



English Carpet Bowls Association

Minutes of a Meeting held on Saturday 24th September 2005 at The Courtyard Hotel, Rotherham.

Present: Chairman Mr. Tony Cuthbert, Vice Chairman Mr Jason Ellis, Secretary Mrs. Ann Hardy, Treasurer Mrs. Margaret Southgate,
Representatives from: Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Suffolk, Sunderland.

Apologies for Absence

Mr. D. Storey (Referee).

Minutes of last meeting.

Following amendments to add the Sunderland and Norfolk delegates as attendees and delete Durham the minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising.

Essex – Implementation of rule changes. The Essex committee do not accept that changes to the rules agreed at an AGM should be implemented with immediate effect, a date such as the 1st September should be set, this would give time for counties to inform all their members and would give the referee sufficient time to ensure that all accredited referees have been fully informed as to how a new or revised rule should be interpreted. The agreement made at the last meeting to have rule changes implemented with immediate effect means that players taking part in the Champion of Champions have to play to those changes the next day. Many of the players taking part in that competition will be unaware of any such changes even being discussed let alone being agreed. Durham suggested that the delegates at the AGM should inform the players from their respective county before play commences of any rule changes agreed at the AGM. The Chairman stated that as it had been agreed by a majority at the last meeting then no further discussion would take place on this subject, a suggestion put forward by Durham should be accepted as the way that players in the Champion of Champions should be informed of rule changes.

Chairman's Report.

All items that the Chairman wished to comment on would be covered during the meeting. The Chairman congratulated the North Luffenham team who were winners of the Open Triples for the second consecutive year, and thanked South Tyneside for organising the event on behalf of the ECBA.

Secretary's Report.

The secretary reported that the laptop had recently been stolen from her home, and that when reporting the incident to her insurance company had been told that business equipment was not covered under her household policy. The Chairman was informed and stated that the secretary should purchase another laptop with a budget of £600. Should this be exceeded then no purchase should be made until the full committee had been informed. A replacement had been purchased at a cost of £487.00 this included software. The secretary thanked the Chairman for his support over this issue.

Currently three clubs have applied for affiliated membership – Selsey (West Sussex), Haynes and Clophill (Bedfordshire). There are approximately six others that are showing an interest.

Rule books – these are now available with an advert for Shot Bowl on the inside back cover. Unfortunately Potters advert has not been included in this edition.

The promotional leaflet – this has not been progressed – delegates are asked to come forward with some ideas for the content of the new leaflet. It should be remembered that this is to be a promotional tool to encourage new players.

Treasurer's Report.

The balances showing for each of the associations bank accounts are as follows: Current account £256.02, Premium account £927.18, High Interest account £14,406.67, giving a total of £15,589.87.

Referee's Report.

No report had been received from Mr. Storey for this meeting.

Insurance.

The secretary and Treasurer have attended a meeting with Sutton Winson Insurance company with a view to having a three tier insurance system. An umbrella policy for the governing body, then a policy for a county association, then a policy for a club. This would mean that at all levels there would be an insurance policy available at a uniform rate which would only be changed if certain criteria were either added to or removed from the basic policy.

As soon as further details are available they will be distributed to all members and affiliated members.

ECBA Competitions.

Triples 2005 review. The competition was won by North Luffenham, (D. Russo, J & P Ellis). Thanks were given to South Tyneside who hosted this event on behalf of the ECBA. The Chairman stated that in future it should be expected that the host county should expect to do all the administration for the event.

For consistency it was accepted that certain weekends in the calendar should be set aside for the Rinks and Triples. The preferred dates are Easter for the Rinks, and the second Sunday in September for the Triples.

County Championships 2005. Sunderland will not be attending this year due to a number of players being unavailable following illness. The programmes for this event will be sent by post to all counties that are due to attend the event.

The boards that were purchased last year are no longer there, or at least cannot be easily located. The secretary to contact the manager of Seacroft and ask for a goodwill gesture to cover the loss.

Sunderland has donated raffle prizes to the value of £25, the same as they would if they were attending.

Potters 2006. There are currently 183 people having booked accommodation for the mid week break in May. Delegates are asked to remind players that they do need to send their entries for the competitions to the Chairman.

Champion of Champions 2006. Northumberland will loan the carpets and equipment for this event.

Coaching

An e-mail had been received from a Community Centre manager in South Shields stating that they would like to coach younger children in the sport but for obvious reasons it would be better if they could gain a qualification in this. Currently the ECBA does not have a facility for coaching.

There were a number of thoughts on how would we go about this, and whether we could use current trainers? What would be included within a coaching course? The secretary suggested that she would contact the Bowls Coaching Association to find out how they first started their coaching courses.

Mr. Ellis is currently teaching children to play Carpet Bowls in a local school, the response has been excellent with some of the children wishing to play competitively. ~~The Chairman was concerned about the tactics that Mr. Ellis was teaching the children.~~

It was suggested that we could give children certificates and or badges to show that they have achieved a certain standard when being taught the game..

Date of Next Meeting.

The dates for the next committee meeting 7th January 2006 commencing at midday.

Any Other Business

Hertfordshire – Would the travel subsidy currently being paid to counties taking part in the County Championships continue to be paid once the competition has been moved to Blackpool? There is no intention or reason to suspect that a travel subsidy would not be paid, however that will continue to reviewed annually.

There is currently a possibility that Hertfordshire may not be able to field a full team for either the competition due to be held at Blackpool in 2006. Hertfordshire is a very small county and have always experienced problems in raising teams for these events but they fear that the distance they are now being asked to travel could be too much for them to overcome. This is not confirmed but the Hertfordshire committee did wish the ECBA to be aware of their problems well in advance.

Norfolk – Where will Carpet Bowls be in 10 years time? With Carpet Bowls clubs are very much in the decline it is very likely that it will cease to exist. Would the ECBA be willing to assist Norfolk or any other member county with the cost of promoting the game in their county?

It was suggested that Norfolk CBA should contact their Rural Community Council for assistance, and bring plans of their intentions to the next meeting.

With all matters concluded the meeting was declared closed at 3:40 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'G.W. Ows', written in a cursive style.