



Suffolk **Carpet Bowls** *Association*

SCBA Website is 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 10 June 2024

The Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Representatives attended from the following clubs:

Barking, Belstead, Bentley, Bramford, Brockley, Burstall, Chelmondiston, Claydon, Elmsett, Felixstowe, Hadleigh, Harkstead, Hintlesham & Chattisham, Hundon, Martlesham, 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

Cockfield, East Bergholt, Great Blakenham, Tostock and Paul Daniels (Treasurer)

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 12 June 2023 were confirmed as a true record.

Proposed by Hintlesham & Chattisham, seconded by Burstall 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.

At our last AGM, we had discussions on the format for the Winter Leagues. The committee decided that the way forward, in agreement with the discussions from the floor, was to go to the 2 x Fours and 2 x Triples format. This has been a great success from a committee perspective and I hope enjoyed by all member clubs.

We will be hearing from the Treasurer later. The SCBA is a non-profit organisation, however we do need funds to operate effectively. These funds being used to pay for hall hire, for the SCBA competitions and general running of the SCBA. During Covid, the SCBA reduced membership fees and maintained low costs to clubs as much as they could to assist the members maintain their clubs. The reserve funds of the SCBA obviously taking up the slack of the shortfall. We all know that the cost of everything has risen beyond anyone's expectations. We

are finding that we are getting to the stage where our reserves would be depleted in a few years. We need to do something about this now, rather than wait. To address the situation, we have had to make some hard decisions. We will hear from the Treasurer later how we intend to do this, but part of it will need to be an increase in subscriptions back to their pre-pandemic level.

The Suffolk County Squad have had another successful year, retaining the County League Title, the National title, and the Inter County titles. Many congratulations to the squad and especially to Sally Goodrich, who is the county Captain, and her selectors.

Clubs in Suffolk have also had good showings in all competitions entered, well done to them all. Competition entries have started to rise again with a fair number of new faces attending, it is nice to see, long may it continue.

Happily, the sponsorship we gained last year will be continued. Thanks to Oak Employment. These funds are being used to improve the recordings of most of our major finals and competitions to be shown on You Tube. These are being viewed by people all over the country. The aim is to encourage new members to the sport. The recordings are however being viewed by people from New Zealand, Australia, Norway, Finland and many more.

Finally, once again I must thank my fellow committee members, without their commitment and dedication, the SCBA could not exist. Thank you all.

5. Secretary's Report

There was nothing of issue to report.

6. Treasurer's Report

Whilst the Treasurer was unable to attend, the year end financial summary was available for attendees and his report was read out by the Chairman, as follows:

As I'm sure you'll already be aware from the minutes of our meetings, we have recorded a £1500 deficit this year. As you'll see from the accounts, there are a couple of areas where we've seen a big change year-on-year.

Firstly, the one big expense we didn't have last year was trophies, because we used the ones that were purchased in 2020, but hadn't used. And secondly, we've also seen a big increase in the cost of using this hall. Obviously, this needs to be addressed, both in terms of increasing revenue and decreasing costs.

During the pandemic we reduced the annual subscription, and although it has been raised a little since then, it is still below what it was. So the first proposal is that it should be raised from £25 back up to £35, which is where it stood back in 2020.

Secondly, hall costs, in 2022 it was costing us £170 for a full day, it's now £240, luckily, thanks to Richard, another rise this year was postponed, but it will be going up again at some point. There doesn't seem to be any realistic alternative to using this hall, so all we can do is to use it less frequently. To that end, we have decided to take the Cup and Plate Quarter Finals back to being played on a two leg basis, which will cut out the use of the hall for two nights. The semi-finals and final will still be played here.

And finally, it has been decided to reduce the traditional level of support for the county team, which has helped subsidised those taking part in the Nationals.

These measures will all help to reduce the deficit, and hopefully bring us back to break even.

Lastly, I'd just like to give my thanks to Keith Jolly for auditing the accounts once again this year.

The Chairman invited any questions from the floor, but there were none.

Acceptance of the financial summary presented was proposed by Burstall and seconded by Barking.

7. Match Secretary's Report

We have around 68 member clubs in Suffolk, and it would be nice to see more joining us, unfortunately this week we have just lost Hadleigh due to lack of numbers and increased hall costs, I hope that those players that still want play will be able to find a place with other local teams.

31 teams in Winter league. 27 teams in Summer league. 24 teams entered the Cup & Plate.

We have had a good change of winning clubs in all events this year over the previous season, competition is still strong in all leagues.

I should mention our Charity event, £1325.00 was raised on the day for Suffolk & Cambridge, The Bloodrunners (SERV) thanks to all involved in the event.

In the Champion of Champion finals our only success was in the pairs at the ECCBA event at Littleport where Andy Pooley and David Ford of Claydon came away with the silverware. At the ECBA event in Stanley (Durham) our best result was in the pairs, Paul Daniels and Oscar Mews came second.

Well done to all our teams in these events I hope you all had an enjoyable time.

All our results and reports are on our website, thanks to Paul Daniels for his help.

Thanks to all players and colleagues for your help in getting equipment set up here for all our Championship and county games.

Mentioned by a few clubs regarding league games, Rules re etiquette, measuring and clearing woods before opponents had time to look and agree. Foul bowling i.e. should be through the blocks and not pushing wood from in front of them.

8. Election of Officers

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

The current elected Officers therefore remain as:

President – David Schofield (Ofton & Willisham)

Chairman – Andy Gilder (Barking)

Vice Chairman – Neil Jolly (Brockley)

Honorary Secretary – Peter Dent (East Bergholt)

Honorary Treasurer – Paul Daniels (Belstead/Kelsale)

Match Secretary – Richard Sago (Burstall)

Child Protection Officer – Andy Gilder (Barking)

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, proposed by Needham Market and seconded by Chelmondiston. The Chairman said that if anybody knew of anyone who might be interested in joining the Committee, they could contact any Committee member, as there was space for an additional two.

The Committee members remain as follows:

Sally Goodrich (Claydon) and County Captain
Sue Gilder (Barking)
Jim Goodrich (Claydon)
Adam Hubbard (Chelmondiston)
Andy Pooley (Claydon)
Jane Sago (Burstall)
Frank Wilkin (Hintlesham)
Ralph Sadgrove (Hundon)

10. Winter League 2024/25

Absent any feedback to the contrary, the Chairman was content that the revised 2023/24 Winter League format remained acceptable to participating league clubs. Martlesham advised that they currently had 22 bowlers who wished to play league bowls, so with a number unable to play every week, they would welcome a format increasing the playing number back to 16. In response the Chairman acknowledged that Martlesham were in a far more fortunate position than most league clubs. He advised that the SCBA had to provide a league format that was appropriate to the majority of participating clubs.

11. Any Other Business

Martlesham asked whether the SCBA had in place a Data Protection policy, suggesting that if not, the SCBA were in breach of General Data Protection Regulations. The Chairman advised the SCBA did not have a Data Protection policy. The Vice Chairman advised that the SCBA only hold email addresses and telephone numbers for their member club contacts and no sensitive personal data. That contact information had been provided by those individuals in the knowledge that it would only be used in connection with SCBA communications. In addition when emails are sent out to clubs, they are issued using the “Blind Copy” option. It was agreed that this would be further discussed at the next Committee meeting.

There was no other business from the floor, other than Mick Watkins proposing a vote of thanks to the SCBA Committee for their continued work on behalf of all the member clubs.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8.02pm

Date of next AGM: Monday 9 June 2025 (7.30pm) – Needham Market Community Centre.

Date of next SCBA Committee meeting: 1 July 2024 (7.30pm) - Needham Market.