



# *English Carpet Bowls Association*

## **ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION**

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the English Carpet Bowls Association held on 18th September 2021

Present: Representatives from Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Northumberland, Suffolk and Sunderland

**1. Apologies for absence**

Durham, Essex, Norfolk

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes were agreed and agreed as a true record, although it was noted that Mike Walker was mistakenly listed as Vice Chairman, rather than Neil Jolly.

**3. Matters Arising from previous minutes**

None

**4. Correspondence**

None

**5. Chairman's Report**

None

**6. Secretary's Report**

None

**7. Treasurer's Report**

None

**8. Referee's Report**

None

**9. Child Protection Officer's Report**

None

**10. Update from Counties (State of Play)**

To one extent or another, all counties have seen a return to play, even if it is at a club level, although by no means all clubs are back up and running at this stage.

Most counties reported at least some clubs had closed, with Norfolk being particularly badly hit, with reduced numbers for the clubs that remain, along with some older players being understandably reticent about returning to their clubs just yet, and a reluctance on the part of some to attend evening meetings.

Leagues in Northumberland, Cambridgeshire, Sunderland and Suffolk are all either starting shortly or planning to do so, but with reduced numbers both in terms of clubs and players.

The consensus was that it was still far too early to get a full picture of the situation.

**11. Potters (Nationals 2022)**

The Association has now been advised of Potters' new pricing structure, which is now all-inclusive with a consequent rise in prices for the weekend of the Nationals which amounts to around £60 per person.

While it was felt that it was still too soon to decide whether the event was viable for all county teams, in terms of being able to get a full squad, the general feeling was that price would be an issue, not only in terms of Potters itself, but the increased cost of travel for the Northern counties.

As a result, it was felt that it was time to start thinking about an alternative option.

## **12. Competitions**

### **a) Triples & Fours**

Fours is scheduled for April in Durham

Triples is scheduled for September in Suffolk, which is booked.

### **b) Festival of Bowls**

Nothing to report, scheduled to go ahead in May 2022

### **c) Champion of Champions**

Contact will be made with Stanley to book a date for 2022

## **13. Any Other Business**

Bedfordshire have an opportunity to take part in an event where they can promote Carpet Bowls. Mick Watkins has a supply of old promotional leaflets which are available for them to use.

Northumberland suggested that we need to be looking at alternatives to the format for the Nationals to take account of reduced numbers. It was also suggested that the time has now come for a face-to-face committee meeting, and in this regard Pauline will contact our regular venue to arrange a suitable date, possibly in December.

Hertfordshire reiterated the need to look for alternative formats. We should not be constrained by what we have done in the past. And that we need to start moving forward with our event plans to get some momentum going in the sport.

Colin reported that we have recently been contacted two individuals who are looking to set up clubs, and are helping them to source equipment.

## **14. Date of Next Meeting**

Holiday Inn, Junction 33, Rotherham 27th November 2021 @ 12.00