



# 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 18th March 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**, Frank Wilkin **FW**, Neil Jolly **NJ**, Jim Goodrich **JG** Adam Hubbard **AH**, Peter Dent **PD1** (Secretary)

### 1. Apologies for absence: Ralph Sadgrove **RS**

### 2. Approval of previous minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2024 were proposed by **FW**, seconded by **SCG** and unanimously approved.

### 3. Matters arising:

There were no matters raised from the previous committee meeting.

### 4. Chairman's Report:

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, thank you for your attendance this evening, a lot to do tonight. Since our last meeting we have had 2 county matches, the first against Cambridgeshire at Needham which went well, the second a scary match against Hertfordshire, which I personally was proud to play in, as the result was fantastic. But I won't do Sally's report an injustice by expanding on these. Suffice to say, we are looking good for the league title again!!

Suffolk pairs was played out and after a tough day bowling Claydon came out on top, well done to them. More from the Match Secretary in his report.

The Random Triples was played on the 3<sup>rd</sup> March which went smoothly as normal although the turnout was a little disappointing as in the past we have been overflowing with entries, this year seemed well down. I don't think the clashing of dates in Cambridgeshire or Essex helped in this. Maybe something to be mindful of next year?

Suffolk Singles was played out on the 10<sup>th</sup> with a fantastic finish to a great day, many congratulations to both finalists, especially Peter Fellingham the eventual winner. Saying no more as Richard will cover this in his report.

Joe Rice Cup and Plate final stages are underway, going well, Richard will report fully later, just remains for me to thank Richard for all his efforts in organising the event.

Final County league match yesterday against Bedfordshire, don't know the result as this was written prior to it taking place! I would like to say that we have clinched the League again, but who knows?

We now must look at the Summer League, getting the leagues entries into order, never a simple task. We also need to sort finances out for the future, ..... it's never ending.

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

### 6. Treasurers Report:

**PD** presented an updated financial situation. He advised that we are currently c£1600 down on the

financial year, although the ECCBA refund for home county matches is to come. We are therefore heading for a loss over the financial year and we will need to look for ways via both income and expenditure to try to re-balance this.

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

**RS** reported:

**SUFFOLK PAIRS** Championship in early February:

45 teams were involved, the final was between Claydon, Andy Pooley & David Ford & Barking, Andy Gilder & Mick Watkins. Claydon were stronger on the day and won 11 – 3.

**SUFFOLK SINGLES** Championship in early March:

42 players were involved and the final was between Brockley, Neil Jolly & Cockfield, Peter Fellingham. A very close game Peter pulls away, Neil gets back in and it's a draw 4 – 4 on the 6<sup>th</sup> end, Peter gets one shot on the last end and wins 5 – 4, another good final.

Full results are on the SCBA website thanks to Paul D

### **Joe Rice Cup and Chairmans Plate:**

All rounds have now been played and the Finals this Wednesday 20<sup>h</sup> March will be:

JRC - Brockley v Claydon

CP - Copdock v Stanningfield

### **WINTER LEAGUE:**

Everything appears to be progressing well and almost complete, not aware of any serious problems, there has been a few surprising results and just a couple of rule discrepancies.

Stanningfield clinched Division 1 West with a draw at their final game of the season against their rival title chasers Brockley and winning the league on the same points but with a better shot count.

Claydon are Division 1 East Champions beating Needham Market recently, giving them 13 points over Barking with both having one game left to play.

Division 2 N, just 5 points separate Elmsett and Bramford but they both have to play in form Gt Blakenham although Elmsett has the advantage as theirs is a home match where Bramford is an away match.

Division 2 S Bentley has the upper hand at present with a 6 point lead over Martlesham, both have 2 games with the title that may be decided on their last game of the season when they play each other.

Looking ahead, **RS** is working on the Summer League entry form and this will be issued very soon. It was agreed that the entry fee will be £15 per team.

## **8. Captains Report:**

**SG** reported - Since our last meeting Suffolk hosted Cambridgeshire on the 21<sup>st</sup> January which was a very good 30-6 win for Suffolk it was a surprising result as games against them are usually close, the whole squad played well which put us high in the league table.

On the 18<sup>th</sup> February we had to travel to Hertfordshire in the most awful conditions gratefully we all made the venue after aquaplaning some of the way, we always knew it would be a hard fought match and after the first two sessions Suffolk were well down 10 points to 2. The third & fourth session came with a fightback from Suffolk, we had started to pick up the pace and width of the carpets, come the fourth session we were on equal points 12-12. The next one came out 15-15, Suffolk being just up on shots. Session 6 down to last one of the day, it seemed like a repeat of the Nationals but luckily Suffolk picked up 5 points, 1 point to Herts so we came out with a win, Hertfordshire 16 - Suffolk 20, it was a long day but was not raining on the homeward journey. Well done Suffolk.

What can I say, we had our last county match away to Bedfordshire, been several years since we visited, great to see some familiar faces with also some new ones. Suffolk started off with three good wins 6 points 32 shots. The second session had 1 draw and two wins making 5 points and 30 shots, The third session another win 3 wins, 6 points with 35 shots. After lunch things saw a slight hiccup in the fourth session only 1 win, 2 points, 29 shots. We played better in the fifth session 2 wins, 1 draw 5 points and 30 shots. Been a long day with the last session to go 1 win 2 points and 25 shots. The overall score was 10 points 121 shots to Bedfordshire who played some good games knowing they own carpets, Suffolk came out with a good win 26 points, 181 shots.

I must thank each and every one of the Suffolk squad and supporters which made my first league season successful giving us another league title. We now move on to the Five Counties at Littleport on Sunday April 14<sup>th</sup>, everyone welcome to give it a look. The address of the venue, Littleport Leisure Centre Camel Road, Littleport, Cambs, CB6 1PU.

**9. Social Media Report: AP** reported on the SCBA Facebook page, where we now have 308 followers. In the last 28 days, 22 posts have been made, which reached 876 people (how many people have seen the posts), with 1100 engagements (likes and comments). 25% of those were from followers, with the balance from non-followers. Currently the demographic is 60% men and 40% women, with the 65yr+ age group as our most popular followers. The majority of those are from the UK, but we also have followers from New Zealand, Australia, India, Thailand, Egypt, France, Germany and Tanzania featuring in the last month.

#### **10. ECBA Report**

**NJ** reported that on 3 February 2024, the ECBA had an online meeting, chaired by **NJ** as acting Chairman.

It was reported back that the National County Championship at Potters in November had gone smoothly, with Suffolk winning & retaining both the Inter-League match & the National title.

Two proposals to be put forward at the ECBA AGM were discussed. For the Champion of Champions event, specifically the pairs competition it will be proposed that this change from two woods to a three wood pairs. This will bring it line with the ECCBA Champion of Champions pairs competition.

The second proposal relates to the “playing short” rule at the Nationals. Currently if a county is short (up to four players) in a twenty-four-bowler team, individuals can play extra games, but only in the second bowler position in those additional games. It will be proposed that the new ECCBA rule be adopted where a rink can field three players, to play their eight woods in the following format, with no penalty. Player 1 plays their 2 bowls as normal, the same for the 2nd player, then players 1 and 2 bowl alternatively against the opposing 3rd player, then the skips bowl as normal.

The ECBA AGM is on Saturday 13 April 2024, in person at The Brentwood Hotel, Rotherham, preceded by a committee meeting. **NJ** will be attending.

Since the last meeting, the ECBA have been in contact with Potters & accommodation costs had been provided for the 2024 National County Championships. Whilst the costs had gone up (effectively £5/night per person), this increase was less than the previous years. Potters will be issuing accommodation paperwork to all county contacts very shortly.

Upcoming ECBA events are the ECBA Rinks on Sunday 24 March, being hosted by Northumberland CBA & then the Festival of Bowls at Potters, over the week of 29 April to 3 May

#### **11. ECCBA Report:**

**SG** reported there had been no recent meeting. **PD** advised that Bedfordshire are not able to field a team at the Six Counties Championship next month, but it is hoped they will attend the Champion of Champions event in May.

**12. SCBA finances:** Further to the last meeting, when this topic was raised, further discussions were held, given the financial loss to be made come the end of the financial year. **PD** presented a mini balance sheet, highlighting the SCBA big ticket items, both for expenditure and income. Multiple options were discussed and areas agreed, where changes could be made during the next financial year.

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

24<sup>th</sup> March – ECBA Rinks, Northumberland

10<sup>th</sup> April – Winter League Finals night, Needham Market

14<sup>th</sup> April - Five Counties Championship – Littleport Leisure Centre

29<sup>th</sup> April to 3<sup>rd</sup> May – ECBA Festival of Bowls – Potters

8<sup>th</sup> May – East V West – Needham Market

12<sup>th</sup> May – ECCBA Champion of Champions – Littleport Leisure Centre

15<sup>th</sup> May – Suffolk League v Bury League – Needham Market

20<sup>th</sup> May – SCBA Committee Meeting – Needham Market

#### **14. Any other business:**

**RS** advised that he had attended a few Needham Market Community Centre meetings, as a representative of the SCBA. He advised that a new boiler was being installed this week, given recent problems with the current one. Storage of our equipment had been discussed, but it was agreed there was nowhere else for it to go. **AG** thanked **RS** for attending these meetings, as given our use of the venue, it was important that we had a voice.

**NJ** advised that he and Mick Watkins would be running Graham's Hardest Triples on 26 May at Needham Market. As it was ten years since Graham Robinson died, the decision had been made that this would be the last year the event would be held. **NJ** asked if the SCBA equipment could be used and the SCBA account to accept the entry monies. Both were agreed by the Committee.

**NJ** advised that he had recently met with the Needham Market Community Centre manager and fixed dates for SCBA events for 2026. All requested dates had been secured.

**NJ** raised the outcome of the Barking v Brockley Joe Rice Cup semi-final. The final score was 5-5, with Barking having won two games and a draw, Brockley one win and a draw, with Brockley getting the two points for most aggregate shots scored. As per the SCBA Winter Rules which were correctly applied, with a 5-5 scoreline, the first determinative factor is shots scored, which meant Brockley were declared the winner. So in effect, Brockley benefitted twice from shots scored, despite having won less games than Barking. **NJ** felt that didn't feel right and questioned whether the rule should be changed. After discussion, it was agreed that for the latter stages neutral venue matches, next season, the rule should be changed to games won being the first determinative factor when it was a 5-5 scoreline, followed by shots scored, ends won and then one end of bowls, as the rule currently states.

Meeting closed: 9.15pm

Attachments with Minutes

- Summer League entry form
- Grahams Hardest Triples entry form
- ECBA Triples entry form