

# *Suffolk* **Carpet Bowls** *Association*

The Minutes of a Committee Meeting of the  
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association  
held at Needham Market Community Centre  
on Monday 6th February, 1995

The Meeting commenced at 7.30 p.m.

Those present:- Raymond White (Chairman), Margaret Southgate (Vice Chairman), David Schofield (Secretary), David Cobbold, Arvon Evans, Trevor Girling, Sally Goodrich, John Hayward, David Jermyn, Judith Longman and Joy Williamson.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Keith Armes (Treasurer), Chris Leach, Ron Smith and Tony Webber (County Captain).
2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th December, 1994 were approved as minuted and signed as being a true record by the Chairman.
3. The following matters arose from the previous Minutes:-
  3. 7b. The Secretary confirmed that he had now written, on behalf of the Committee, to Ron Smith to thank him for his work as a Selector.
  3. 7. The Secretary said that he had not yet made an application to the National Lottery for a grant for the purpose discussed at the last Meeting.
  7. The Chairman confirmed that he had written to the Sports Council telling them of the Friendship Cup and asking them to forward the £100 award but there had not yet been a response.
  8. The Secretary reported that 6 Committee Members, with some wives, had been able to attend the evening with the Walpole & Cookley Club and our Vice Chairman had made the presentation of the scoreboard to them as the Associations 100th Member. It was a lovely evening and we were made to feel very welcome. The Secretary had chosen a date, from a selection given to him by Walpole & Cookley, when only one Committee Member was known to be playing a match whereas there were more on the other dates. In the event our Vice Chairman came along and there were a couple, at least, of fixtures that were not known of at that time. The Walpole & Cookley CBC have written a very nice letter of thanks and this was read out.
  12. The Secretary confirmed that he had spoken to Tony Webber and he was willing to organise the equipment on the day of the Suffolk Pairs.
  16. A cheque from the English Carpet Bowls Association for £122.00 has now been received as our commission for the sale of tickets for the National Raffle. A cheque for the prize money in Suffolk had also been received despite the Secretary having previously written to the Chairman of the ECBA saying that this Committee considered that the work and expense of this should be shouldered by the National Association. The Secretary had returned the cheque asking that it be made out to him and he would make the necessary arrangements. He had received this cheque within the last few days. He also commented that he had received a telephone call the day

before from Berkshire complaining of non payment of prize money. The Committee pressed that the Secretary should be reimbursed his costs of distributing the prize money in Suffolk.

4. The Chairman had nothing to report.
5. The Secretary reported that membership remained at 101 Members and 9 Associate Members although there had been a couple of enquiries recently. He confirmed that he had re-registered as a Promoter under the Lotteries and Amusements Act, at a cost of £17.50, so that we could run a major raffle, e.g. the Charity Pairs. A letter had been received from Holywells High Schools that the normal toilets would be out of commission for the Pairs and Fours Championships but others would be provided. A letter had also been received from the Suffolk County (EBA) Bowling Association suggesting that a Suffolk Bowls Council be formed to represent the common interests of bowls in Suffolk and inviting us to a meeting on 21st March. It was agreed that the Chairman and Secretary would attend.

As Press Officer he said that he sent every week results and League tables and usually a report to the East Anglian Daily Times, the Evening Star and the Bury Free Press but that we had not been getting everything in. In fact since Christmas not once had they printed all of what had been sent them that week. He suggested that they could judge for themselves for that week as results, tables, a report on the Cup and Plate, a report on the leagues, a report on the Bedfordshire County match and a feature article, with photographs, on the 100th Club.

He had received a letter regarding a Club fielding less than the regulation 10 players and 1 person playing 3 times. He had replied by listing the names from the scoresheet and saying that everything looked right. There had since been a telephone call in appreciation of his letter. There has been a request for anonymity.

6. The Treasurer had been unable to stay on for the meeting but the Chairman passed on that everything was satisfactory.
7. The then current Winter League Tables were handed around (latest Tables attached hereto).
8. Results of the Joe Rice Cup and the Chairmans Plate were handed around (up to date results attached hereto).
9. John Hayward had organised the Suffolk Junior Championships the previous day and reported that they had gone off like clockwork. The sportsmanship, etiquette and behaviour had been exemplary and it was agreed by all those who had gone along that it was a thoroughly enjoyable day. John reported that the only disappointment had been that a last minute telephone entry of 3 players from one Club had been amended a couple of times and then, without any word, nobody at all turned up. This had meant that some had less games than others and had disrupted arrangements. This same Club had not been able to bring a carpet but John had felt that it was unfair to penalise the youngsters for their elders unhelpfulness (all in the end to no avail, of course). Comment had been made that the raffle had closed rather early and that, perhaps, some had been unable to buy raffle tickets. It was pointed out that it was drawn straight after the group games had finished when over half of the competitors and families would be leaving.

The Suffolk Junior Champion, 1995 was Melissa Crane (Thorpeness) and the runner up Stuart Tilbrook (Knodishall), both Suffolk Heritage Clubs, with the semi finalists being Oliver Pinson-Roxburgh (Offton & Willisham) and Robert Mittell (Chelmondiston).

10. Margaret Southgate and Sally Goodrich reported that there was an entry of 225 for the Suffolk Pairs, 9 up on 1994, and that the draw had been sent out. The Claydon and Cockfield Clubs would be doing the administration on the day. Judith Longman reported that all equipment had been arranged on the basis of going to those first who had the biggest entry but trying to avoid those that had provided equipment for the Singles. Scoreboards had been arranged but Tony Webber would be bringing 4. The Secretary arranged to book the School from 8.15 a.m. until 7 p.m..
11. From a discussion between the Secretary and the Vice Chairman it was felt that the entry forms for the Suffolk Fours Championships at Holywells School, Ipswich on 19th March, 1995 couldn't wait until after this Meeting so had been sent out in the meantime. Margaret will be arranging the administration and Raymond White the equipment. Although the entry forms had been sent out last week 6 entries had already been received but with Skips names only. Bearing in mind the criticism last year of a Club that had entered without including names then this must be discouraged. It was also noted that for the Pairs and Fours it was unnecessary for a member of the losing team to mark the next game.
12. The Secretary put forward a number of dates for next seasons County tournaments, etc. and these were acceptable. We will continue at Holywells High School, Ipswich for the bigger events and Needham Market for the others.
13. Trevor Girling reported that we had beaten Essex, at Earls Colne, by 24 points to 12 and Bedfordshire, at Barton le Clay, 32 - 4 in the Eastern Counties League since the last Meeting. We now lead the table by 19 points from Cambridgeshire who have yet to play Norfolk away and Bedfordshire at home whilst our one remaining match is at home to Hertfordshire (probably on 2nd April). He felt that the Suffolk team had performed well on both occasions although the breaks seemed to go our way against Bedfordshire. A coach had been hired for this latter match but this would be at no cost to the Association - Margaret Southgate said that at £4 per head all but £4 of the cost had been collected and this would be made up from elsewhere. The Secretary will liaise with the County Captain and book provisional dates for next seasons County matches at the preferred venue of Needham Market Community Centre.
14. The Annual General Meeting of the Eastern Counties Carpet Bowls Association will be held on 20th April, 1995 probably at the same venue as last year. Jill Emms (Norfolk) had asked that other Counties stage Eastern Counties Open Championships as they would be looking for ratification at the AGM for their Triples in June at Norwich to be upgraded. After some discussion it was decided that we would propose, at the same AGM, that our SCBA Charity Pairs be retitled the Eastern Counties Open Pairs but be put back to the Autumn. As arrangements for this years tournament were already well advanced then we would suggest this for 1996. It would widen the base of entry and increase the amount we could raise for charity. Although it would make it a much bigger tournament to run there was confidence that the carpet bowlers of Suffolk were well able to cope.
15. Margaret Southgate reported that she and Ron Smith had attended the English CBA Meeting at Blackpool and that the Chairman, John Crawford (Northumberland) opened the meeting by saying that communication between North and South must continue so that all work for the common good of carpet bowls. There is a healthy Bank balance of £9,500. A different venue to Pontin's for the National County Championships is being sought in Newcastle upon Tyne and York but nowhere could be found that could take the numbers. York seemed favourite and a sub committee was set up to find somewhere. It was decided that each County would receive £150 from the ECBA to help with expenses. The Promotional Leaflets had been sent to the Sports Council but

as they distribute only quarterly it seems nothing has been sent out yet. Norfolk have now adopted the National Rules and will be making proposals to the AGM in April for quite a number of changes. The AGM will be held at Hemsby at the English Pairs Championships and a Committee Meeting at South Shields on 9th July. None of the Southern Counties offered to host a Committee Meeting in the Autumn.

A Sub Committee of Raymond White, Margaret Southgate, Tony Webber, David Cobbold and Trevor Girling was set up to consider any Rule changes that Suffolk would wish to propose. The feeling, however, was that the Rules should have a chance to settle down before more alterations were made.

The English Rinks were won by a Four from Northumberland from a South Tyneside team which included Gareth Beard, who bowls with a piece of guttering. Two Fours from Barrow progressed to the Knockout stage on the Sunday morning but a Ron Smith team went out in the 1st Round and the one skipped by Paul Clarke in the 2nd.

16. Currently 440 Pairs have entered for the English Pairs Championships and a thousand people have booked in for the weekend. Although a lower figure than last year this was to be expected as a lot of people cannot afford both the English Rinks in February and then the English Pairs in April. In fact there is a drop in entry of some 70 to 80 Pairs from the North which by itself explains the shortfall. Arrangements for the coming event have been on something of a hold due to the accident to Lin Schofield but are now up and running again. All Rafflees, Stewards, etc. should hear within the next 3 to 4 weeks of final arrangements. The preview evening will be on 1st April. An East Anglian television personality has been invited to make the trophy presentations and his response is awaited.
17. The following matters arose under any other business, viz.
  - a) Margaret Southgate asked for three dates for tournaments in North East England to be included on our Calendar of events.
  - b) Margaret Southgate mentioned the request that she, and others, had from Chris Tilbrook, the Chairman of the Suffolk Heritage League, that inter League matches take place. Nobody was against this but for the difficulty of fitting in more fixtures into an already crowded programme. David Cobbold felt that after discussion Chris Tilbrook would now be revising his request to inviting selected Club teams to play against those in the Suffolk Coastal area.
  - c) The offer from Trevor Girling to host the Suffolk Annual General Meeting at Claydon Community Centre was gratefully accepted.
  - d) David Schofield advised that with Bidy & Tony Webber he & Lin would be organising a carpet bowls mid week holiday break Monday, 30th October to Friday, 3rd November at the Savoy Country Club, Yarmouth, Isle of Wight. They would be sending out details on this, he hoped in 3 to 4 weeks time possibly with a weekend break as well.

The Meeting concluded at 9.35 p.m..

Further meetings have been arranged at Needham Market Community Centre for the Mondays of 3rd April, 1995 and 15th May, 1995.