



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 20 May 2024

Those Present: Andy Gilder **AG** (Chairman) Paul Daniels **PD** (Treasurer) Sally Goodrich **SG** (County Captain), Sue Gilder **SCG**, Andy Pooley **AP**, Frank Wilkin **FW**, Neil Jolly **NJ**, Jim Goodrich **JG**, Ralph Sadgrove **RS1**

1. Apologies for absence: Peter Dent (Secretary) **PD1**, Richard Sago (Match Secretary) **RS**, Jane Sago **JS**, Adam Hubbard **AH**

2. Approval of previous minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 18 March 2024 were proposed by **AP**, seconded by **FW** 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 coming this evening, lovely to see you.

Since our last meeting the Cup and Chairman's Plate have run their course and after a great finals night, played in the right competitive manner, congratulations go to Brockley who beat Claydon in the Joe Rice Cup and Stanningfield who beat Copdock and Washbrook in the Chairmans Plate.

We have had the Winter League finals night, again great finals, with good bowling from all.

Congratulations go to Claydon, who overcame a strong Stanningfield team in the Division 1 final, with a very good Elmsett team beating Bentley in the Division 2 final. Well done to all players and thank you Richard for the organisation of it all.

We had the Eastern Counties Championship in Littleport on 14 April, with a great result for Suffolk, becoming champions once again, close but a great days bowling. Well done to the Suffolk team and well done Sally for her captaincy during the season.

The Festival of Bowls was held at Potters once again 29 April – 3 May, after a good standard of bowls for the week, a very good showing from the Suffolk delegates who had success in the Singles and Pairs.

Congratulations to Paul Daniels for taking the singles trophy for the first time and runner-up in the pairs. Had an off day he said!

Back home the annual East v West match, originated by Ron Smith before his move to Scotland, saw a victory for the East. Congratulations to them and well done Adam Hubbard as captain.

At the time of writing, I have no results for the Champion of Champions event at Littleport or the Suffolk League v Bury league clash as they have not been played yet. I am sure we will hear about these later.

As this is our final meeting before the AGM on 10 June, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their assistance, dedication and time given to the SCBA, to say it is appreciated by me is an understatement, I could not do my job without your help. Thank you.

I hope you will all be standing again next year so we can carry on our good work.

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

6. Treasurers Report:

PD presented the final accounts for 2023/24, which showed a £1500 loss on the year, as previously anticipated. Measures to both increase income, and reduce expenditure in 2024/25 had already been discussed at the last two meetings. **PD** thanked Keith Jolly for auditing the accounts once again this year.

7. Match Secretary's Report:

JOE RICE CUP: Between Brockley v Claydon and was a close final, they each won a fours match and Brockley were 5 shots ahead. It was all square after the first triples game which finished 7 – 7 and all was looking like a Claydon win as they were leading the second triples game after 7 ends with a score of 7 – 3, however that changed in the last 3 ends with Neil J playing at no 2 and giving serious instruction to his skip, they picked up 1 shot on ends 8 and 9 and a 3 on the last end to win the game 8 – 7 making Brockley the winners with a score of 7 – 3 (34 - 28 shots).

CHAIRMANS PLATE: Between Copdock and Stanningfield, a slightly different final, again each team had a win in the fours and Stanningfield had a 3 shot advantage. In the triples again each team won one game again but the 5 shots difference gave the win to Stanningfield 6 – 4 (42 – 34 shots).

WINTER LEAGUE FINALS NIGHT: Division 1 Championship between Claydon and Stanningfield. Claydon play well to take the lead by winning one of the fours 13 – 3 and Stanningfield holding the other team to an 8 – 8 draw. In the triples Stanningfield won one game 8 – 5 but Claydon won the second game 11 – 4, making Claydon worthy winners with a final score of 7 – 3 (37 – 23 shots).

Division 2 Championship between Bentley and Elmsett. Elmsett were masters of the Needham Market mats on the night, (they had a lot of practice over the previous months having played in all of the SCBA Championship events). Bentley just didn't get the speed in the early stages and Elmsett pulled ahead. Elmsett won both fours games 11 – 3 and 12 – 4 and a triples game at 12 – 9, Bentley did get the other triples game at 10 – 6. Elmsett won the trophy with a final score of 8 – 2 (41 – 26 shots).

ECCBA Champion of Champions: Report by others (and on SCBA website) but congratulations to all who took part and well done to David Ford and Andy Pooley for lifting the title for Suffolk in the pairs event.

SUMMER League: We have three extra clubs playing this year and welcome Ashley, Polstead, Stutton and Clapgate Lane, but have lost Barrow due to lack of numbers during the Summer, making 27 teams playing, they have been sorted into five groups.

After a request from some clubs that they would like to travel a bit further and play different clubs than they had in the past, only seven clubs came forward. Cockfield and Stanningfield would have liked to have gone a bit further but it was decided that getting them to come to Chelmondiston and the east of Ipswich for Clapgate Lane was just a bit too far, so sorry to them they are playing in a fairly normal west group with the addition of Ashley.

Group A (travelling): Barking, Chelmondiston, Clapgate Lane, Hintlesham & Chattisham, Hitcham

Group B: Ashley, Brockley, Cockfield, Hundon, Stanningfield, Withersfield

Group C: Belstead, Bentley, Burstall, Copdock & Wasbrook, Harkstead, Stutton

Group D: Bramford, Claydon, Great Blakenham, Martlesham, Old Felixstowe

Group E: Bildeston, Elmsett, Offton & Willisham, Polstead, Whatfield

RS has heard a few clubs were puttering that they only have five teams in their group, sorry but we can't please everybody. Bildeston and Polstead started the season off on 14 May.

East v West (8 May): A comfortable 11-5 win for the East team.

Suffolk v Bury League (15 May): Suffolk used teams of non county players, from Belstead, Copdock and Washbrook, Bramford, Burstall, Elmsett and Martlesham.

Bury League had players from Cockfield, Stanningfield, Thurston, Tostock, Withersfield and Barrow. There were some close scores, and some very wayward scores, congratulations go to all players but especially the Bury League for a convincing win, well done.
Bury League 18pts 109 shots, Suffolk 6pts 83 shots.

8. Captains Report:

SG reported that Suffolk finished as ECCBA League Champions which was close fought with Hertfordshire. We then had to play ECCBA Six Counties at Littleport on the 14 April which Suffolk just held on to come out champions by one point from Hertfordshire who seem to be on the up as a good county of bowlers. Think we'll have to work harder next season to keep our momentum going. The start of the new season being the 6 October with the ECCBA Teambowl at Littleport which will be from the present squad members as we will not have had new trials. The league games start 24 November Suffolk away to Norfolk, venue Wortwell, 8 December away to Cambridgeshire at Littleport, 19 January 2025 sees our first home match against Hertfordshire at Needham Market, 16 February, Suffolk home to Bedfordshire, venue to be arranged as Needham Market not available and finally 16 March, Suffolk home to Essex at Needham Market. I have been lucky to inherit such a great group of committed bowlers who work well for each other and of course I must thank my selectors for all their great help. The Nationals at Potters is fast approaching and I hope to meet with selectors soon to sort the teams so people know what's happening.

9. Social Media Report: There was nothing to report.

10. ECBA Report

NJ reported that he had attended the in-person ECBA meeting and AGM on 13 April 2024.

The main discussion point at the meeting related to the "Playing Short" rule at the National County competition. Two different proposals were put forward, followed by a discussion and vote. It was agreed that teams must have a minimum of twenty players. Up to four rinks will be allowed to play short. Short rinks can play as teams of three players, with no penalty, but bowling in a prescribed order. The lead and second bowler play their bowls as usual, followed by the lead bowler playing one bowl and the second bowler playing another bowl, concluding with the skip playing their two bowls as normal. As it stands, it is hoped that the eight counties competing at October's Nationals will have a full team.

There was also a discussion on a proposal to amend the ECBA Champion of Champions Pairs format, to allow for three woods each, rather than the current two woods. On a vote of the member counties present, the decision was taken to retain the current format.

At the AGM, following the meeting, **NJ** was voted in as ECBA Chairman. There is also other Suffolk representation, with Paul Daniels retaining his Officer position as Treasurer and Mick Watkins remaining as National Referee.

The ECBA Rinks was held on 24 March, in Linton, Northumberland. The event culminated in a very close final, which was level at 6-6 all going into the last end. The deserved winners were Nathan McMann, Steven Wilson, Aiden Turnes and Wayne McMann (Sunderland/ Durham), who just pipped Jaxon McKenna, Neal Ridley, Steven Cain and Neil Jolly (Sunderland/ Durham/ Suffolk) to the title.

Most recently the ECBA Festival of Bowls was held at Potters over the week of 29 April to 3 May. There was an increased entry from last year, including twelve from Norway. In the rinks competition, the Withersfield four of Sue Parrish, Rob Myall, Lisa Edmead and Stuart McNeil bowled well to get to the final where they were edged out 6-3 by a Sunderland four. In the pairs event, it was an all Suffolk semi-final with Val Game and Paul Daniels beating Jim Goodrich and Neil Jolly. Despite bowling well in the final, Val and Paul were beaten by a Sunderland pair. Paul was to get his hands on a winners trophy though as consistent bowling earned him a place in the singles final, where his good form continued, beating his Durham opponent 6-4.

Looking ahead, the ECBA Champion of Champions event is being held at Stanley, in Durham over the weekend of 1 and 2 June. Safe travels and best wishes go to all of our bowlers competing from Suffolk.

11. ECCBA Report: The ECCBA Champion of Champions event took place at Littleport on 12 May. David Ford and Andy Pooley (Claydon) were dominant in the pairs event, winning the title, with five wins from five, the only team in all of the disciplines across the entire event to do so. In the singles, Peter Fellingham (Cockfield) won two and drew one, finishing in fourth place, but only two points behind the winner in a very close event. In the fours competition, June Pettit, Sue Davey, Keith and Colin Fellingham (Cockfield) won three from five, finishing in a creditable third place. In the triples event, Paul Leach, Trevor Bean and Rob Parnell had a tough day, winning only their final game to finish in sixth place. Whilst the event is not a team competition, the Suffolk combinations placed third overall, behind Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire. The ECCBA AGM is being held on 20 June.

12. SCBA finances: Further to our last meeting and decisions made, it had been communicated to the Suffolk squad that their National Championship subsidy would reduce from £35 to £25. There had been some informal conversations around the squad arranging a non-bowls related fundraiser to boost their own squad funds, in addition to the three bowls competitions run.

In addition, it would be communicated at the upcoming AGM that SCBA club annual membership would return to the pre pandemic sum of £35.

Finally, it was agreed that the both the Joe Rice Cup and Chairmans Plate quarter-final matches would now be on a home/away basis, to save on the cost of two evenings hire of Needham Market.

13. Sponsorship: AG advised that he had contacted Oak Employment regarding their ongoing sponsorship of the SCBA. Oak Employment had agreed to sponsor for another year, on the same £250 basis.

14. SCBA AGM: All of the current SCBA Executive Committee confirmed that they would be prepared to stand again, relative to their current roles and responsibilities.

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

26 May – Grahams Hardest Triples

1 and 2 June – Champion of Champions, Stanley

10 June – SCBA AGM, Needham Market

23 June – Marions Fab Fours, Needham Market

1 July – SCBA Executive Meeting

16. Any other business:

RS had attended another Needham Market Community Centre committee meeting on behalf of the SCBA, all appears to be going well. It looks as though our increase in hall hire charges has been put on hold at present because of the Cafe opening and getting settled in together with users who clash in the kitchen. **RS** also attended a Saturday working party to clear water damage under the stage, it let him get to know others on the Committee and hopefully put carpet bowls/SCBA in their good books. A survey has been sent out to Centre users about what is requested from users, what we think needs updating etc, which **RS** is completing.

RS advised that we had previously discussed about people walking over our carpets and a comment was made at the last championship event asking players not to do so and one person did get a bit huffy. Although it happens with clearing the woods some of the elder or less mobile players have problems placing the jack without standing on the carpet. Should we consider obtaining some sticks and stands for the placing of the jacks? If we use eight mats we could get away with eight items because they could be used per pair of mats as most clubs do.

SCG advised that she had also had a conversation with a bowler who had suggested the purchase of jack placers, to negate the need to stand on the carpet. After discussion, it was left that **RS1** would investigate the making of some jack placers. It was agreed that as/ when we had them, we would have to ensure that they were not a trip hazard whilst games were being played.

SCG advised she had twelve spare trophies left over from a pre pandemic purchase. Potential uses were discussed, but as we now had a fourteen player league/cup format, options were limited. One potential option identified was to maybe sell the trophies to the Suffolk Squad Fundraisers for use at their events.

SG referred to the recent East v West match and queried as to the whereabouts of the trophy. The East team had won the match for the past few years, but the East 2023 captain didn't have the trophy at last years match. **AG** agreed to make further investigations.

Meeting closed: 8.40pm