

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION HELD ON  
SATURDAY 12 JANUARY 2008**

Present: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and representatives from Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Northumberland, North Tyneside, Suffolk, Sunderland

**1. Apologies for absence**

Barry Ireland, Norfolk, Margaret White South Tyneside and Davide Russo (Referee), Gordon & Mary Thirsk.

The time for meeting Bob Weafer has changed to 1.00 pm.

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

Agreed and signed as a true record with the amendment that the Rule Book on Bowls was first produced in 2000.

**3. Matters arising**

**(a) English Pairs**

The Secretary spoke to the Norbeck Castle in Blackpool and obtained details of the possibility of the ECBA running an English Pairs at this venue. The dates available would be September 2008 and April 2009.

The Vice Chairman said that he had spoken at length to member from T & D who now run competitions at Seacroft, Hemsby in April about the time that Meld Leisure ran the English Pairs and the April 2009 date would clash with their event. It was suggest and agreed that the Vice Chairman approach T & D to see if they would work in conjunction with the ECBA to organise the English Pairs.

An event in Blackpool would not be pursued until we see what develops with T & D.

**(b) Referees courses**

Mr Russo has been unable organise any training courses.

Due to pressure of work, he will be resigning as Referee at the AGM in June 2008.

The Chairman and Committee wish to express their sincere thanks to him for his work on behalf of the Association.

**(c) ECBA Website**

It was suggested that Paul Daniels from Suffolk be approached to take over the administration of the website.

Counties to consider what they want from the website (i.e. what information should we like to be included)

**(d) Rinks 2008**

No date has been arranged for this event.

**4. Chairman's Report**

Nothing to report

**Short Mat International**

At this point the representative from Short Mat International, Mr Bob Weafer, joined the meeting. He outlined the background to the magazine giving details of inception (1992 first issue) cost £9.95 per annum.

He is requesting input from carpet bowlers. Scores and details of tournaments, stories of interest (players, competitions, clubs, etc). Anything that may be of interest to bowlers.

## 5. Secretary's Report

### *Books on Bowls Website*

To date I have received about 10 requests for a copy of the Rules for Playing Carpet Bowls including Canada, Australia, Devon, Lincolnshire, Scotland.

The English Indoor Bowling Association requested a copy and reciprocated with a copy of their year book.

Its times like this that a Development Officer would be useful. Scotland, Devon & Lincolnshire would certainly be areas for development. Perhaps we could produce a 'welcome to carpet bowls' pack. A lady from Essex is looking for information. I have indicated that I would pass her address to our Essex representative and ask is someone could contact her and offer assistance.

### *ECBA Contract with Norbreck Castle*

Whilst at the championships in November I took the opportunity to speak to the management of the hotel regarding

(a) A Pairs Competition (details circulated)

(b) Prices for 2011 and 2012 Champion of Champions and National County Championship. Our present contract is rolling and after 2 years of competitions at this venue it seemed an appropriate time to discuss the next 2 years.

The price for 2011 will remain the same as 2010 but we will not receive free places (1 for every 41 booked). At present the free places are taken by the officials who pay their money into the ECBA.

Prices for 2010 and 2011 for half board (B & B and dinner)

<i>C of C</i>	<i>£78.00 p.p. for 2 nights (£88.00 p.p. with ECBA supplement)</i>
<i>Nationals</i>	<i>£107 p.p. for 3 nights (£117.00 p.p. with ECBA supplement)</i>

Prices for 2012 for half board (B & B and dinner)

<i>C of C</i>	<i>£80.00 p.p. for 2 nights (£90 p.p. with ECBA supplement)</i>
<i>Nationals</i>	<i>£109.00 p.p. for 3 nights (£119 p.p. with ECBA supplement)</i>

### *Date for County Championship for 2008*

There seems to be some confusion on the date for this event. The list I circulated earlier was taken from copies of The Norbreck Castle contracts held by the Chairman. When this was queried after the document of dates was circulated, I e-mailed the hotel and asked for the date they have on file for the Championship. The date they gave me (without any prompting on my part) was the date circulated.

## 6. Treasurer's Report

Community Account - £404.19

Business Premium Account - £1248.60 (for development of bowls)

Business Reserve Account - £13,232.19

**In Total - all accounts - £14,884.98**

Income from National County Championships - £547.50 from raffle, Pairs competition £32.00 and £540 from free places. The amount of the subsidy from the hotel is not yet available.

Expenditure - travel subsidy £4048. Hertfordshire and Northumberland have not cashed travel subsidy cheque.

## 7. Referees Report

Nothing to report. (See 'Matters Arising')

## 8. County Championships

- The competition went very well.

- Some of the raffle prizes not very good - It was requested, discussed and agreed that each county to provide 2 RAFFLE PRIZES TO THE TOTAL VALUE OF £25.

- Thanks to June Sneddon and Dawn Smith for the scoring during the weekend.

- Thanks to Hertfordshire for the raffle administration.

- Thanks to Gordon Thirsk for the Pairs administration

- Jack missing from a set of woods. ECBA to pay for replacement.
- Booking Into Hotel responsibility of Counties.
- Travel subsidy to be discussed at the meeting just prior to Championships (i.e. Sept. 2008).

**9. Rinks 2008**

South Tyneside are unable to host this tournament. Chairman indicated that Northumberland may be interested. Details later.

**10. Correspondence**

No correspondence.

**12. Bowls Alliance**

Mr Alan Whitworth, the representative on behalf of the Alliance was unable to attend the meeting due to illness.

A document was circulated by the Chairman which he received from the Alliance. The Chairman spoke to Mr Whitworth on the telephone about the contents of the document, the details of which are as follows

- Cost - Only cost at the moment seems will be payment for 1-3 representatives from ECBA to attend 3 meetings a year (at Melton Mowbray)
- No written agreement on what he is telling us.
- Why do they want us to become members - So they can speak as one voice to Sports England.
- Will they have benefits that would be of interest and available to everyone, e.g. insurance (public liability, officers, equipment).

To move carpet bowls forward, a ballot agreed that officers would attend the next meeting of the Bowls Alliance on 27 March 2008. (6 votes for and 1 against)

**13. Date and Time of Next Meeting**

Saturday 29 March 2008

The Treasurer will book the dates for the next 3 meetings.

**14. Any Other Business**

*Travel subsidy*

- Full amount to be paid (i.e. £1 per mile) unless circumstances change.
- Each county to try to provide a list of attendees at the championships to the Secretary.
- Some players are only staying 2 nights at the hotel and paying for 3 nights as per our contract with The Norbreck Castle. Speak with hotel to see if possible to only book and pay for 2 nights.

The Secretary to e-mail minutes to delegates if applicable.

Apologies for Jamie Smith who is unable to attend next meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed.

EW  
28.2.08

*With agreed changes*

