



Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association held at Needham Market Community Centre on Monday 15th January 2024.

Those Present: Andy Gilder **AG** (Chairman) Paul Daniels **PD** (Treasurer) Sally Goodrich **SG** (County Captain) Richard Sago **RS** (Match Secretary) Jane Sago **JS**, Sue Gilder **SCG**, Andy Pooley **AP**, Ralph Sadgrove **RS2**, Frank Wilkin **FW**, Neil Jolly **NJ**, Jim Goodrich **JG**

1. **Apologies:** Peter Dent **PD1** (Secretary) Adam Hubbard (AH)

2. **Approval of previous minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 30th October 2023 were proposed by **FW**, seconded by **JS** and unanimously approved. **JS** did point out that **FW** was not in the list of those present at the last meeting.

3. **Matters arising:**

RS advised the meeting that he had made some progress with his outstanding task from the previous meeting (SCBA equipment storage at Needham Market) & would cover this in AOB.

4. **Chairman's Report:**

Well ladies and gentlemen, it has been and gone, we are now in the land of regret of too much food and wine over a short period! I hope you all had a great Christmas and wish you all a healthy and prosperous 2024.

Some bad news to make you aware of I'm afraid. The passing of John Hayward was indeed very sad to hear. John was a stalwart of the game, played from its inception, served many years on this committee both as a member and as Chairman, represented the county for many years and was a fierce competitor, right to the end. He was successful in many competitions, and I am sure will be missed by all, especially his friends at Belstead, who he played for, representing them for many years. Thoughts go out to his family and friends at this sad time, RIP John. The funeral will be at Seven Hills on 29th January at 9.45.

We are very sorry to say that Laird Skelton, a long standing member of Offton & Willisham CBC, recently passed away. The funeral will be held at Willisham Church on 29th January, at 2.25pm.

Since our last meeting we have had a successful recapture of the National title, a successful retention of the Inter League trophy, both at potters and done with determination, style, and sportsmanship. Many congratulations to the new County Captain and her backroom staff.

There has been a couple of county matches also, Essex and Norfolk both found the determination of Suffolk too much to handle, resulting in wins in both matches. There will be a match against Cambridgeshire shortly, so Suffolk will have to be on their guard for that one.

The Suffolk Triples was held on 17 December, many congratulations to all that entered, especially the overall winners who hail from Stanningfield.

The Charity fours was held yesterday, at the time of writing no results are available.

A big vote of thanks goes to all of my fellow committee members for their help and due diligence in 2023, I am sure it will continue in 2024.

5. **Secretary's Report:** There was nothing to report.

6. **Treasurers Report:**

PD presented an updated Balance Sheet for information.

He advised that we are currently c£300 down on the financial year, but the account also currently holds c£400 relating to the Charity Fours event. We are therefore heading for a loss over the year and will need to look for ways to try and balance the books. **PD** suggested we may need to look at areas where the county team are funded. It was agreed that generally the Committee members would consider all aspects of our financials, ahead of the next meeting where it would be discussed in more detail.

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

RS reported:

Winter League: Everything appears to be progressing well, not aware of any problems although there have been a few surprising results.

Joe Rice Cup: All Preliminary and First rounds have been played so next step will be Quarter Finals on 4 March. The teams involved are: Barking, Bramford, Brockley, Chelmondiston, Claydon, Elmsett, Knodishall and Withersfield.

Chairmans Plate: The draw was carried out for the Preliminary Round matches, to be played over the usual two legs, home/away basis before the end of February. Drawn matches are:

Needham Market v Martlesham
East Bergholt v Copdock & Washbrook
Stanningfield v Woolpit
Bildeston v Burstall
Clapgate Lane v Great Blakenham
Bentley v Old Felixstowe,
Hintlesham & Chattisham v Hundon

Offton & Willisham receive a bye into the quarter-finals.

Belstead have withdrawn from the Chairmans Plate due to dates availability caused by water works in the village and road closures leaving them without access to the village hall for some time and a build-up of league games.

SCBA Triples (17 December): A bit close to Christmas but supported by 28 teams, thanks to those who ran it on the day. Stanningfield and Brockley competed in the final with Stanningfield taking the win with a result of 7 – 4, well done to Paul Leach, Trevor Bean and Rob Parnell, some new names to be engraved on the trophy. Well done to Neil and Keith Jolly and Andrew Hensby for what looks like a good final. Full results are on the website, thanks again to Paul.

SCBA Pairs (4 February): Entries are slowly coming in 23 at present, a reminder was sent out today.

2024 SUFFOLK CHARITY FOURS (14 January): This year's event saw a maximum entry of 40 teams, and was raising funds for:- **SERV (Service By Emergency Response Volunteers) Blood Runners**.

As usual teams would get 4 games each, with the winners decided on points, shots for, and finally shots against.

Round 1

There were no drawn games in the first round (in fact none of the 80 games played on the day resulted in a draw), so there were 20 teams who started off with a win. And of those, 11 teams got double figure shot scores.

The top 5 were: Withersfield A (15 shots), Mixed Bag of Nuts (13), and Finchingfield, Belstead and Hintlesham & Chattisham B (12 shots each).

Round 2

13 teams also won their second games. Burstall A now led the way with 25 shots, Mixed Bag of Nuts were just one shot behind, Claydon/Chelmondiston were one shot further behind, and Belstead and Burstall B were on 20 shots.

Round 3

Only 9 teams made it 3 wins out of 3. They were: Burstall A (34 shots), Mixed Bag of Nuts (33), G I

Blues (32), Belstead (29), Claydon/Chelmondiston (29), Knodishall (28), Stanningfield A (25), Elmsett C (25), and Hundon B (24)

Final Round

The day ended with just 5 teams going undefeated, and there was very little to tell between them, with just 4 shots to separate them, but it was Burstall A who came out on top, ahead of G I Blues by virtue of just a single shot.

	Pts For Agst		
1 Burstall A	8	42	14
2 G I Blues	8	41	14
3 Claydon/Chelmondiston	8	41	18
4 Knodishall	8	39	14
5 Belstead	8	38	13

Congratulations to Lindsay and Keith Armes, Richard and Jane Sago on their win, and the runners up being Sally and Jim Goodrich with Sue and Steve Isles.

Maria Cook and her husband Steve from SERV joined us to say a few words about their charity and present the trophy and prizes.

With a huge thankyou to everyone who joined us on the day, and who donated draw prizes, for helping us to raise a total of £1323.79 (subject to confirmation) for our charity.

8. Captains Report:

SG reported that there had been a hiccup at the start of the most recent home match against Norfolk, when one of the selectors had text at 3.30am to say a player was poorly which meant a few early morning texts to sort out of teams on arrival of match day. The squad stepped up to have another win, so very proud of all players and hope it continues throughout 2024. We have a big home game coming up on 21 January and the selectors and I will be going with players who played against Essex in the first match, we don't feel the need to change what works. It's also nice to know we have a great assortment of reserves. Our two away games will be hard ones no doubt and it's a bit nerve racking on match days but thanks to selectors, players and Paul, I manage to survive.

We would like to be incorporating the Players Player Award this season and maybe the Tony Webber Award as well, to be presented at the Nationals in October, paperwork to go out to the squad at the county game in March, to be returned at Six Counties event in April. Reports on county team events since our last meeting as follows:

Nationals: All the way back in November, Suffolk, along with 7 other counties, competed in the Nationals at Potters, looking to continue a run of wins dating back to 2013. The weekend opened with the Inter-County Championship, which saw Suffolk take on Durham, in which they took a comfortable 9-3 victory.

The main event, though, turned out to be very closely fought and the final result was up in the air until the very last moment. The early leaders were Hertfordshire, with Suffolk struggling to keep up with them, and, at one point on Saturday, falling as low as 4th place. But Suffolk were the stronger team in the afternoon on day one, and the day's final session saw them hit the front for the first time, albeit just one point ahead of both Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire. Unfortunately, Sunday saw Suffolk start the day as poorly as they had on Saturday, immediately losing the lead to Herts, and, once again, spending the whole day clawing back the deficit. They went into the final session one point behind, did all they could by winning all 3 games, and then had to stand by and watch the outcome of the final game between Essex and Hertfordshire, which only just went the way of Essex, to give Suffolk the overall win by just a

single point. Suffolk's slow starts meant that they needed to dig deep to pull off the win, and they did just that, on both days.

Essex v Suffolk: The new Eastern Counties League season started in November, and Suffolk's first game was a visit to Essex, which was never going to be a walk in the park. There were a lot of close games, but more often than not, it was Suffolk who just came out ahead. Only one of the day's six sessions saw Suffolk conceding more points than they won, as they ran out to a 27-9 victory. That score was not entirely representative of the relative strengths of the two teams, but Suffolk always had that little bit extra to see them through. That result put Suffolk at the top of the league, 8 points clear of Cambridgeshire.

Suffolk v Norfolk: The second match of the league season saw Norfolk paying a visit to Needham Market, and Suffolk looking to build on their good start. And they did start strongly. After 4 sessions, and 12 games, Suffolk had dropped just 3 points. One more game was lost in the penultimate session, but they still led 25-5. However, the final set of games saw Suffolk able to add only 2 more points, to finish with a 27-9 win. Norfolk certainly deserved the points they got, and maybe a few more, but Suffolk might have expected after a brilliant start to the day. Nonetheless, that result extended their lead in the league, to 12 points over Hertfordshire.

9. Social Media Report

AP advised that the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Facebook page now had in excess of 300 followers, from all over the world. Recently it had proved to be very useful in finding bowlers to fill in for our events where there had been late withdrawals.

10. ECBA Report

NJ reported that the next ECBA meeting, is online on Saturday 3 February.

Back in November the Nationals had run smoothly and the tribute to the ECBA Chairman, Colin Young who died on 18 October was well received.

11. EECBA Report:

SG reported there had been no meeting since our last meeting. The next meeting scheduled to be the AGM in June.

12. Forthcoming events:

All events coming between now and the next meeting were discussed to ensure everything was in hand.

21 Jan – Suffolk v Cambs – Needham

4 Feb – Suffolk Pairs – Needham

10 Feb – Cockfield Fours – Cockfield

18 Feb – Herts V Suffolk – Herts

3 Mar – Random Triples – Needham

4 Mar – Joe Rice Quarter Finals

6 Mar – Chairmans Plate Quarter finals

8 - 10 Mar English Open Triples – Blackpool

10 Mar – Suffolk Singles – Needham

13 Mar – Cup and Plate Semi Finals – Needham

17 Mar – Bedfordshire v Suffolk – Beds

18 Mar – SCBA Committee Meeting - Needham

13. Any other business:

JG advised that he had seen bowlers standing on our carpets, more frequently recently. It was acknowledged that there was a rule, which included a shot penalty for repeat offenders, but in reality, it was never enforced. It was generally agreed that all we could do was to politely remind people if we see them standing on mats and hopefully educate them that way.

FW raised, along similar lines, of spectators standing near and sometimes on mat 1 (nearest the entrance door) at Needham. **RS** advised that a sign was put on the door to warn people before they enter the hall. Again, other than making an announcement before start of play, all we could do was issue polite reminders and educate people.

PD queried the SCBA Winter League rule around bowlers being cup tied. It was agreed that in any season, as soon as anyone had played one game in the Cup or Plate, that precluded them in playing for another team in either competition. It was agreed that this remains the case even if that match isn't completed, having been forfeited after the first leg.

SCG advised that she had purchased both the Singles and Pairs trophies. She also had the Cup and Plate trophies ready to be brought along on the Finals night.

NJ advised he had started to draft an SCBA calendar for 2026 and had contacted the Needham Centre manager to set up a meeting to make bookings, hopefully that would happen soon. The 2024 SCBA calendar dates would be sent out with the meeting Minutes. Also advised **SG** that Needham Market is unavailable on Sunday 16 February 2025, when we have a home county match against Bedfordshire. An alternative venue would have to be sourced, as unlikely the ECCBA will agree a date change, given the two other matches being played on the same day.

NJ also advised that he had done some work on the SCBA email account. When we send out emails to our entire contact list, these will now be done via blind copy. He'd also been able to reduce that email contact list, by sending out some "do you wish to unsubscribe?" emails and responses had been received.

RS asked whether the (to be confirmed) funds raised from the Charity event (c£1323) could be slightly increased to a round £1325, this was agreed. Arrangements would be made with the charity to collect the cheque at one of our events.

RS also reported some dialogue he'd had with the Needham Centre manager. It was hoped that a new boiler would be fitted soon, as they'd had issues with the current one. In relation to storage of our equipment, options had been explored but it looked likely that it would have to stay where it was. Needham were due to have a clear out, but no other area would likely be more suitable than we currently have. **RS** will discuss with the Needham Centre manager the possibility of the SCBA paying less for hire, when we only use the Main Hall and not the Burton Room as well. There will also be a conversation about the kitchen, as it had not been left in a very good condition, before we used it for our Charity event.

There being no other business the meeting was closed at 20:55.

Enclosures

- 2024 SCBA calendar
- Suffolk Singles entry form
- Random Triples entry form