

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting Held on Friday 10th June 2011 At The Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool

Present: T Cuthbert, J. Smith, D. Vettewinkel, M Southgate, D Storey
Representatives from: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk,
Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Suffolk.
23 other attendees in total

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 20th Annual General Meeting of the ECBA.

Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Mick Watkins and Mike Walker.

Minutes of last meeting

It was agreed that the minutes of the 19th AGM be signed by the Chairman as a true record.

Matters Arising

No Matters Arising.

Chairman's Report.

Welcome to the 20th AGM of the English Carpet Bowls Association.

As usual I will let the secretary's report cover the detail of the competitions and restrict my comments to other matters.

As usual I would like to give 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.

All of the County delegates should be fully up to speed on everything that has happened at our meetings since the last AGM. All information should have been passed on to their respective county members; anyone with concerns or questions can be dealt with during AOB.

At this stage I usually say how successful the last year has been and how we hope for more of the same going forward and to a degree that is the case but along with the success this last year has also revealed some disappointing and concerning themes that we all need to address.

Can you remember this paragraph from my report last year?

"After numerous complaints regarding the venue at the County Championships it has been decided to move the 2011 event to Potters Leisure Resort this decision was not taken lightly but the choice of suitable venues for this event are very limited, I have no doubt that there will be concerns about this decision and I will try to answer any queries in AOB."

By now I am sure that you are all aware that this became a bit of an epic and at some stages seemed to lose all sense of reason. This is not the forum to go into detail other than to say that during some of the many exchanges regarding this subject one of the delegates indicated that if a certain two counties were not present at the event it wouldn't be worth going to the county championships. To have such a low opinion of the other eight counties is quite astounding, I must say that this was the opinion of one individual and sincerely hope it is not the opinion of the rest of his county or indeed anyone else. The concern is that it was said at all, from my point of view and I hope many others all of the counties are of equal value to the ECBA and the constant effort by many of them to continue to support our events is very much appreciated and should never be underestimated.

Going forward I hope that however you view events that have taken place either as disagreements or misunderstandings we can now move on in a constructive manner and remember we have a responsibility to all carpet bowlers not just county players.

If we are to progress and be taken seriously we need to ditch the me, me, me approach and be prepared to consider the bigger picture, of course this is not just the responsibility of your delegates this requires all of you to decide which direction you want carpet bowls to take.

Can I thank Durham for the loan of the carpets and equipment and ask you to treat it with respect. 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.

One last item. Dirk has informed me of his decision to step down as secretary next year following advice from his doctor. While I am extremely disappointed to lose Dirk I completely understand his reasons and his health is much more important than carpet bowls. True to his professional approach to this role he has given the ECBA a full year to find a replacement and I am sure he will give any interested parties the benefit of his experience should they wish to take on this position.

Secretary's Report.

Results of Competitions over the past 12 months

Champion of Champions 2010

Single - Craig Hearn (Hertfordshire)

Pairs - Keith Jolly & Neil Jolly (Suffolk)

Triples – Mick Hearn/Rebecca Gammage/Neil Tuckey (Hertfordshire)

Rinks – Jennie Collins/Josie Long/Ray Collins/Alan Long (Norfolk)

Overall County Team - Sunderland

Inter County League 2010 (North -v- South) - Cambridgeshire

National County Championships 2010 - Winner: Cambridgeshire, Runner Up: Suffolk

Open Triples 2010

Reepham Robins (Norfolk)

Open Rinks 2011

Fay Pitteway/Ken Southwood/Glyn & Joyce Catchpole (Norfolk)

Festival of Carpet Bowls - Potters May 2011

Singles - Martin Cambell (Sunderland)

Pairs - Martin Cambell & Michael Laydon (Sunderland)

Rinks - Eve Warren/Allan Howe/Martin Cambell/Michael Laydon (Sunderland)

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.

National County Championships

The 2010 County Championships were held against a background of severe difficulties with bookings at the Norbreck. The 2011 Championships will be held at the Potters Leisure Resort, which involves earlier booking than normal, but the County Associations have responded well to this challenge and we look forward to a smooth running event with a full entry of 11 counties and with bowling conditions more appropriate for our National Championships.

ECBA Website

The website continues to be very successful, with an increasing number of enquiries. Five of the eleven County Associations either have a page on the site, or have a website of their own which is linked to it. The aim should be to achieve complete coverage as soon as possible.

Child Protection Policy

We are delighted that Andy Gilder is still able to bring his expertise to the role of Child Protection Officer. The whole subject of child protection is on hold at present, awaiting detailed proposals from the Government, which clearly intends to take a more commonsense view on vetting requirements.

Referee Training

We have been giving some attention to the training of new referees, and the renewal of qualifications for existing referees. The Referee, David Storey, is commencing a programme to appoint a maximum of two trainer referees per county with the aim of having a maximum of six ECBA referees trained and approved in each county. The possibility is also under discussion of installing another tier - "county referees" - whose qualification would only extend to events held wholly within their home county.

Secretaryship

The opportunity to meet and work with fellow bowlers throughout the country makes this the best and most rewarding job in carpet bowls. I am therefore deeply disappointed that I am advised that, for health reasons, it would be unwise to continue for more than another year. This means that I must step down at the 2012 AGM and I would be grateful if everyone could bear this in mind during the coming year to ensure that a suitable successor is then available.

Treasurer's Report.

The balance sheet this year shows a slightly lower final balance in our bank accounts than last April, but overall I think we are holding our own financially.

On the income side we now have another county, Bedfordshire, and we still have one Associate Member. Commission and free places from the Norbreck was very much the same as in previous years. We lost money on the ECBA Rinks but made a small profit at the Triples. We are still increasing our income from Potters each year.

The Expenditure side shows an increase in Officers' expenses but this was due to the purchase of a new computer after the old one went kaput at the Champion of Champions last year. Meeting expenses and insurance also went up slightly. Champion of Champions costs were down by over £200.00 because we had purchased the winners' plates for this year and next year. In 2010, also, the transport cost for the equipment was much cheaper. Costs for the National Championships were up because the subsidy was increased by 50p per mile.

Once again, Sue Withell has been my Auditor and she has signed the accounts as a true record, so I give her my thanks.

Referee's Report

The Referee reported that he had rewritten the training booklet and had asked Mick Watkins to co-ordinate training in the Eastern Counties, while he would co-ordinate the Northern Counties.

Election of Officers

Current Officers

Chairman	Tony Cuthbert
Vice-Chairman	Jamie Smith
Secretary	Dirk Vettewinkel
Treasurer	Margaret Southgate
Referee	David Storey
Child Protection Officer	Andy Gilder

The Officers were nominated by the committee and were reelected as there were no other nominations.

The Chairman asked if anyone would be interested in the position of Development Officers, North and South. There was no interest.

Annual Membership

The Treasurer proposed that the annual membership fee for 2010/11 remain at £100 for Members and £20 for Associate Members. This was agreed unanimously.

The Treasurer reminded all members that their fees were due within the next 30 days

Any Other Business

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



ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Balance Sheet----Year to 30th April 2011

INCOME

Balance brought forward
from 2010 21,638.37
11 County Fees 1,100.00
1 Associate Fee 20.00

Development/Promotions

Raffles 792.80
Referee Courses/Rule Books 556.00

Commission from

Norbreck June&Nov 2010 3,429.53
Free Places June&Nov 936.00
Internet Booking Subsidy 40.00

ECBA Rinks 2010 331.00
ECBA Triples 2010 590.50

Potters 2010 inc Free Places 836.00
Potters 2011 2,410.00

Misc. (Hand Gels) 15.00

Bank Interest 9.47

32,704.67

EXPENDITURE

Administration

Officers Expenses, eg Postage
Telephone, Photocopying etc 538.52
Meeting Expenses, Venue, Travel 774.83
Insurance 408.10

Development/Promotions

Raffle Prizes/Books 138.00
Referee Courses 385.12
Development of New Club 52.68

Champion of Champions

Trophies 88.00
Equipment Transport 240.00
Officers Expenses inc. Admin 395.11

ECBA Rinks 2010 417.64
ECBA Triples 2010 562.11

Potters Admin 2010
inc. Trophies 429.03

County Championships

Administration 573.49
Travel Subsidy 5,564.00
Equipment Transport 250.00
Trophies 545.43

Combined Bank Balances 21,342.61

32,704.67

ECBA Assets

Computer/Printer £400.00

Rule Books £150.00

Honorary Auditor

J.M. Withell.

Post Office Manager Bramford.

28.05.2011