

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 16th Annual General Meeting Held on Friday 15th June 2007 At The Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool

Present: T Cuthbert, J Smith, E Warren, M Southgate
Representatives from: Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk,
Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Suffolk, Sunderland.
Plus approximately 20 other attendees.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 16th Annual General Meeting of the ECBA.

Apologies for Absence

Referee, Davide Russo; Associate Members Clophill & Selsey; South Tyneside joined the meeting late.

Minutes of last meeting

It was agreed that the minutes of the last AGM with the correct spelling of the Auditor's name Mrs Withell be signed by the Chairman as a true record. Proposed Hertfordshire and seconded by Cambridgeshire.

Matters Arising

No Matters Arising.

Chairman's Report.

Welcome to the 16th AGM of the Association the second one at this venue. As you will all be aware this has indeed been a difficult year for all concerned with the ECBA but the fact that we are here together shows that the will and commitment to work towards the future is still there. At this point I do not wish to dwell on the past events but if anyone has concerns and would like any clarification I will certainly be happy to answer any questions during AOB.

As we did last year I will let the Secretary's Report cover the detail of the competitions and restrict my comments to a very sincere thank you to every county and individual who has supported the ECBA over the last year, we hope for your continued support in the future. As ever my personal thanks go to the officers on the committee all of these people deserve not just my thanks but yours as well for all the work they do throughout the season.

All of the County delegates should be fully up to speed on everything that has happened at our meetings since the last AGM so I will not need to go into detail during this report.

I would to give special thanks to Eve Warren who has taken on the Secretary's duties and for most of the season has had to do it without any records or equipment.

We have been able to give all of the member counties £500 out of the funds; we are aware that some counties are finding it difficult to stay in existence so I hope this has been helpful to those concerned.

We wish all competitors the best of luck and hope you enjoy the weekend. Remember at the end of play on Sunday it would be nice if there were plenty of volunteers to roll up the carpets.

Secretary's Report.

An e-mail was received from Ann Hardy on the morning of the meeting held 19 August 2006 resigning as Secretary of the ECBA. Following the allegation of manipulation and misrepresentation of facts and actions at the AGM 2006 by Mrs Hardy, the Chairman (Jason Ellis) resigned. An EGM was called to fill the vacancies of Chairman and Secretary. This was arranged for 9 September 2006. At this meeting Tony Cuthbert was elected as Chairman and Eve Warren as Secretary.

Requests to Mrs Hardy regarding the return of ECBA documents and equipment were ignored. A solicitor was engaged and eventually the property was returned in April 2007. Consequently, Mrs Hardy has been excluded from participating in any event associated with the ECBA for the foreseeable future.

Development of Carpet Bowls

A leaflet is at present being updated.

A 'pool' of money has been set aside for counties affiliated to the ECBA who require financial assistance in developing the sport in their area. Counties who have development projects requiring assistance will be considered by the committee as to their suitability for financial support. Whilst we continue to develop the sport in existing carpet bowls areas, we should not ignore other areas of potential development.

Results of Competitions over the past 12 months

Champion of Champions

Single - Mark Armstrong (Essex)

Pairs - Diane & John Leonard (Northumberland)

Triples - Margaret Barns/ Mike & Val Bond (Norfolk)

Rinks - O Gray/N Ridley/C Morton/K Hutchinson (Durham)

Overall County Team - Durham

Open Triples - T Haram/K Hutchinson/P Graham (Durham)

Inter County League (North -v- South) - Durham

National County Championships - Winner: Cambridgeshire, Runner Up: Suffolk

Open Rinks - M & B Giddens and C & B Wicks (Cambridgeshire)

Festival of Carpet Bowls

Singles - Norman Pearce (North Tyneside)

Pairs - Neil Jolly, Roy Jonesborough (Suffolk)

Rinks - R & M Daniels, K & P Masters (Suffolk)

Congratulations to all our winners and many thanks to those that have hosted or contributed in any way to the organisation of any of our competitions.

Insurance

The Association has in place the necessary insurance to cover all eventualities relating to the governing body and the running of competitions.

Treasurer's Report.

Copies of the balance sheet were made available to all those present.

The accounts this year show a decrease in our combined bank balances for the first time for several years but the reason for this will become clear as we go through the balance sheet.

On the left hand side of the balance sheet the Income is down by approximately £2000.00 and this is due to the fact that last year we had income from Potters which covered not only the current year but also the previous two years plus we received more commission from Seacroft than we do from the Norbreck. The bank interest improved by approximately £150.00 because the Step Saver account continues to pay a better rate of interest.

The Expenditure side shows little change in our administration costs and as there was no need to a reprint of the Rule Books the development costs were much lower. Moving on to the Champion of Champions we no longer have the enormous expense of hiring a venue to play the competition and last year this saved us £900.00. The County Championships were up on 2006 because all 10 counties claimed a travel subsidy and equipment transport was also more costly. You will see that I have added a new heading this year. Exceptional payments, although I hope this will be a one off item on the balance sheet. The committee was asked if in view of the fact that we no longer had to pay for the hire of the venue for the Champion of Champions was it necessary for the counties to have to contribute £25 to the raffle at the National Championships and the delegates agreed but as I did not wish to purchase and transport that amount of prizes it was decided a refund would be made in November. At the meeting last September it was also decided by the delegates that as we had several thousand pounds in the Bank it would be appropriate for all counties to receive a refund. The last item is for the solicitors fee which we unfortunately had to incur in order that we could recover all the minutes both AGM and Committee, all of our correspondence, rule books, etc. and most importantly our computer equipment from our previous Secretary, when it appeared that she would not return these items voluntarily.

Finally, I would like to thank my auditor, Mrs Sue Withell who has audited these accounts and has agreed that they are a true record.

Proposed Changes to the Constitution

The changes to the constitution which were submitted by the ECBA Committee to this meeting were agreed unanimously. A copy of the updated document will be circulated to all Counties.

Election of Officers

There being no nomination for the official positions of the Association, the current incumbents, agreeing to stand, were elected for a further 12 months.

Chairman	Tony Cuthbert
Vice Chairman	Jamie Smith
Secretary	Eve Warren
Treasurer	Margaret Southgate
Referee	Davide Russo

Annual Membership

The Treasurer proposed that the annual membership fee for 2007/08 remains at £100.00 This was seconded by Hertfordshire and agreed unanimously by those present. The Treasurer reminded all members that their fees are due within the next 30 days

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.20 pm

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Balance Sheet Year to 30th April 2007

INCOME

Balance brought forward
from 2006 20,558.10
10 County Fees @£100.00 1,000.00
Entry Fees for Champion
of Champions 500.00

Development/Promotion

Raffles 733.70
Sale of Rule Books/ Badges 9.50

Norbreck Commission, June
and November 4,430.00
Pairs Competition 32.00

ECBA Rinks 2006 583.36
ECBA Rinks 2007 434.00
ECBA Triples 2006 780.50
ECBA at Potters 2007 2,380.00

Bank Interest 392.74

31,833.90

ECBA Assets

Computer £300.00
Lapel Badges £15.00
Rule Books £150.00

HONORARY AUDITOR

EXPENDITURE

Administration

Officers Expenses, eg Postage 181.44
Telephone, Photocopying etc 993.66
Meeting Expenses, Venue, Travel etc 644.60
Insurance

Development/Promotion

Travel, Meals etc 20.00
Raffle Prizes/ Books 159.00

Champion of Champions

Officers Expenses inc Administration 240.79
Equipment Transport 170.00
Trophies 2006 and 2007 175.00

ECBA Rinks 2006 570.36
ECBA Rinks 2007 319.25
ECBA Triples 2006 600.54
ECBA at Potters 2006 263.58

County Championships

Administration 285.74
Travel Subsidy 3146.00
Pairs Competition inc Trophies 125.00
Trophies 511.71
Equipment Transport 298.94

Exceptional Payments

Refund Raffle costs by Counties 250.00
One Off Payment to Counties 5,000.00
Solicitors Fees 500.00

Petty Cash 5.06

Combined Bank Balances 17,373.17

31,833.90

Joe W. Head (Post Office Manager) Cranford
12.05.07