



English Carpet Bowls Association

Minutes of a Meeting held on Saturday 7th January 2006 at The Courtyard Hotel, Rotherham.

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

Apologies for Absence Sunderland.

Minutes of last meeting.

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising.

Mr. J. Ellis asked for an explanation regarding the comment made by the chairman about the tactics he may be teaching children. It was stated that the minutes did not reflect the context in which they were intended, and as such the Chairman withdrew his comment and they were withdrawn from the minutes.

Shot Bowl – An ad for this company has been included in the Rules booklet – no payment has been received. Mrs Hardy to chase.

Chairman's Report.

All items that the Chairman wished to comment on would be covered during the meeting. The Chairman congratulated Suffolk on their performance at Hemsby which resulted in wins in the Inter-County League Match and the National County Championships.

Secretary's Report.

Next meeting of the Bowls Alliance is the 18th January at Melton Mowbray. This meeting is to give a kick start to the Alliance by getting a Constitution drawn up for discussion by all NGB's, with a view to getting agreement from a number of NGB's in agreement to take the Alliance forward.

Future demonstrations to take place in, Blackpool, Worksop, Dayncourt School Nottinghamshire and in Lincolnshire.

A request for a copy of the rules has been received from Sweden, Mr. Ellis has supplied those.

Insurance – it is hoped that we will be able to have a suitable proposal sent to us in the next few weeks.

Treasurer's Report.

The balances showing for each of the associations bank accounts are as follows: Current account £264.82, Premium account £1,028.02, High Interest account £16,974.51, giving a total of £18,267.35.

Referee's Report.

The ECBA currently has a total of 110 referees, this includes the trainers.

Mr. Storey is currently working on an up date to the Referee's training course.

ECBA Competitions.

Rinks 2006. Entries are coming in slowly, closing date is the 14th February.

Northumberland to purchase glass trophies for winners, runners up and losing semi-finalists.

Potters 2006. There are currently 206 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. Mrs. Southgate to purchase the trophies and to ask last years winners to return the perpetual trophies.

The wording in the latest brochure distributed by Potters suggests the event is open to anyone. ~~The Chairman thought that this perhaps should not be the case.~~ After some discussion it was agreed that this event should be open to all carpet bowlers, and use this mid week break as a promotional tool for the game and the ECBA.

Potters have asked that the date for 2007 is changed, but the Chairman has already told Potters that this could not be the case due to other commitments already in the calendar. The management team of Potters have suggested that they/we could host a World/International event over a weekend. Carpet Bowls is the only discipline without such an event.

It was suggested that the ECBA should be involved in such an event if one was to be organised.

Champion of Champions 2006. Counties to inform the secretary as soon as possible if they do not intend to attend this years competition at Blackpool. The programmes will be ready for distribution at the April meeting.

The format has been slightly amended this year so that on both days an additional 30 minutes has been allocated for the Triples and Rinks to have a lunch break. On the Sunday the start time has been brought forward to 09:00 this means that the competition will still finish at the same time as in previous years.

Triples 2006. The Chairman has received a letter from Norfolk stating that they are unable to host this competition due to other commitments as well as having difficulty in securing a venue large enough to hold 16 carpets. The secretary had been made aware of this at an earlier date, having spoken to the Essex committee they have agreed to host this event at Braintree on 10th September.

The Chairman asked the delegates to consider having two venues for the Triples and Rinks. One situated in the North (Durham) and one in the South (Cambridgeshire), Counties would still rotate the administration, this would possibly mean less travelling for players. The delegates were asked to speak to their respective counties and bring their responses to the next meeting.

County Championships 2005. Congratulations were given to Suffolk who won both the Inter-League and the County Championships.

Code of Conduct

The Chairman read a statement copies of which were distributed to all delegates.

It was agreed that a disciplinary panel should be put in place to investigate any reported incidents that occurred whilst people were attending venues as guests of the ECBA. It was agreed by 7 votes in favour that the elected officers of the ECBA should form such a disciplinary panel.

Discussions took place regarding the formation of a code of conduct. A summary document had been circulated by the secretary. It was agreed that this would form the basis of a code of conduct which will have to be in place before the Champions of Champions due to take place in June. The Durham delegate stated that swearing and use of foul language should not be within the code of conduct as such language was common everyday language to some players. No other county agreed with this statement. The Essex delegate stated that a team from Essex would attend this years events at Blackpool but should similar incidents as those that have recently taken place at Hemsby continue to take place, and the culprits not punished then it was probable that Essex would not send players to ECBA events again.

The secretary suggested that if a code of conduct is to be in place before June then we should consider holding an EGM before the AGM. This could take place immediately following the next meeting.

It was agreed that the secretary should put together a draft document for discussion by counties prior to the next meeting at which time any amendments could be discussed. The resulting document would be the only item for discussion at the EGM, and if accepted counties would be expected to inform any of their players that will be taking part in ECBA events of its existence prior to their arrival.

Any code of conduct that is put in place will be applicable at all times whenever a person is attending a venue which has been booked by the ECBA. Whether they are players or spectators and during social time as well as during the playing of competitions. People should realise that they are ambassadors for their clubs, counties, the ECBA and Carpet Bowls as a whole whatever time of day or night it is and their actions will reflect directly back to all Carpet Bowlers.

Date of Next Meeting.

The dates for the next committee meeting 1st April 2006 commencing at midday this will be immediately followed by an EGM.

Any Other Business

Hertfordshire – Assuming that a travel subsidy is to be paid to all counties attending the County Championships this year, if a county opts not to accept the subsidy that could be paid to it, could those funds be further distributed between the those counties that do claim the subsidy.

The Chairman stated that any travel subsidy that was not claimed would not be distributed to other counties.

The Treasurer stated that any county that intends to decline a travel subsidy should do so in writing.

Norfolk – Further to matters discussed at the last meeting it was stated that as the winter months are very busy they will look at doing some promotion to encourage new players during the summer months.

Northumberland – It was stated that some Northumberland players were very disappointed with the chanting by some of the Suffolk players of “easy, easy” at the end of the final session of the County Championships. It was accepted that it was probably excitement at having won the whole competition rather than an individual match. The Suffolk delegate to speak to the Suffolk team as he did not feel that should have happened and that it was at the very least distasteful.

North Tyneside – Did all counties have the minimum number of 24 players at the County Championships as there were a number of occasions when players arriving later than others delayed the start of some games. The Hertfordshire delegate accepted that at least one of their players had arrive later than others on two occasions, but there were extenuating circumstances surrounding that particular player, who would probably not be playing for Hertfordshire in the future. On other occasions it happened because players were playing back to back games and were moving from one room to another. The move to Blackpool would resolve this as all games will be played in the same room there.

With all matters concluded the meeting was declared closed at 3:00 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'D.A. [unclear]', written in a cursive style.