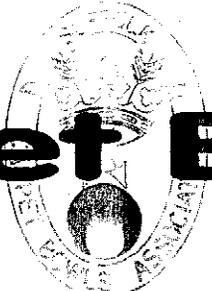


Suffolk **Carpet Bowls** *Association*



The Minutes of a Committee Meeting of the
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association
held at Needham Market Community Centre
on Monday 11th December, 1995

The Meeting commenced at 7.40 p.m.

Those present:- Margaret Southgate (Chairman), Trevor Girling (Vice Chairman), David Schofield (Secretary), Keith Armes (Treasurer), Tony Webber (County Captain), Sally Goodrich, Paul Goulding, John Hayward & David Jermyn.

1. Apologies for absence were received from David Cobbold, Arvon Evans, Chris Leach, Judith Longman, Ron Smith and Joy Williamson.
2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 9th October, 1995 were approved as minuted and signed as being a true record by the Chairman.
3. The following matters arose from the previous Minutes:-
 5. The Secretary was unable, for business reasons, to attend the Sports Council Seminar at Haverhill.
 5. a) The Secretary had had no further discourse with regard to the complaints of the RBL Felixstowe member.
 13. The Chairman commented that she had thought that South Tyneside and Norfolk had wanted to enter a joint team for the English County Championships whereas Arvon Evans had thought they were wanting to enter separately. Margaret explained, however, that because of the seating arrangements those speaking at the front couldn't be heard clearly at the back and she thought that misunderstandings could easily occur.
4. The Chairman wished to pass on comments made to her when playing in South Shields in November that Arvon Evans, as acting Captain, was to be complemented on his handling of the Suffolk team. Because there had been delays on the Saturday by a No. 3 and Skip discussing the head Arvon had spoken to the people involved and there were no problems on the Sunday. Eve Warren had appreciated Michael Ashman thanking her for her hard work on the table as well as playing and he had been the only one to do so.
5. The Secretary reported that membership currently stands at 100 full Members and 7 Associate Members and was pleased to welcome St Mary's Church, Haverhill CBC and Stradbroke to our midst. Those Clubs who have not paid their sub. this year are Battisford, Bures, Honington & Sapiston, Amber Club, Leiston & Whatfield. Both Amber Club Leiston & Whatfield have equipment insured with us and Whatfield, of course, take part in the Leagues. I have not written to them specifically but they do have the Minutes and the covering circular letter spelled out the situation as well as earlier reminders.
It was decided that the Secretary would contact these two Clubs and remind

them that their equipment insurance will lapse and that Whatfield must withdraw from the leagues and Chairmans Plate if they do not pay the sub..

With regard to equipment insurance the half yearly return has been made to the Brokers and 13 extra sets have been covered. We now have a total of 190 sets insured!

It was agreed that the Secretary would renew his registration under the Lotteries and Amusements Act at a cost of £17.50.

A letter has been received from Ipswich Borough Council regarding the establishment of a Coaching Resource Centre at the Central Library in Spring, 1996 and will be linked, by computer, to every library in the County. It was decided that copies of the Rules and the "What is Carpet Bowls" leaflet would be lodged with them.

A letter had been received commenting on the length of time it took to play matches at another Club and the Secretary was asked to contact them and ask why another adjacent Hall, which would take two mats, couldn't be used. The awarding of 10 points to the opposition if a team decided not to honour a fixture was not considered a feasible answer.

Wearing the hat of Press Officer he said that he continued to send results and league tables every week to the Press and although they had not carried all of the reports they had, at least, given good space to the Suffolk Singles Championships.

He commented that he was finding it increasingly difficult to do justice to the role of Press Officer recalling that for 2 years now he had carried it out because no one else would do so. He gave plenty of notice that he would NOT be doing it at the next AGM.

6. The Treasurer reported that the Premium Account currently stood at £4,220.19 and the Community Account at £450.25. Several County players had yet to be paid their subsidy for the Scarborough trip and trophies and Holywells School (for the Suffolk Singles) had yet to be paid for. He felt that the increase in entry fee to the County Championships was sufficient to stabilise the slight imbalance in income and expenditure that was becoming the case.

The 1994/5 Annual Accounts had still not been audited.

7. The latest Winter League tables were distributed.
8. The up to date Joe Rice Cup and Chairmans Plate results were distributed.
9. The Suffolk Singles Championships had gone off well and basically to time. There was some excellent bowling especially in the late rounds. The entry had gone down quite alot but the increase in entry fee had helped to balance the books.
Holywells School as a venue was discussed with regard to cost and lack of atmosphere and an appeal was made to everybody to put on their thinking caps and suggest alternative venues that could take 20+ carpets.
10. a) With regard to the Eastern Counties Championships the County Captain reported that it had been a new team that had taken part with several debutants. Unfortunately we had a disastrous start against Norfolk but improved later to take 3rd place with 30 points. Norfolk had won with 42 points and Cambridgeshire were 2nd with 38. He felt that overall it had not been a bad performance.
He did comment though that the organisation of the event was not very good with hardly any food when it had been said beforehand that there would be

and that the absence of scoreboards had made it very difficult to follow what was happening. The presentations at the end were very poor! It was decided that we would insist at the next Eastern Counties AGM that standards of presentation of the event should be insisted upon.

b) We were 3rd again in the English National Championships at Scarborough but it was noted that if the normal format of playing each other County once had been followed then we would have been 1st. Cambridgeshire and Durham had filled the top two places.

c) The first Eastern Counties League match had been played the previous day and an excellent 19 points to 17 win had been recorded on the Cambridgeshire mats. This is the first time for several years that we had beaten Cambridgeshire! The team had seen a few changes from Scarborough and had performed well with just one or two exceptions which the Selectors will discuss in due course. Overall though it had been a good team performance. We had trailed 4 points to 8 after the first session of 6 games, had won the second 7 points to 5 and the last 8 to 4. Sally Goodrich commented that we were better motivated toward the end of the afternoon than at the start. Discussion took place on team spirit and it was agreed that a coach to away matches would engender this and it was agreed that one would be provided to Blakeney for the Norfolk away match.

11. It has been agreed by representatives of several Suffolk Bowls organisations that a Suffolk Bowls Council will be formed with the aim of portraying a common front on common issues. There is hoped to be a first meeting of the Council in January before a first General Meeting in April. Nine organisations had been invited to take part and the annual subscription was expected to be around £20. It was decided that our Association should become members.

12. An Eastern Counties CBA meeting took place on Thursday, 9th November, 1995 at Linton Social Club, Cambridgeshire and the following dates, effective for the 1996/7 season, were agreed upon:-

(i) that the Eastern Counties Championships would now take place on Sunday, 29th September at the Putteridge Centre, Luton so that a clash with the subsequently arranged English County Championships would be avoided.

(ii) that each County would attempt to run its County Championships at the following times, viz.

the 3rd Sunday in November

the 2nd Sunday in February

the 2nd Sunday in March

and Finals Day on the 2nd Sunday in May

These dates coincided with the our traditional dates except for the Finals Day which would be a couple of weeks later.

(iii) that Eastern Counties League matches would be played at the following times, viz.

the 4th Sunday in November

the 3rd Sunday in January

the 3rd Sunday in February

the 3rd Sunday in March or 2nd Sunday in April where Easter coincides

The Association agreed to meet these dates where possible.

13. A letter has been received from the English CBA Secretary, on their headed paper, criticising the report on the ECBA Meeting in the last Minutes and this had been circulated to each Committee member, along with a letter of acknowledgement from the Secretary.

The Chairman pointed out that we had accepted the Minutes of the last Meeting as being a true record of the proceedings with all being aware that this matter was to be discussed later in the Agenda.

The Vice Chairman commented that it looked as if the criticisms were personal views by the ECBA Secretary and therefore should not have been written on ECBA headed notepaper. He felt that the Minutes were not the business of anybody else - they were the Suffolk representatives views to the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association! There was general agreement to this. There was a suggestion that such reactions could be avoided by circulating the Minutes only to Committee Members but it was agreed that our members were appreciative of the openness of the Committee so should not be deprived of them. As it was likely that the English CBA Secretary had obtained a copy of our Minutes from an Associate Member then it was agreed that only Committee Members and full Members of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association would receive a copy in the future.

It was decided that we would not respond to the ECBA with a detailed answer on the criticisms they had made.

A further letter had been received from the English CBA asking questions about the English National Championships and our response was decided as follows:-

(i) Our comments on the two venues used so far were that although the accommodation at Hemsby was not good people got what they paid for. At Hemsby the car parking was excellent and that the bowling and living on one site was very good. The food was good and the facilities and entertainment were first class. The atmosphere, with everybody living and playing together, was excellent.

Scarborough came in for a great deal of criticism. The parking arrangements were dreadful (non existent), the hotel restaurant could not cope with the numbers, the bowling was too far away from the hotel, the heating was poor (it was freezing cold), there were very long queues for the food at the bowling venue and the coach shuttle between hotel and bowling was poor (some people had to go by taxi to get there in time to play). It was felt by those that had gone to Scarborough that it had not been successful as a venue particularly as the Town Council were supposed to be bending over backwards to welcome carpet bowlers.

(ii) With regard to where future Championships were to be held it was felt that it should not be exclusively in the North or the South but rather alternately or at a central venue, e.g. Nottingham/Doncaster/Sheffield area. It should be at a price that could be afforded by all.

(iii) We were not able to name a venue in the Nottingham/Doncaster/Sheffield area but felt that as the ECBA had been looking for such for a couple of years or more now then they were in the best position to do so.

We were also asked to indicate the number of Member Clubs in our Association (104), the number of bowlers in those Clubs (3,000), the estimated number of Clubs not members of the Association (25) and the number of bowlers in those Clubs (500).

Significant financial support has been offered by the Sports Council to promote carpet bowls but to obtain it the ECBA has to compile a 4 Year Plan. The Secretary said that he would like to update the Plan he had put before the ECBA several years ago and submit it for their consideration.

14. The organisation of the English Pairs Championships, on the weekend of 26th to 29th April, 1996, was now well under way and the Booking Form brochure had been sent out the previous week. It is not residential only and day

visitors will be acceptable. The Organising Committee is David Schofield, Biddy & Tony Webber, Paul Marden and David Jermyn. All past Stewards, Rafflees and helpers have been invited to take part again and there has been an excellent response and they will have reserved chalets of their choice. The support by Suffolk carpet bowlers gives great encouragement to the organisers.

15. The following matters arose under any other business, viz.

a) Chris Leach advised that the Stutton Charity Pairs would be held at RHS Holbrook, again, on Sunday, 18th August, 1996.

b) Chris Leach asked if the meetings could be held on evenings other than Mondays but it was considered that whichever night was chosen it would not be possible to suit everybody. It was, however, noted that the April meeting was set for Easter Monday and the Secretary was requested to seek a change to the following night.

c) Tony Webber commented that we had run out of County sweaters and it was agreed that more should be purchased however it was decided to take the opportunity of considering sweaters other than short sleeved white. Tony Webber undertook to come back with proposals to the next Meeting.

d) David Schofield said that he was out of County players badges and David Jermyn said that he had only 8 of the general one left. David Schofield undertook to get quotations for more, possibly a mix if a minimum number involved, and report back to the next Meeting.

e) David Jermyn asked that the efforts of Sylvia, Mick & Joanne Bond in the Suffolk Raffles be generally acknowledged.

f) John Hayward asked that the format of the Winter League and Cup matches be reviewed as few Clubs were now able to field a full complement of 16 bowlers. It was agreed that such a review should take place and it was agreed to put it on the Agenda for the next Meeting. The Secretary was asked to remind Clubs of the procedure for the selection of those bowling twice in League and Cup matches.

g) Judith Longman was unable to come to the Meeting and report on the Eastern Counties (formerly Suffolk) Charity Pairs tournament arrangements so it was left to the Secretary to liaise with her.

h) It was decided that the Suffolk Trials would be held at around the same time each year with the new team to take over after the Eastern Counties and National Championships. The 15th September was chosen for the 1996 Trials.

The Meeting closed at 10.50 p.m.

Subsequent Meetings have been arranged for Monday, 5th February, Tuesday, 9th April (to be confirmed) & Monday, 13th May, 1996 at Needham Market Community Centre and the Annual General Meeting on Monday, 24th June, 1996 (at a venue yet to be arranged).