

Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association

The Minutes of a Committee Meeting of the
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association
held at Needham Market Community Centre
on Monday 13th May, 1996

The Meeting commenced at 7.35 p.m.

Those present:- Margaret Southgate (Chairman), Trevor Girling (Vice Chairman), David Schofield (Secretary), Tony Webber (County Captain), David Cobbold, Arvon Evans, Sally Goodrich, Paul Goulding, John Hayward, David Jermyn, Judith Longman and Joy Williamson.

1. Apologies for absence were received from Keith Armes (Treasurer) and Ron Smith.
2. The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8th April, 1996 were approved as minuted and signed as being a true record by the Chairman.
3. The following matter arose from the previous Minutes:-
 5. The Secretary had written to Durham inviting them to Suffolk for a friendly match suggesting that old differences, whatever they are, be put behind us.
 7. a) The Secretary had written to the Bury Carpet Bowls League and a response had been received saying that the matter would be discussed at their Annual General Meeting and a further communication made after that.
 8. Tithe Barn, Sproughton had wanted to join the Summer Leagues and they had been added to Group D.
 10. The Secretary had written to Norfolk CBA thanking them for their hospitality at the County match at Blakeney.
4. The Chairman offered her congratulations to the Harkstead and Stratford St Mary Clubs for a very well run Suffolk Charity Pairs the previous day - it had been a long day but a very enjoyable one.
5. The Secretary reported that membership was unaltered from the last Meeting at 105 Members and 7 Associate Members. Peasenhall had written to say that they would not be renewing membership as they did not wish to take part in Association events and that they could insure their equipment cheaper through their Village Hall insurance. (Both David Cobbold and the Secretary doubted that this was true and was probably brought about by a misunderstanding of what the cover was). On the other hand the Secretary was aware of at least 3 Clubs who would be joining for the new year.

Renewal premiums for the equipment insurance were unchanged and Clubs had been circulated. The Committee confirmed the rate to Clubs should be unchanged and that the Association would continue to take out and provide

the Public Liability insurance free for Club Officials and their members. He had received an enquiry from Boxford CBC with regard to the protection provided in the light of a recent £1 million award to an injured rugby player against a Referee. Our Brokers had replied that there was £1 million of cover and that legal expenses were included in that cover. Clubs will be sent fuller information to put their minds at rest.

A letter had been received on Personal Accident Cover but this depended on all carpet bowlers being included so had to be a policy taken out by the Association for all. As it would likely cost in the region of £1,500 it will not be taken out.

The Secretary reported that he had made bookings with Needham Market Community Centre for Meetings, the Summer League Play Offs, Finals Day and provisional dates for Eastern Counties League matches. All were confirmed by the Community Centre but for the Suffolk Junior Championships and it was decided to book this for 2nd March, 1997. It was also decided that the Secretary should try and book two of the Committee Meetings for a night other than a Monday.

Wearing the hat of Press Officer, he said that a report summarising the season had been submitted to the newspapers but not one of them had printed it. They had been preoccupied with the possibility that the Ipswich football team might have gained promotion to the Premier Division.

6. In the absence of the Treasurer it was reported that the Premium Account remained at £3,440.34 and the Community Account at £2,176.31 although of that £1,424.00 was being held for the Charity Pairs.
7. Most of the Officers and Committee would be offering themselves for re-election at the Annual General Meeting with the exceptions of Keith Armes who did not wish to continue as Treasurer although he would stand as a Committee Member and Sally Goodrich would be standing as Press Secretary. David Jermyn had written to the Secretary explaining that he would not be standing for the Committee and there was unanimous praise for the hard work he had put in over the years on behalf of carpet bowls and particularly for his efforts with regard to running the Raffles.

The nett result is that an Honorary Treasurer and two new Committee Members, at least, are required to be elected at the AGM. The Secretary to make it clear in his circular letter, with these Minutes, that nominations are required for all positions and particularly these.

Following a discussion later on the Agenda it was agreed unanimously that a Committee proposal to change Clause 3. i) of the Constitution would be made to the effect that members of Associate Member Clubs should not be eligible for election.

The need, or otherwise, for prior notice of matters to be brought up under Any Other Business at the AGM was discussed with the result that general matters could be so but that anything of moment should not be voted upon. Without prior notice would mean that people would be required to vote without the knowledge or opportunity of their Clubs consideration.

Judith Longman said that there were a number of prizes that were unclaimed from the Charity Pairs and she suggested that if they were still unclaimed by the AGM then they also should be raffled off between those Clubs represented. This was agreed upon.

8. a) Our Finals Day had gone very smoothly and Brockley retained the County Championship against Belstead whilst Hundon were first time winners of the Joe Rice Cup against Hintlesham & Chattisham. Ousden were also first time winners beating East Bergholt to take the Chairmans Plate. Needham Market defeated Tithe Barn, Sproughton to become 2nd Division Champions.

It was of interest to note that all those winners came from the West of the County! Martlesham were the 3rd Division Champions but were not represented at Finals Day to receive their trophies which was just as well because Hadleigh had not returned the trophy from last year. It has now been received and all trophies have been passed on to Martlesham.

The two cup finals tended to be rather one-sided but there was a super atmosphere generated for the league championships which were close matches with both being tied at the half way stage.

Tony Webber presented the trophies.

The invitation for the Winter Leagues will be sent out with these Minutes for return prior to the first Meeting of the new Committee on 22nd July and it will assume the normal Winter League format.

b) Judith Longman felt that the Suffolk & Eastern Counties Charity Pairs the previous day had gone well and this was added to by others on the Committee who felt that both of the Harkstead and Stratford St Mary Clubs had done a tremendous job. It had been a splendid day at an excellent venue for bowling although rather spread out for organisers. Both the Tombola and the Raffle were excellent as was the target bowls. There was a special mention for Jane Pitcher who had come from an outdoor bowling commitment to Thurston only to take the photographs. It was disappointing that there were no entries from Norfolk or Cambs despite it being an Eastern Counties Championship. Champions were Colin Platt & Ray Penhaligan (Ousden) with Betty McGuire & Charles Pearce (Lawshall) runners up.

An amount of around £2,000 was raised but it was realised that it had been agreed at the last Eastern Counties AGM that any tournament adopting the Eastern Counties name would contribute 10% of the profit to that organisation. The bulk of the proceeds, however, will be donated to the International Glaucoma Association. Judith expressed her disappointment with the I.G.A. who were not able to send anybody along on the day to man a stall or information desk or to present the trophies and did not sell any raffle tickets. The message seemed to be that in future a Suffolk (rather than a national) charity should be chosen for support.

To comply with the Lotteries and Gaming Act Judith will provide a return to the Secretary of the breakdown of the raffle.

9. Sally Goodrich reported that just 5 or 6 results had been received so far.
10. The County Captain reported that we had won our final fixture away against Hertfordshire by 23 points to 13 but it was a good final session that had tipped the balance. A coach was again used and it contributed greatly to it being a happy squad with excellent camaraderie and support for each other. Hertfordshire had improved their bowling on previous years and the Suffolk team needed to bowl well to succeed.

This result meant that we became the Eastern Counties League Champions with a total of 117 points from Cambridgeshire with 109 and Norfolk with 93 despite our having 3 of our 5 matches away from home. Suffolk now qualify to play Northumberland, the Northern Counties League winners, on the Friday evening of the National County Championship weekend at Hemsby.

The support that the County team had received from others was much appreciated and thanks were passed particularly to those who had travelled.

11. The only proposals put forward for the Eastern Counties CBA AGM were those made by Suffolk and they have now been circulated to each of the 6 Counties.

This AGM will start at 7.30 p.m. at Exning Social Club on Thursday, 6th June and it is open to all to attend.

12. Paul Goulding, a Suffolk representative to the English Carpet Bowls Association, reported that their Annual General Meeting at Hemsby had been a very confused affair. It had been clearly announced that unless proposals and nominations had been in writing then they would not be considered yet a nomination for Development Officer had been taken from the floor. It had been a unanimous decision of the Suffolk Committee that Tony Webber would be nominated yet the nomination of a Norfolk man was made by Joy Williamson who was a member of our Committee. Joy defended this by saying that she was also on the Norfolk Committee and had been forced to nominate their man as 3 other Counties had not honoured their promise to do so. There was much criticism of this action which led to the Committee proposal to the Suffolk AGM that members of Associate Member Clubs should not be allowed to fill a Committee place.

Their followed much criticism of the conduct of the ECBA AGM with the Chairman saying that no nomination of Tony Webber had been received in writing and that the MELD Leisure proposal to run ECBA tournaments had not been received 28 days before the AGM. Both statements were untrue! Further the Chairman announced late in the Meeting that he had a commercial interest in carpet bowls but the Suffolk representatives felt strongly that he should have declared that interest before speaking and voting and not afterwards. It was also said that as the MELD Leisure proposal was a business proposition then it should not be open to discussion by members.

The outcome of the discussion and voting on the Constitution and Rule proposals was unclear let alone who was voting for what. The voting numbers also were very confusing and when Tony Webber challenged the vote of 6 - 5 against him for the Development Officer post it was altered to 6 - 3. On the Rules the votes were recorded as 6 to 2 and 6 to 3. However there were only 7 Member Organisations in attendance!!

Margaret Southgate, as ECBA Vice Chairman, would press for Minutes to be circulated as soon as possible so that we could advise our Members of the changes that had been adopted.

The ECBA AGM was followed by the drawing of the National Raffle and a list of the Suffolk prize winners is included with these Minutes. The Raffle provided a nett profit to the ECBA of £3,660.95.

The next meeting of the ECBA will be at South Shields on 6th July, 1996 and Arvon Evans will attend but not bowl.

13. The English Pairs Championships at Pontin's, Hemsby on the weekend of 26th to 29th April was, perhaps, the most successful yet although the Organisers have yet to met and have a full debriefing meeting. The professionalism of ALL those who were involved in the presentation of the weekend was quite superb. Pontin's, despite having 1,000 people staying for the weekend received not one complaint. On behalf of the Organisers the Secretary gave a big thank to all for a wonderful job.

The entertainment on the Friday evening was not, apparently, a success but Pontin's did respond immediately by getting an extra act for the Sunday. It seems the cabaret acts on the Saturday and Sunday evenings were a great success.

The 1996 English Pairs Champions were Davide and Antonio Russo from Cambridgeshire and deservedly so. They beat Dawn Blunsten & Jamie Smith from the same County in the final. With the Chapmans in the semi finals also Cambridgeshire had, yet again, a successful weekend on the carpet. Phyllis & Henry Gowlett from Essex were the other semi finalists. Congratulations to Joyce & Peter Holbrow, of Hadleigh, who reached the Quarter Finals and Keith & Neil Jolly (Brockley) and Paul King & Jane Pitcher (Offton & Willisham) who reached the last 16. Paul & Jane were runners up last year of course.

Next years EPC will be held on the weekend of 25th to 28th April. There is not alot that can be done to present the bowls any differently so it is likely that more attention will be paid to the entertainment next year.

Arvon Evans commented upon the lack of entertainment in the Victory Bar on the Saturday night and this would be taken up with Pontin's.

On the bowls front there was particular comment that the standard had been very high this year. Tony Webber will review the carpets for use during the final stages which although fair were particularly fast. The problem of carpet on carpet had been solved this year in the Norfolk Room, Hemsby and attention will be paid next year to the Nelson Ballroom although there had been no complaints this year.

14. The following matters were raised under any other business, viz.

a) David Cobbold commented that he had been invited to present the trophies to the Heritage League winners at Sizewell and it had been a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

b) Joy Williamson reported that several Associate Member Clubs were unhappy that they were not receiving Minutes now of Association Meetings and that they were getting no information on competitions. The Secretary reassured her that they were receiving everything, other than Minutes, that he circulated to Clubs. It was the prerogative of competition organisers who they distributed invitations to and only occasionally were they sent out by him.

c) Joy Williamson said that she had received complaints about the orange woods used at the English Pairs Championships because they were a different make to the black woods. Whilst some Committee Members felt that it was irrelevant if they bowled very slightly different Joy was informed that both black and orange woods were both Cameleon made and that the Programme did tell people that.

d) Margaret Southgate passed on several dates for the Calendar amongst which was a Chairmans Invitation Triples which would be held to raise money to support the County team. Each member of the squad would be invited to enter a triple and a date of 13th October had been booked at Risby. Unfortunately this meant that several bowlers may be unavailable because they would already be on their way or because they would be leaving early the following morning for the Isle of Wight. After some discussion over dates Margaret would go back and see if an alternative could be found.

The Meeting closed at 10.30 p.m.