



Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association

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The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association held on 15 May 2023 at Needham Market Community Centre

Those Present: Andy Gilder (**AG**) – Chairman, Paul Daniels (**PD**) - Treasurer, Jim Goodrich (**JG**), Sally Goodrich (**SG**) - Vice Chair, Tom Runnacles (**TR**), Neil Jolly (**NJ**), Sue Gilder (**SCG**), Jane Sago (**JS**), Richard Sago (**RS**) - Match Secretary, Andy Pooley (**AP**), Peter Dent (**PD1**) – Secretary

- 1. Apologies:** Received from Adam Hubbard (**AH**), Sally Goodrich (**SG**)
- 2. Approval of minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 20 March 2023. Proposed by **SCG**, seconded by **AP** and were unanimously approved and duly signed.
- 3. Matters Arising:** There were no matters raised from the last committee meeting.
- 4. Chairman's Report:** Good evening to you all, I am sure that some of you will be knackered from all your bowling exploits of the past week. I must start by congratulating all attendees of the Festival at Potters, but a special mention for our own Neil Jolly, Singles title and along with Jim and Sally Goodrich and Ally Hobbs, once again coming away with the rinks title too!!! Great performance by you all, what happened with the pairs?? Many congratulations to these five in particular, but I have to mention the Withersfield bowlers who attended and gave a very good account of themselves over the week. How blessed are we in Suffolk with our bowlers.

Well, here we are again, it is almost another year over, I think we are getting there regarding the competitions and leagues, a little fettling perhaps, certainly a little persuasion to get some of the clubs to return that are yet to do so, but we are somewhere near to how it was prior to learning about Covid.

Quite a bit has happened since the last meeting. Cup and Plate finals saw Claydon overcome Barking, and Withersfield overcome Copdock and Washbrook respectively. Many congratulations to the winning teams, but well done for getting there too.

Winter League finals saw Brockley overcome Barking and Needham Market overcome Harkstead. Again, very well done to the victors of these matches, commiserations to the runners-up.

We had the Random Triples competition, which was well supported as usual, congratulations going to Paul Cousins (first), Jim Goodrich (second), Don Poulter and

Pauline Godfrey, who as individuals filled the first 4 places after a wonderful day's bowling.

The County team stayed on their winning streak by successfully defending their ECCBA 6 Counties title in Littleport. We have almost retained our county league title apart from playing one more game, the cancelled Hertfordshire match. This is booked for the 25 June. Suffolk looking for the win to seal the title once more.

The ECBA rinks were held at Needham Market, hosted by Hertfordshire, with the winners retaining their title from last year, the team from Durham narrowly defeating our team from Barking/Claydon in the final.

Wednesday 3 May saw the Eastern side of Suffolk take on the Western side in the annual East v West fun evening. East coming out on top this year.

Wednesday saw a selected team from the Bury Leagues take on a team from the Suffolk Leagues in another end of season friendly game of bowls, I am looking forward to hearing of the results from that one myself.

Yesterday saw our county champions travel to Littleport to play in the ECCBA Champion of Champions events. Once again Suffolk were victorious winning the fours, runners-up in the triples, fourth in the pairs and runners-up in the singles. Well done to all participants, you did us proud, especially coming away with the county team prize for best county as well.

Things start to slow down a little now, but I am sure we will be looking to sort something out somewhere. Next job, AGM

5. **.Secretary's Report:** There was nothing to report.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** PD reported that all was running very smoothly at the moment, so nothing to specifically report. Last year's accounts were due to be audited shortly and it's looking like around a £500 deficit on the year. To cover that and likely to be proposed was a £5 increase in next year's annual subscription fee for clubs, from £20 to £25. This would still be less than the pre pandemic subscription fee of £35.
7. **Match Secretary's report:** RS reported the Winter League (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.

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 out played 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.

The Chair (**AG**) thanked **RS** for all of his work during the season.

- 8. Captain's Report: TR** reported that since the last meeting a date has been scheduled in for the last remaining county fixture versus Hertfordshire to be played. It will be on June 25th. The selectors and I will be picking the team in the next week or so and informing the squad as to who has been selected.

Suffolk also participated in the 6 Counties event in mid-April. We were all pleased to see the long-awaited return of Bedfordshire in this event. Suffolk played well and despite Essex making a run for the title mid-way through the event, a good performance by us against them in the penultimate session set us up for the title. We didn't slip up against Bedfordshire and managed to win the event.

On a slightly more serious note, I have received an email from Ralph Sadgrove (county team selector) regarding the way in which my captaincy is conducted. He was not happy with how the team selection process was run, more specifically a lack of selectors meetings and how he felt left out with the team selection process. With 3 selectors, getting a date when everyone was available to actually meet at the same time proved very difficult indeed. I tried my hardest to make it happen but alas it was not always possible. As a compromise I suggested setting up a group on WhatsApp to keep all communication between us as fluent as possible. Ralph wasn't on WhatsApp so the group consisted of myself Karen and Ally. Any communication in this group was always relayed to Ralph. As a result of how he feels he has taken it upon himself to step down from his position as selector.

This leads me to myself. The Suffolk captaincy is a very important job and one which takes a great deal of dedication and commitment to fulfil the role properly. Whilst I might not agree entirely with some of Ralph's points, I have to be honest and say that at this present time I am not able to give my full dedication and time on the role. Also, if there are members of the selection committee that feel I am not doing a good enough job I find my position as captain somewhat untenable. Therefore, it is with a heavy heart that I hereby give notice and relinquish my role as Captain. If the committee wishes me to see the season out against Hertfordshire, then I will do so. I always wish Suffolk to do the very best they can, and I feel that with me in charge I will be doing the county a disservice. I wish the person who takes over from myself the very best of luck.

The Chair (**AG**), on behalf of the committee, offered thanks to **TR** for all the work that he had undertaken during his captaincy. He also confirmed his wish for **TR** to co-ordinate team selection for the upcoming Hertfordshire match and the Nationals, as accommodation at Potters would have to be arranged very soon.

- 9. ECBA Report:** **NJ** attended the in-person ECBA AGM and , held in Rotherham on 15 April. The main points to come out of those meetings were:

At the National County competition at Potters in November, games will now be 9 ends, rather than 11 ends;

Regarding Potters, whilst the accommodation cost has risen steadily, the small commission received by the ECBA has never altered. The ECBA will try to negotiate an increase, as this is a vital source of revenue, both from the Nationals and the Festival. This is against the backdrop of the ECBA recording a deficit of just over £1000 for the year, owing to increased costs and a fall in revenue from the Festival which continues to be a knock-on effect from the pandemic;

The ECBA Officers remain unaltered, including **PD** (Treasurer), **NJ** (Vice Chairman) and Mick Watkins (National Referee);

Meetings will continue to be held online (September and January) and in-person (April, including the AGM). The next ECBA meeting is online on 16 September, which **NJ** will attend.

On 30 April, Hertfordshire CBA hosted the ECBA Rinks at Needham Market. Thirty four teams entered, with a mixture of bowlers from the local counties and some from the north. After an enjoyable day of bowls, the defending champions Lakeside from Durham beat a team (including Emma and Clint Watling (Claydon) and Sam Runnacles (Barking)), 10-3 in the final.

Last week was the Festival of Bowls at Potters, with around 100 participants, including a party of ten from Norway and one from New Zealand. The event involves singles, pairs and fours competitions played over three days. There was a good representation of bowlers from Suffolk clubs in the latter stages and three finals. The winner of the singles was Neil Jolly (Brockley) and the runner-up was Shirley Tillbrook (Knodishall). The pairs final was a repeat of last year, but the reverse outcome with the defending champions, Lisa Edmead and Stuart McNeill (Withersfield) beaten by a due from Sunderland. The fours final was an all-Suffolk affair and after an extra end, Jim and Sally Goodrich, Ally Hobbs and Neil Jolly (Claydon/ Brockley) pipped Shirley and Chris Tillbrook, Val Game and Paul Daniels (Knodishall/ Kelsale).

The next ECBA event is the Champion of Champions at Stanley, over the weekend of 3 and 4 June. All the best to the bowlers travelling up from Suffolk.

- 10. ECCBA:** **PD** reported that before the Six Counties event, an EGM had agreed revised rules for counties to bowl short at that event. This meant that Bedfordshire were able to return and take part. The implemented rule proved successful, with counties short of bowlers being able to compete on a level playing field with those counties able to field a full team. The ECCBA AGM is taking place in June, where including the same rule for county league matches will be discussed and it was hoped that Bedfordshire would be re-joining the league. It was flagged that dress code for some ECCBA events was stricter than the recently revised rules for ECBA events. It was agreed that

we would put a proposal to the ECCBA at their AGM, to revise their dress code wording.

The Chair (**AG**) advised that he wished in future to add a separate Agenda item, regarding the Facebook page for Suffolk Carpet Bowls. This was predominantly controlled by **AP**, who agreed to report back at future meetings. The Facebook page has many followers and includes posts on events as they happen, results and links to upcoming events.

11. Survey Results regarding Winter League: The results of the survey responded to by our clubs were discussed in detail and as predicted the results were mixed. There was a majority view that the uneven timings in the first half (fours and triples games) was unpopular. Looking ahead to next season, the most common suggestion was a revised format to playing two fours games and then two pairs games, over ten ends. It was agreed that ideally it would be good to know how many playing members clubs had, to verify that a maximum of twelve bowler teams was still reflective of the majority of our league clubs. **RS** agreed to email our clubs to find this out, ahead of the AGM, where no doubt the Winter League format would be discussed further.

12. Summer League: **RS** reported that the same teams as last year had entered, so four leagues of six teams each had been set up. Finals night was discussed, as coming up with a workable format for four teams (four league winners) was simply not possible. However there was a sensible format previously used for five teams. Therefore it was agreed that for Finals night, the four league winners would qualify, together with the best runner-up, to be decided on points average, then shots scored if necessary.

13. AGM: **PD1** was asked to issue the AGM Notice to clubs as soon as possible. **AG** asked existing Committee members if they would be standing again. **JG** advised that **SG** wished to stand down from the Vice-Chair position, but was happy to stay on the Committee. **TR** advised he wished to stay on the Committee, albeit not in his current captaincy role. All other Committee members confirmed their intention to remain.

14. Forthcoming events:

3/4 June ECBA Champion of Champions – Stanley

12 June SCBA AGM – Needham Market (7.30pm start)

18 June Marian's Fab Fours – Needham Market

25 June: Suffolk v Hertfordshire – Needham Market

15. Any Other Business:

SG advised, in relation to our trophies, that our current supplier was retiring shortly and passing on her business to another company. It was agreed that **SG** should use our current supplier to facilitate contact with this other company to establish what ongoing deal they could offer us. There was an alternative supplier mentioned that we could also investigate.

With the cost of trophies generally increasing, there were discussions as to whether we should continue to provide the number of trophies we currently do or whether a cash

alternative should be considered. The consensus view was that generally bowlers would prefer to receive a trophy as recognition, rather than a money prize. The cost of trophies should be kept under review though.

NJ reported that he had met with Needham Market Community Centre and had made bookings for our events in 2024 and 2025. A couple of dates proved not possible to book, the main one being a home county match on Sunday 16 February 2015, so an alternative venue would have to be sought.

AP asked that the Committee should pay due respects to the family of Bidy Webber who had very recently passed away in France. **AG** advised he had a family contact and would do this.

AG advised that he had been contacted by Pete and Rita Runnacles, as they planned to run a fundraising bowls competition at Needham Market on Sunday 9 September 2023. They had requested use of the SCBA equipment, this was unanimously agreed.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10pm.

Date of next meeting – Monday 3rd July 2023