

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

**The Minutes of an Executive Committee Meeting of  
The Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association  
Held at Needham Market Community Centre  
On Monday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2007**

**The meeting commenced at 7.30pm**

**Those present:** John Varden, (Chairman) Marion Brown ( Secretary), Sally Goodrich, Sue Jones, Peter Jones, Keith Hull, Mick Watkins, Jim Goodrich, David Cobbold, Derek Brown, , Pat Lingley Rita Daniels( Treasurer)

**1. Apologies for absence:** -. Richard Sago, Jane Sago, Keith Armes (Vice Chairman),

**2. The minutes of the meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006** - were proposed by Sue Jones, seconded by Mick Watkins and confirmed by the meeting as a true record and signed.

**3. Matters Arising from 2.**

Item 5b. Marion and Derek Brown with the help of David Schofield and Jane Pitcher had given a bowls demonstration at Stowmarket Salvation Army which was enthusiastically received by over 40 people for two hours. The meeting thanked all concerned.

Item i3. Retirement of Secretary - A member interested in part of Marion's present activities had been in contact but the Committee would still like to hear from anyone interested in this position who could then attend a meeting prior to the AGM. Related to this the Chairman said he was aware that David Cobbold, who takes the minutes, would not be standing next year and this might be his last meeting. He thanked David for all his work and invited him to address the meeting.

David said from the days as a founding member of the SCBA executive he had enjoyed every one of the committees whom he served as Treasurer, Press Officer, League Secretary and latterly as Minutes Secretary. In the early days he was pleased, with others, to rationalise the National rules of the game and more recently to help investigate an unwarranted slur from outside the county on one of our members resulting in cordial relations being maintained between counties. His abiding memory was of the selfless work for the good of bowls undertaken by so many committee members and thanked them all for their friendship.

**4 Chairman's Report: -**

I am pleased to start my report with the news that the sub-committee formed to discuss the development of Carpet Bowls within Suffolk has had its initial meeting and produced an excellent report on the necessary actions required to stimulate an interest in our sport. Sudbury has been selected as our first catchment area with an option to roll this out to other areas depending on the appropriate funding being made available. It is also pleasing to think that The English Carpet Bowls Association is taking a particular interest in this initiative. A full report will be circulated to members under item 12 of this Agenda.

A decision on the format of the Summer League for 2007 is due tonight, although it must be said the response from member clubs has been very disappointing with a total of just 6 replies being received.

On a brighter note however, the responses to the questionnaire relating to whether or not the Joe Rice Cup and Chairman's Plate should be regionalised, did generate a better response and these will be discussed under item 6.

We are now needing to consider whether we, as a County Committee, are:-

- a) able to organise a Charity Tournament this summer.
- b) which Charity should be nominated.
- c) a suitable date in the County Diary and
- d) find a team to organise such an event. All offers would be gratefully received

I would like to close my report by extending my sincere thanks to Rita Daniels for her highly professional catering which we have, I am sure, all enjoyed over several years. This will prove to be a very hard act to follow but one which we together with the County Team will need to address.

## 5 Secretary's Report:

- a) Marion had received a letter from a club explaining why they had withdrawn from a Plate fixture having just played the same team in the previous cup round. Travel involved was considerable and they believed it was not reasonable to have the same opponents again. The Committee considered this a freak and unlucky result of the draw and would be considering the Cup and Plate competitions later in the meeting.

6. **Match Secretary's Report:-** Sally had distributed details of the quarter finals of the plate which were – Tostock v Brockley; Somersham v Bramford; Belstead v Martlesham; Chelmondiston v Tuddenham .The Chairman thanked Sally and Jim for their work.

- 6.a **Cup and Plate Competitions:-** The meeting decided to discuss the response of the clubs to our survey at this juncture. Of the 25 clubs entering the present competition 18 had responded. An analysis of all the responses had shown that 4 clubs might leave if there was a regionalisation of some sort but that only 3 clubs might join if there were. Mick Watkins proposed that we make no change and was seconded by Sue Jones. The meeting approved this proposal.

7. **Treasurer's Report:** - The Treasurer distributed a full report of income and expenditure there being presently a net balance of £5898.14 and gave a brief explanation of some items. The meeting appreciated the comprehensive detail and there were no questions.

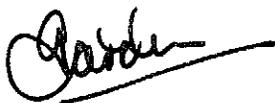
## 8. County Business:-

- a) Closed Tournaments: In the absence of Richard and Jane Sago the Chairman reported that there were 112 entries for the singles ( 124 last year) at the venue of East Bergholt.
- b) Junior Championship: Jeremy Brown had received 8 entries so far which meant that it would go ahead at Burstall on 4<sup>th</sup> March. Members placed on record their thanks to Jeremy and many would endeavour to attend.
- c) Charity Tournament 2007: - It is planned to run this on July 15<sup>th</sup> and the committee would like to hear from Clubs and individuals who would be prepared to help. The Charity to benefit has yet to be decided and if a club or individuals assume, with our help, the organization of the raffle we would take their wishes into consideration. Please contact the Secretary for details.
- d) County Captain's report:- Reports of two county matches were circulated and accompany these minutes. A further full and interesting account by Neil Jolly of the National County Championships at Blackpool on 24-26<sup>th</sup> November was tabled but due to limits on space and postage and with apologies to Neil the following is a summation.  
Ten Counties played each other over two days and before this Durham and Suffolk met on Friday evening for the Inter County League title. The result was a draw with Durham winning on shots 59 – 56 but with a good performance from Suffolk.  
In the main competition (of 3 games each match) the first day saw 3 – 0 wins against Sunderland, North Tyneside, Hertfordshire, Durham and South Tyneside whilst Essex and Norfolk were beaten 2 games to 1 and there was a win and a draw each against Northumberland. The only loss 2 – 1 was against Cambridgeshire but it left them 5 points behind us. The second day saw

Suffolk winning 5 times . 3 – 0 against Sunderland and South Tyneside , a 2 – 1 win over Northumberland, 2 wins and a draw against North Tyneside and 2 draws and a win against Norfolk. Points were shared with Essex- a win and draw each, but two losses 1 – 2 against Hertfordshire and Durham meant that the Cambridgeshire match was crucial and it turned out to be Suffolk's worst session with all 3 games lost. Suffolk were disappointed particularly as they had led for most of the two days but they had played to a high standard and could be proud of their efforts and their sporting manner. **Final Scores:** Cambridgeshire 81, Suffolk 75, Durham 70, Norfolk 61, Essex 61, Northumberland 51, Hertfordshire 42, North Tyneside 37, South Tyneside 36, Sunderland 26. Suffolk County team were supported by Portmak Joinery

9. **Eastern Counties Carpet Bowls Association.:** There has been no meeting
10. **English Carpet Bowls Association:-** A report from Mick Watkins accompanies these minutes. The national referee had asked for nominations for members to become referee trainers.
11. **Summer league format:-** The response from clubs had been disappointing and the few letters were evenly split between staying as we were, going back to fours and pairs or moving to four fours. The Committee approved a proposal by David Cobbold seconded by Derek Brown that we move to a system of fours followed by triples. This would give a larger number of bowlers a game and a return to a fuller evening. It was emphasised that although this would mean in some cases more players playing twice there was no question of any penalty or major rule change.
12. **Development of Carpet Bowls in Suffolk.-** The Sub Committee met on 12<sup>th</sup> January and decided to organise an extensive publicity campaign for a demonstration in the Sudbury area and if this was successful repeat it elsewhere. The aim is to promote Carpet Bowls in its widest sense and not simply to recruit clubs for our own leagues. Peter Jones had received an enthusiastic response from the Gt. Cornard Sports Centre who would let us have the main hall at £15 per hour on a Saturday. Keith Hull proposed, Sally Goodrich seconded and the meeting agreed that we support the development of Carpet Bowls as outlined. Clubs will be kept fully informed of the event and are asked to forward details to the Secretary of any excess equipment for sale or loan.
13. **Any other business:-**
  - a) Pat Lingley asked that we review the rules for the Summer League to accommodate the change and the meeting appointed Mick Watkins and Pat to do this.
  - b) Mick Watkins asked that we consider forming a policy regarding the promotion of Bowls by profit making organisations to encourage a level playing field. For a future meeting.
  - c) Sally Goodrich commented on the need to do earlier planning for coach trips for away events and agreed to undertake some research.
  - d) Mick Watkins responded to the Chairman's question that a membership register is not accepted by some other counties in the ECBA and information from Suffolk is not required

The meeting closed at 10.12 pm. The next meeting is on Monday 19th March 2007



## Suffolk – v – Hertfordshire

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December 2006 Suffolk played their second ECCBA league match of the season, at home against Hertfordshire, at Needham Market. Both counties were represented by six rinks (fours), each rink playing three nine end games over six sessions.

Suffolk were looking to build on the 23-13 win over Norfolk in their first match. Hertfordshire had lost 21-15 to Cambridgeshire in their first match, although they had played well and as always would be a difficult team to beat.

In the first session of three games, a solid start was made by the Suffolk rinks, winning two games 15-5 and 10-5, but losing a close third game 8-6.

The second session followed a similar pattern to the previous one. This time there were two comfortable wins for Suffolk 12-4 and 12-3. Again a low scoring third game ended in defeat 7-4. Eight points from twelve was a good start but Hertfordshire were playing well and Suffolk would have to keep a high level of performance to stay ahead of them.

Three Suffolk wins in the third session was just what was needed and the home rinks delivered. One game was never in doubt, a 9-1 win. However the other two games went right to the last ends with Suffolk winning 7-5 and with the Suffolk skip's last bowl, an 8-7 win.

At halfway Suffolk had an overall 14-4 lead, but Hertfordshire had played well enough to suggest that the remaining games would be closely fought.

The fourth session proved to be the closest of the day. At the finish the points had been shared, a fair reflection of three very close games. Suffolk winning a game 9-8, again with the skips last bowl, Hertfordshire winning 8-7 and the third game being drawn 6-6. Suffolk now needed two good sessions to secure an overall victory.

The penultimate set of three games was Suffolk's best session of the day. All of the Suffolk rinks reached double figure scores, winning 13-5, 11-8 and convincingly 17-1.

Having won the match, it was now essential that Suffolk kept their concentration to improve their overall points total. The final session, whilst closer than the last, also ended with three Suffolk wins, 11-7, 8-4 and 11-10.

The final match score was Suffolk 29, Hertfordshire 7.

The scoreline suggests a comfortable win for Suffolk, but the individual game scores show otherwise and arguably Hertfordshire deserved more points than they had finished with. However the Suffolk team had played well and crucially had maintained their composure to win the close games, of which there were many.

Suffolk's next league match is against Cambridgeshire on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2007, again at Needham Market. They will be looking to maintain the performances of their first two matches, to strengthen their chances of retaining the ECCBA league title.

Neil Jolly  
County Captain

Suffolk County Team: Supported by Portmak Joinery

## **Suffolk – v – Cambridgeshire**

On Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2007 Suffolk played their third ECCBA league match of the season, at home against Cambridgeshire. Both counties were represented by six rinks (fours), each rink playing three nine end games over six sessions.

Suffolk were looking to build on the wins achieved in their first two league matches. Cambridgeshire were top of the league, but only two points ahead of Suffolk, with Essex a further point behind. Matches between the two counties always produce competitive games and bowls of a high quality, this match proved to be no different.

Unfortunately Suffolk got off to the worst possible start. In the first session the Suffolk rinks were all beaten, 9-1, 6-4 and 10-4. If Suffolk were to have any chance of winning the match they could not afford to let Cambridgeshire get any further ahead.

The second session brought a positive reaction from the other three Suffolk rinks. Whilst the three games were very close it was the home rinks that were all victorious, with scores of 8-4, 10-9 and 7-5.

In the third session whilst one of the home rinks were beaten 13-2, the other two games were a lot closer. In one game the Suffolk rink did well to hold on to an early lead and win 8-4. Meanwhile in the other game, by scoring four shots on the last end, the Suffolk rink secured an unlikely win, 7-5.

At halfway Suffolk had done well to recover from their disastrous start and now had an overall lead of 10-8. The momentum was now with Suffolk, but could they maintain this in the last three sessions?

The fourth session followed a similar pattern to the previous one. Again one of the Suffolk rinks were beaten soundly, 16-3. However in the other two games there were relatively comfortable wins for Suffolk 14-8 and 12-5. Suffolk's overall lead in the match now stood at 14-10.

In the penultimate session it was again Suffolk who were victorious in two of the three games. Whilst one home rink was beaten heavily 17-3, there were wins of 16-7 and with three shots on the final end, 9-6. Suffolk's overall lead had now increased to 18-12 and they were looking to win the match in the last session.

The final three games proved to be the closest of the day. Two of the games were drawn, 7-7 and 9-9. In the other game the Suffolk rink made a remarkable comeback, achieving an improbable 13-10 win, having been 10-1 behind after five ends.

The final match score was Suffolk 22, Cambridgeshire 14.

This had been Suffolk's best performance of the season. The team had played some outstanding bowls and shown great composure and character, reversing a disastrous start to beat the league leaders.

Suffolk's next and penultimate league match is away against Essex, at Braintree Leisure Centre on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2007. This will again be a difficult match for Suffolk, with Essex also challenging for the league title.

Neil Jolly (Suffolk Captain)

Suffolk County Team: Supported by Portmak Joinery