finally ECBA National Champion of Champion rinks winners. Congratulations to all our representatives on your achievements, wherever you came in the competitions.

However, there is some sad news, our county Captain, Tom Runnacles, has decided that for personal reasons he is going to stand down from the captaincy. I need to thank Tom for his hard work while in the position and congratulate him on his successes during his tenure. The new county Captain will be decided at our first SCBA committee meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> July.

On the whole Suffolk Carpet Bowls is in a healthy position, we just need to keep it that way and work together to do whatever we can to encourage new members into our clubs.

In conclusion, your committee is not a one-man band, it is a well-co-ordinated team who work tirelessly to ensure the membership are able to enjoy their bowls. Without these people the SCBA would not exist. As chairman I would like to thank each and every committee member for their work, dedication and for their assisting me in my duties as your chairman.

I am proud to play in Suffolk, I am proud of my fellow bowlers in Suffolk, I am proud to represent you as your chairman.

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

There was nothing of issue to report.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report**

There was an overall deficit of £500.

The main reasons are insurance, also we did our best to find out if there were any clubs who were not going to renew their insurance, but there were some who failed to respond and also failed to renew, so we had to absorb the additional cost ourselves.

We have also had to deal with a substantial increase in the costs of hiring this hall. For one day the cost has risen from £170 to £240.

Prior to the pandemic the annual subs were £35, we dropped that down to £20 last year, but I'm proposing to increase this a little to £25 this year.

**Insurance:** Public Liability £26 (previously £22.50) and Equipment £13.50 (previously £12)

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

The Match Secretary reported that we had run a successful Winter League, a few complaints were received early on regarding the format, but it ran to its conclusion without any serious problems.

Division 1 East was completed with the last game between Claydon and Barking being the decider, Claydon were unable to hold on to their first half lead as Barking pulled back. Claydon won on the night 6 – 4 but Barking won the league by 7 points from Claydon.

Division 1 West saw a good win for Brockley.

Division 2 North was won by Needham Market.

Harkstead won Division 2 South, 10 shots better than Burstall on the same points.

Finals night sees one emphatic win, and one game that goes right down to the last ends. The Division 1 battle saw Brockley beating Barking in close-ish games 6 – 4 (shots 38 – 31).

The Division 2 battle was a bit of shock with Needham Market taking control and beating Harkstead 10 – 0 (shots 48 - 18).

Cup and Plate results: Claydon set their mind to it and completely outplayed Barking 8 – 2 (shots 38 – 34) making up for losing their last home league game to them. Consistency in the Withersfield side on the night let them take a 7 – 3 win over Copdock & Washbrook with shots close at 40 – 39.

Suffolk League v Bury League, this was the closest result for many years, each league won 6 games and it was down to shots which Bury took convincingly with 102 v 88, we unfortunately had a couple of high scoring results against us.

Summer League is underway and all going well.

The Championship events were reasonably well attended although I would like to see a few more players involved, congratulations to all our winners who have already represented Suffolk at the Championship events and come away with some good results as earlier mentioned by our chairman.

#### 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 – Vacant

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 two Committee member, and Frank Wilkin (Hintlesham & Chattisham) requested joining the committee and this was agreed.

The election was then proposed, seconded and the re-appointment of the current Committee as discussed was unanimously approved. As Tom Runnacles has resigned as county captain, his replacement will be decided at the next committee meeting.

The Committee members remain as follows:

Sue Gilder (Barking)  
Jim Goodrich (Claydon)  
Adam Hubbard (Chelmondiston)  
Neil Jolly (Brockley)  
Andy Pooley (Claydon)  
Jane Sago (Burstall)  
Clint Watling (Claydon)  
Tom Runnacles (Barking)  
Frank Wilkin (Hintlesham)  
Sally Goodrich (Claydon)

#### 10. Winter League – Chairman's Report

Most clubs operate on 13/14 members, according to the returns from the questionnaire returns received. Our current format uses 12 bowlers, with a minimum of 8.

Last winter league your committee tried something different. A Rink and a Triple in the first half, and a Triple and a Pair in the second half and only playing 10 ends.

We received several verbal reports from member clubs saying they didn't like it because of the time difference of the first two games. These reports increased during the winter.

Your committee have had many a lengthy discussion on this subject both prior to last winter and during the season. And we are aware that we need to change things.

Our remit is basically to enable the clubs with fewer members to compete against those with a lot of members on an equal footing, allowing clubs to use as many members as possible to play and allowing for those who can only play one game an evening.

The committee have come up with a solution to this, but we need your input to finalise the decision.

The committee are proposing to change the Winter league next season to the same as the Summer League, i.e., 2 rinks and 2 pairs.

The reasons behind this decision are that most competitions held are for teams of 4 (Rinks) to maximise attendance, so it makes sense to incorporate rinks, so we start off with 2 rinks, we then go to the second half of the match. The committee consider it should be pairs, considering player numbers and keeping it to 12 for a match. (Of course, keeping the minimum of 8.) The committee believe rinks in the second half would hinder the teams with fewer members, Triples would also increase numbers required to 14 without considering those who can only play one game per night.

So, we now need your thoughts? Would this solution fit your club?

There was considerable and lively discussion within the meeting, opinions, views and suggestions came from the following clubs: Barking, Bramford, Brockley, Burstall., Claydon, Copdock, East Bergholt, Elmsett, Hintlesham, Gt Blakenham, Hadleigh, Offton and Willisham.

The main points that came from the discussion were that the clubs were split between changing the format to:

4 x triples;

2 x fours and 2 x triples;

2 x fours and 2 x pairs;

2 x fours and 1 x triple and 1 x pair.

A straw pole was taken from the 19 attending clubs and the results were as follows:

4 x triples: 5 clubs voted for;

2 x fours & 2 x triples: 7 clubs voted for

2 x fours and 1 x Triple & 1 x pairs: 7 clubs voted for

2 x fours & 2 x pairs: No votes

With this information the committee will discuss these findings at the next SCBA meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> July and finalise the format.

There was also a point made about drawing out a lead bowler and the difficulty of asking them to bowl at skip in a pair (if the second half included pairs). Discussions pursued and it was pointed out that the Bury League had a rule where the lead could play twice in the same position although on the opposite carpet. This will be also be discussed at the July meeting with a view to possibly introducing it into our rules.

#### **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

Date of next AGM: 10 June 2024, the date to be confirmed.

Date of next SCBA Committee meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 at Needham Market. At 7.30pm