

Suffolk **Carpet Bowls** *Association*

The logo is a circular emblem. The outer ring contains the text 'SUFFOLK' at the top and 'CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION' at the bottom. Inside the ring, there is a stylized illustration of a carpet bowl with a crown on top.

The Minutes of a Committee Meeting of the
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association
held at Needham Market Community Centre
on Monday 4th April, 1995

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

Those present:- Margaret Southgate (Vice Chairman), David Schofield (Secretary), Keith Armes (Treasurer), Tony Webber (County Captain), David Cobbold, Trevor Girling, Sally Goodrich, John Hayward, David Jermy, Judith Longman, Ron Smith and Joy Williamson.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Raymond White (Chairman), Arvon Evans and Chris Leach.
2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th February, 1995 were approved as minuted and signed as being a true record by the Vice Chairman.
3. The following matters arose from the previous Minutes:-
 3. 7. The Secretary said that he had not yet made an application to the National Lottery for a grant.
 7. The Vice Chairman confirmed that the Sports Council had approved the Friendship Cup as a fitting expenditure for their £100.
 17. a) Those North East tournament dates that were known of had been included on the Calendar.
4. The Vice Chairman had nothing to report.
5. The Secretary reported that membership remained at 101 Members but that Associate Members had risen to 10 and he welcomed Mundesley as that Associate Member.

As Press Officer he said that he continued to send results, tables and a report weekly to the East Anglian Daily Times, the Evening Star and the Bury Free Press but that we had not been getting everything in. He was particularly frustrated that the reports on the Pairs and Fours and the last couple of weeks exciting run in to the end of the season had not been printed. Exactly the same happened in 1994!

In fact we do get a very good coverage in the press when compared with many other sports and others envy the amount we do get. Tony Webber pointed out that it was the persistence of the Secretary in sending in the information every week which was the key to it. It is clear, however, that the EADT prints if there is space and does not use as its criteria the significance of the tournament, etc..

6. The Treasurer reported that there was £643.07 in the Current Account and £2,668.74 in the Deposit Account. There was £470.00 yet to come from the Eastern Counties CBA and he had received further cheques that night. He

felt that the Associations finances were satisfactory and that we would probably break even over the year. This meant that the increased League and Cup entry fees and subscriptions had been pitched absolutely right.

7. The Winter League Tables were handed around and these were final except for two Royal British Legion, Felixstowe matches which had been played but the scoresheets not yet received. As these games were against the top two in the East 3rd Division it was not certain who were the Champions but the Secretary had gambled on it being Hadleigh when sending out the Finals Day arrangements.

It was, however, clear that Belstead were the East Champions and Brockley the West with Great Blakenham winning the East 2nd Division and Cockfield the West. Bramford and Somersham would be relegated from the East 1st Division with East Bergholt accompanying Great Blakenham in replacing them. Hadleigh and Nayland will be replacing Martlesham and Bentley in the East 2nd Division. Relegation from West Division 1 lies with Needham Market and Woolpit and Cockfield and Hundon will take their places.

The Secretary commented that he felt that it had been a very successful league season particularly judging from the enquiries and interest that was generated towards the end of the campaign.

The Secretary had received two complaints - the first with regard to Clubs taking advantage of the Rules and fielding less than the full 16 bowlers in crucial matches and the second about the behaviour of a particular person in a match. The Secretary was asked to write to the Club of the offender and request their response to the allegations made before the matter was taken further and before publication of the Clubs and people involved was made.

The Secretary handed round his suggested split of Clubs for the Summer Leagues and this was agreed. The minimum number of players will remain at 8 and the first two Fours are to play first with the two Pairs games following. There were no changes to the Rules felt necessary.

8. The Joe Rice Cup Final, the following Sunday, will be between Great Blakenham and Barking whilst Risby and Brockley will play each other for the Chairmans Plate.

9. Margaret Southgate reported that there had been an entry of 225 in the Suffolk Pairs Championships which were won by Pauline & John Hayward (Belstead) with Don Allum & Vic Last (Great Blakenham) the runners up whilst Elaine & Phil Pullham (Brockley) and June Pettit & Arvon Evans (Cockfield) had reached the semi finals.

There followed considerable discussion around the reasons for the lateness of the day which had started at 9 a.m. but not been completed until 8.30 p.m. some 2 hours later than Margaret had planned it to do. It had clearly been a traumatic experience for those on the administration table and the Committee's thanks were given to them. It was suggested that, in the future, those on admin. should not play as well but this was felt to be unfair. 7 or 8 mats were, however, left free for a long period at one point in the day but Margaret said that this shouldn't have occurred because she had not arranged the games that way. Tony Webber and Ron Smith commented that the Pairs had run to time in previous years. The discussion was not able to pinpoint the reasons for the overrun although it was emphasised that there should be a rolling programme. As one game finished then the next game should be started immediately.

10. There were 100 entries for the Suffolk Fours Championships with a Barking Four of Sam Cobbold, Stan Aldous, Andrew Gibbons & Roy Lonsborough (Barking) the 1995 Champions with the Brockley Four of Dot Mott, Phil Pullham, Richard Morris & Robin Jiminez the runners up. Fours from

Hintlesham & Chattisham and Elmsett were semi finalists.

The day had run well to time starting at 9.30 a.m. with it all over by 5.30 p.m. and Margaret wished to thank Biddy Webber for doing the administration on the day. She commented that no scores were put up for people to look at but this had caused no adverse comment at all. It was suggested that as this created a lot of hassle for the organisers then maybe it should be done away with in the future?

11. Tony Webber, the County Captain, reported that it had been a reasonable season with wins in the Eastern Counties League over Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Norfolk and a narrow loss, at home, to Cambridgeshire. It was likely that we would finish second to Cambridgeshire as they would have to lose to Bedfordshire in a home match if we were to stay in front. He felt that other Counties were, however, improving although the Suffolk team seemed to have lost the fight that we used to have and gave in all too easily. With regard to the match the previous day against Herts. he noted that at one stage we led by only 11 points to 9 but that winning 7 of the last 8 games had made the difference. He pointed to several tactical Skips errors of not having woods behind the jack, being short when bowling vital woods and there being no excuse for losing 4 and 5 shots on an end. Late cry offs had caused a problem.
He made it clear that if we were going to get a home advantage in the future then we had to have a regular home venue as our three home matches this season had been at a different place each time. The reason for this had been the unavailability of such as Needham Market Community Centre, which is the preferred venue, as bookings have to be made a very long time in advance. It was hoped that Tony would be able to finalise fixtures at the Eastern Counties AGM on 20th April and that the required dates would be free for booking.
12. The Secretary reported that he and the Chairman had attended the meeting of the proposed Suffolk Bowls Council. All forms of bowls were represented and there was a clear wish that a Council be formed. The speaker from the Essex equivalent outlined the way it ran there which was almost solely directed toward coaching. Suffolk already have a good coaching scheme and anyway it was felt that we should be about rather more than that, e.g. promotion of bowls in general, perhaps to sort differences between different bodies, perhaps to avoid clashes in dates of events, any other matters of common interest, etc.. It was made clear that there was no intention of interfering in the way each game was run. Undoubtedly a Suffolk Bowls Council will be formed and the Chairman and I expressed our interest but that it would be for our Association to decide. A draft Constitution is presently being compiled by David Schofield for distribution between Secretaries of each organisation.
13. Margaret Southgate said that she had passed over to the Treasurer the money collected from County matches and he confirmed that he would make a return to the Eastern Counties Treasurer before the AGM on 20th April. Margaret commented that the raffle the previous day had raised only £39.00. She had paid £15.00 each County match to the caterers for the free coffee and biscuits provided before play commenced.
14. The Secretary reported that he had received, as Secretary to the English CBA, proposals for Rule changes from Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. He had also received proposals from the Development Officer but he doubted that the Constitution allowed for Officers to make proposals. It was agreed that these would be circulated to the Rules Sub Committee that was set up at the last Meeting. Suffolk have proposed minimum and maximum weights for the jack.

It was agreed that David Cobbold would be responsible for presenting Rules proposals and vote on the Rules at the Annual General Meeting. Margaret Southgate would carry the vote on all other matters at the AGM.

David Schofield outlined the decisions of an English CBA Sub Committee that had been set up to look at the October National County Championships which may be put to the AGM for ratification. It is likely that they will be taken away from Hemsby, for this year at least, and held at Scarborough but he was concerned that the cost would be prohibitive. It may be that a Suffolk team would be made up of those who could afford it and not by those who bowled the best.

15. There is a final entry of 480 Pairs for English Pairs Championships and around 1,050 people are staying the weekend. Arrangements are all but finalised although the guest star presenter has still not indicated whether he will attend.
16. The following matters arose under any other business, viz.
 - a) It was confirmed that we would apply to the Eastern Counties AGM for renaming the Suffolk Charity Pairs the Eastern Counties Pairs.
 - b) David Jermyn asked if the English Raffle prizes had yet been paid. The Secretary said that two had and the remainder would be sorted out in the near future.
 - c) David Jermyn regretted that he would be unable to do the raffle on Finals Day but that Judith Longman had agreed to fill in for him.
 - d) Margaret Southgate said that Boxford CBC had rung the Chairman to complain that everything "for sale" on the list circulated by the Secretary was already sold. Needless to say the Secretary was exasperated! Every list had an appeal, in bold type and underlined, to let him know if something was sold. As soon as he received such advice he deleted that reference. The Committee felt that the For Sale and Wanted Board should be discontinued as it clearly caused more harm than good.

The Meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

The last Meeting of the present Committee has been arranged at Needham Market Community Centre for Monday, 15th May, 1995.