



Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association

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The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association, held at Needham Market Community Centre, on Monday 3rd July 2023

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

- 1. Apologies for absence:** Received from Richard Sago (RS) and Jane Sago (JS).
- 2. Approval of Previous Minutes:** The minutes of the Meeting held on Monday 15th May 2023 were proposed by **NJ**, seconded by **AP** and unanimously approved.
- 3. Matters Arising:** There were no matters raised from the last committee meeting.
- 4. Chairman's Report:**

Good evening everyone.

I begin by welcoming to our committee, Frank Wilkin. Frank hails from Hintlesham and I am sure he will be another valued member.

Our AGM on 12th June was reasonably attended with 19 clubs being represented. I can only say that the remaining clubs must be content with their committee and their decisions.

After your committee had been re-elected, there was a lively discussion about the Winter League for the 23/24 season with some very good points being raised. We will discuss this further later in the meeting but suffice to say the subject was well aired and points raised by all attendees.

The ECCBA League has now been finalised and in a great fashion from a Suffolk perspective. But I will let the County Captain complete the report on this one.

That's it from me, lots to do tonight.
- 5. Secretary's Report:** There was nothing to report.
- 6. Treasurer's Report:** **PD** reported that to date 41 clubs had paid their SCBA membership fee and insurance, from a total of 67 clubs, this represented approximately a two thirds response rate so far.
- 7. Match Secretary's Report:** There was nothing to report this month.
- 7a Social Media report:** **AP** reported that when we started the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Facebook site the idea was to ensure the word about carpet bowls reached a wider audience. Well, we now have 275 followers from all over the world. The aim is to give out information in an informal and easy way to follow, such as events and dates, live updates

from tournaments and all the latest league and cup information. I have tried, but without much success, to start a few debates, but I continue to live in hope.

I would urge everyone who sees this report and uses Facebook, to follow the page. It is free and, in my opinion, probably the best carpet bowls Facebook page in the whole of the UK.

8. Captain's Report: Tom Runnacles did not attend the meeting and no report received from him. In his absence, it was acknowledged that in the previously postponed and recently played, final ECCBA League match, Suffolk had beaten Hertfordshire 20-16 and this had secured Suffolk the 2022/23 ECCBA League title.

9. ECBA Report: NJ reported that there has not been an ECBA meeting since our last meeting. The next meeting is online, on Saturday 16 September, which NJ will attend. Over the weekend of 3 & 4 June, was the ECBA Champion of Champions event at Stanley, in Durham. This was attended by the SCBA discipline winners. Success came from the four (Emma & Clint Watling, Sam & Tom Runnacles), who only lost one of their eight games, pipping the Durham & Sunderland fours to the title by one point. In a highly competitive singles event, Steven Cain won five of his seven games, finishing level on ten points with the Durham & Norfolk bowlers. Steven finished a creditable second, on count back of shots scored. In the triples competition Sue & Steve Isles & Andy Pooley were unbeaten in five of their seven games. Three consecutive wins on the Sunday saw them climb to a respectable third place finish, just a single point behind the winning Cambridgeshire triple. Finally in a tough pairs event, Sue Davey & Colin Fellingham battled hard all weekend for their three wins. They finished in fifth place, in a high-quality field.

Whilst the Champion of Champions is not a team event, in the overall standings, the Suffolk bowlers did very well to finish in second place, behind Hertfordshire.

The next ECBA event is the ECBA Triples on Sunday 3 September, being held at Sherburn Community Centre, in Durham.

10. ECCBA Report: PD reported that the ECCBA AGM was held three weeks ago. There had been an amendment to the dress code for the ECCBA Champion of Champions event, in that now shorts were now able to be worn but not blue jeans. The revised rule, introduced at the Six Counties event relating to counties playing short has now been included into the ECCBA League rules for the forthcoming season. It was very much hoped that this would go some way to enabling Bedfordshire to come back into the league. The next ECCBA event is the Teambowl at the start of October. Bedfordshire have been asked to confirm their involvement ASAP, as there would be some difficulty coming up with a playing format, should there be only five counties taking part.

11. Election of Officers: With SG standing down as Vice Chair, nominees were requested from the meeting. NJ offered to take the position and agreed to become Vice Chair.

The next position to be filled was that of County Captain, with Tom Runacles having stood down at the last meeting. Two nominations had been received – Sam Runnacles and Sally

Goodrich. With neither present (**SG** asked to leave the room), a secret ballot was taken, **SG** was selected by a majority vote to become County Captain.

The County Squad selectors were then discussed with the new Captain **SG**. Ally Hobbs and Karen Hubbard had confirmed they wished to remain and Ralph Sadgrove had expressed an interest in rejoining the selectors, representing the views of the West division. It was agreed with **SG** that all three would be selectors for the forthcoming season.

Given that most of the business discussed at ECCBA meetings related to the county team, **AG** asked **SG** to also become the ECCBA representative for the SCBA Committee. It was agreed that **SG** could delegate attendance at ECCBA meetings if it was more convenient for someone else to attend.

Ralph Sadgrove had also expressed an interest in joining the SCBA Executive committee, this was briefly discussed, and it was decided that he would be a valuable addition. Ralph was co-opted onto the committee, with all present unanimously agreeing.

12. Matter arising from the SCBA AGM held on 12 June 2023 – Winter League

Prior to the AGM following a survey sent to our league clubs, from the responses received it was established that the average number of league playing bowlers was between 13 and 14. At the AGM the attending clubs via a straw poll, indicated they would like the 2023/24 Winter league format to be revised to either two fours, followed by two triples or two fours, followed by a triple and a pair. Both options having an equal number of votes. This was further discussed by the committee and after a vote, it was unanimously passed that we would go to the **two fours, followed by two triples, with 10 ends games**, format for the 2023/24 Winter League. This would be reviewed at the end of the season, but it was hoped that no further changes would be made, unless there was a dramatic change in playing numbers. To that end, it was agreed to ask **RS** (Match Secretary) to also ask for how many bowlers played in each league match, when results are provided to him.

As discussed at the AGM the proposed rule change, regarding a lead bowler from the first half being allowed to bowl lead again in the second half on the other mat, was discussed. The committee decided that to be a good idea and this would be incorporated into both rules for the forthcoming winter season and the 2024 summer league. **NJ** to amend the league rules.

AG advised that a communication had been received from a member club querying promotion from a league at the finish of the 2022/23 winter league season. The outcome of last season was discussed and acknowledged that historically our winter league season always involved promotion/ relegation and last season was no different. It was agreed that the two winners from the Division 2 East would be promoted and the two bottom clubs from Division 1 East would go down. It was felt that anything else would be very much against the spirit of the league competitions. Finally, it was agreed that the make-up of our winter league divisions would be finalised when entries were in, the entry form would be sent out to all SCBA member clubs very shortly.

13. ECCBA Rules Clarification: There was a brief discussion around the ECCBA League rules, following the recent Suffolk Hertfordshire match. The opposing team were short of bowlers on the day and the rules allowed for bowlers to play an additional game, therefore anyone who played that extra game, had to play on the same mat twice. There was a query around how those bowlers were picked and if it was correct for them to play on the same mat in consecutive games. Having read the wording of the rules, it was agreed that there had been nothing wrong done and the ECCBA Chairman had been present on the day.

It was further acknowledged that the rules for next season were different and the new county captain (**SG**) had been provided with the amended version.

14. Forthcoming events:

3 September – ECBA Triples - Sunderland

4 September - SCBA Committee Meeting – Needham Market

15. Any other business:

SG requested that, if possible, could we not run any events where there was a clash with celebration days, i.e.: Mothers or Fathers days etc. **NJ** replied that hall bookings were usually made two years in advance and he did his best to avoid such clashes but very occasionally it proved impossible but naturally he'd do his best.

Due to the taking on the County Captain's role **SG** felt that she would like to hand over the responsibility of ordering the trophies for SCBA events. **SG** was thanked for all of her hard work on this over the years and **SCG** agreed to take over the role. Given our current supplier was ceasing to trade soon, **SCG** would make the necessary investigations into an alternative.

JG enquired as to whether we were charged the same cost for hire at Needham Market for an event, if we didn't use the Burton Room, just the main hall. **NJ** confirmed that this was the position, but would ask the question, expecting this would not change though.

NJ asked **PD1** if he had any stamps, as at the end of July, all old stamps would not be valid, being replaced with the new barcoded stamps. The old stamps could though be returned to the Royal Mail, to be exchanged for new stamps. **PD1** to look into this.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Date of next meeting Monday 4th September.