



Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association

SCBA Website is <http://www.carpetbowls.org/suffolk>

**The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association
held at Needham Market Community Centre on Monday 26th April 2010**

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Those present: Jeremy Brown (JB)(Chairman), Keith Jolly (KJ)(Treasurer), Graham Robinson (GR)(Secretary), Keith Armes (KA)(Vice Chairman), Freda Wright (FW), Neil Jolly (NJ), Mick Watkins (MW), Andy Gilder (AG), Sally Goodrich (SG), Jim Goodrich (JG), Peter Jones (PJ), Marion Brown (MB), Richard Sago (RS), Jane Sago (JS).

1. Apologies for absence: Nil

2. Approval of previous Minutes: Subject to the addition of Richard & Jane Sago and Keith Armes to the apologies list (item 1) and the correction of Goodridge to Goodrich (item 12.2), the minutes of the Committee Meeting of 25th January 2010 were confirmed as a true record, proposed by Freda Wright, seconded by Marion Brown and signed by Jeremy Brown.

3. Matters Arising: None

4. Chairman's Report: The Chairman thanked all those involved in running the Suffolk Closed Championships Finals Day especially RS, JS and KA for running the event so smoothly. He congratulated all the winners. He also thanked SG & JG for all their winter league work. Thanks also went to MB for obtaining the excellent trophies and saving £300, it was agreed that this supplier should be used for future purchases.

JB thought the County Team had had a good season and had been unlucky not to win the league, he fully backed the County Captain's decision not to accept the trophies at the Six Counties Championship.

5. Secretary's Report: The Secretary confirmed that both finals days had been well organised and had run smoothly. He said that all diary dates for 2011 had now been booked at either Needham Market or East Bergholt. The date for the Charity Tournament would be 22nd January 2011, the earliest available date at Needham Market. The date of the County Trials had been changed to 10th October 2010 and Bildeston had been booked.

6. Treasurer's Report: Keith Jolly presented a balance sheet with the provisional year end income and expenditure to 30th April 2010. The bank balance was £3502. There may be some additional items which will be included before the figures are finalised. There was a significant loss on the year but much of this was the result of exceptional items which he

could explain at the AGM and included two sets of trophies bought in the year, Durham expenditure (only every other year) and courses (CPO training).

He reported that there was one new Associate Member, Ashton.

The committee approved an expenditure claim for photographic work.

7. Match Secretary's Report: SG explained that there had been instances of clubs not fulfilling fixtures and games being played well outside the deadline. Would clubs please notify the Match Secretary of any proposal to concede or play games late. The Division 2 East trophy had not been received from Copdock & Washbrook so could not be presented to Hintlesham & Chattisham on Winter League Finals Day.

SG confirmed the winter league and finals day results as follows:

Division 1 West - Winners Barking, runners up Brockley

Division 2 West - Winners Cockfield, runners up Barrow

Division 1 East - Winners Great Blakenham, runners up Chelmondiston

Division 2 East - Winners Hintlesham & Chattisham, runners up East Bergholt

Division 3 East - Winners Burstall, runners up Kesgrave

The above listed Division 2 & 3 winners and runners up will be promoted, the teams going down are Martlesham and Nayland from Division 1 East, Harkstead and Whatfield from Division 2 East, Woolpit and Hoggards Green from Division 1 West.

SG congratulated Great Blakenham on winning the Joe Rice Cup and the Suffolk League Final. Great Blakenham beat Barking in the Joe Rice Cup Final and Brockley beat Hintlesham & Chattisham in the Chairman's Plate. In the divisional play-off Great Blakenham again beat Barking and in the division 2 play-off Cockfield beat Hintlesham & Chattisham.

JG reported that he had examined the league results with respect to the new shot penalty rule for clubs playing short. The system appeared to have worked well and had not made much difference to league placings.

It was agreed that the latest edition of the Summer League Rules should be sent out by the secretary with these minutes to those clubs participating in the Summer League.

8. Child Protection Officer's Report: AG presented a report to the meeting which is attached to these minutes. The new legislation and creation of an Independent Safeguarding Authority will require slight amendments to our proposed child protection policy, which reduces the requirements slightly. The proposal is to incorporate the SCBA child protection policy into the constitution at the AGM. The secretary will ensure that the following amendments to the constitution are tabled:

Add Item '1.ii)g) appoint a Child Protection Officer to administer the Child Protection Policy of the Association.'

Delete Item 3.1 last 6 words 'and up to eleven other persons' and replace with 'Child Protection Officer and up to ten other persons.'

It was agreed that the CPO could use the official SCBA letter heading on his relevant correspondence. PJ to e-mail AG an electronic copy of the letter heading.

9. County Business: NJ reported on the fine 19-17 away win against Cambridgeshire which was not quite enough to win the league despite Cambridgeshire losing two games and Suffolk losing none. The Six Counties performances were mostly good, the result was very close with Cambridgeshire winning on shots, although an incorrect scorecard resulted in Suffolk being awarded the win on an inflexible ECCBA rule, Suffolk felt unable to accept the trophies under those circumstances.

The trip to Durham is now planned for 7&8th August. NJ is still waiting on costs for the coach and accommodation before circulating full details and costs.

10. English Carpet Bowls Association: MW reported on the ECBA meetings of 23rd January & 27th March and circulated the attached notes. There was much discussion on the fact that some Suffolk bowlers (and others) had booked the Blackpool hotel direct over the Internet rather than using the official booking form. This had caused problems for ECBA who were asking for £10 per bowler to recoup their subsidy. The Suffolk bowlers had used the bowls promotional code on their booking and felt they had done nothing wrong as the booking form did not, they believe, state that it had to be used. After 2010 the ECBA have agreed that Nationals will move from Blackpool to Potters.

Suffolk need someone to attend the AGM of ECBA at Blackpool on 11th June. It was agreed that it would be sorted out amongst those representing Suffolk at the Champion of Champions that weekend.

MW said that there were vacancies for the Vice Chairman and Referee at the AGM. It was agreed that Suffolk would nominate Jamie Smith of Cambridgeshire for the position of Vice Chairman.

He confirmed that Suffolk would be holding the ECBA Triples this year at East Bergholt. MW & AG were doing the site work.

11. Eastern Counties Carpet Bowls Association: PJ reported on the meeting of 11th March. Clarification of league rules had been agreed by the addition of the following to the rules: "*In the event of points being equal, placings shall be determined by consideration of 'Shots For' then, if necessary, 'Shots Against'*". The outstanding issue of the charity cheque to the Air Ambulance which had not been presented, is to be resolved by ECCBA issuing a new cheque which will be delivered by Margaret Southgate. The Chairman, Margaret Southgate, had confirmed that she would be stepping down at the AGM having been chairman for 12 years. As yet there has been no response from the counties for a replacement. It may go to a ballot of counties if there are no candidates. The date of the ECCBA AGM has been changed to 10th June, PJ & NJ plan to attend.

After discussion it was agreed that Suffolk will seek a more flexible rule regarding scorecard errors. It was felt that having the county names at the bottom where the skips sign might help reduce errors.

12. Any Other Business:

1. This being the last meeting before the AGM it was agreed to have a pre meeting on 7th June at 7.30. GR to book a room at Needham Market.

2. KJ suggested that other sources of insurance other than Endsleigh be checked out. It was felt that as Endsleigh were Brokers they were probably offering the best deal but KJ & GR to pursue.

3. PJ had been approached by Suffolk County Council regarding promoting carpet bowls as part of their 'Platform for promoting sport, health and well-being in Suffolk'. It was agreed that the association should participate in this later in the year. PJ to sort out any arrangements.

4. SG raised the issue of players playing for different clubs in Cup and League. It was agreed to discuss this at the first meeting of the new committee to see if it was necessary to change the wording of item 1.d) in the Winter rules.

5. RS, JS and KA were thanked by the chairman for all their great work over the years running the closed tournaments, it is understood that Paul and Rita Daniels have agreed to take over and run these in a similar fashion.

6. In response to a question the CPO advised that if a club were concerned about a player's behaviour because of illness they should get in touch with the relevant health authority.
7. JG raised an issue regarding booking for ECBA events at Potters where Potters appeared to be offering special offers cheaper than the ECBA agreed rate. MW was asked to raise with ECBA.
8. MW is holding keys for Needham Market and it was agreed that he should retain them and make the venue aware he has them.
9. KA reported that there was only one entry for the Junior Championships so it was agreed not to run it this year. KA is holding the trophy.
10. JB questioned whether the annual Suffolk league v Bury league match was going ahead. GR asked to urgently contact Stephen Mayhew of Bury league to check situation and advise.
11. Martlesham have notified the committee that they have a mat for sale. Clubs to contact Martlesham if they are interested.
12. Mencap have approached JB as they are looking for equipment. If any club has a spare carpet and equipment they would be prepared to lend or donate to the charity please contact JB.
13. The subsidy for bowlers representing Suffolk at the Champion of Champions at Blackpool was agreed at £45 per person (as last year).
14. All committee members present with the exception of JB agreed to stand for election at the AGM. GR to contact Steven Cain and Dick Williamson to check their intentions.

The meeting closed at 9.50pm.

Roll of Honour

2009 - 2010

SUFFOLK LEAGUE CHAMPIONS for the Scapa Leisure Surfaces Sheild.

ON DAY/ WINNERS – Great Blakenham ✓

RUNNERS UP – Barking

JOE RICE CUP

ON DAY/ WINNERS – Great Blakenham ✓

RUNNERS UP – Barking

CHAIRMAN,S PLATE

ON DAY/ WINNERS – Brockley ✓

RUNNERS UP – Hintlesham & Chattisham

MICK McNEIL SPORTS SHEILD

ON DAY/ EAST SUFFOLK CHAMPIONS – Great Blakenham ✓

ON DAY/ WEST SUFFOLK CHAMPIONS – Barking ✓

11TH MAY SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONS For the Shire Sports Trophy

WINNERS – Cockfield ✓ RUNNERS UP – Hintlesham & Chattisham

GOT THIRD DIVISION CHAMPIONS

WINNERS – Burstall GOT RUNNERS UP – Kesgrave

SUFFOLK SINGLES CHAMPION

John Varden – Barking

SUFFOLK PAIRS CHAMPIONS

Keith & Neil Jolly – Brockley

SUFFOLK TRIPLES CHAMPIONS

Jane & Richard Sago, Keith Armes – Burstall

SUFFOLK FOURS CHAMPIONS

Heather, Trevor, Steven Cain & Don Allum – Great Blakenham

SUFFOLK CARPET BOWLS**WINTER LEAGUES EAST FINAL TABLES 2010**Visit website on WWW.CARPETBOWLS.ORG/SUFFOLK

DIVISION 1 EAST	Plyd	Won	Lost	Drawn	Sht/For	Sht/Agst	Pts	Ave %
GREAT BLAKENHAM	16	13	2	1	749	456	121	7.56
CHELMONDISTON	16	7	8	1	649	605	90	5.62
BELSTEAD	16	9	7	0	624	585	89	5.56
TUDDENHAM ST MARTIN	16	8	6	2	609	591	87	5.43
CLAYDON	16	8	8	0	654	620	82	5.12
COPDOCK / WASHBROOK	16	9	7	0	606	596	75	4.68
BRANTHAM	16	5	10	1	569	660	61	3.81
NAYLAND	16	6	10	0	494	672	61	3.81
MARTLESHAM	16	4	11	1	551	719	54	3.37
DIVISION 2 EAST	Plyd	Won	Lost	Drawn	Sht/For	Sht/Agst	Pts	Ave %
MARTLESHAM & CHAT	18	10	8	0	850	645	108	6
EAST BERGHOLT	18	14	4	0	713	689	102	5.66
T / BARN SPROUGHTON	18	12	6	0	752	680	99	5.5
STUTTON	18	9	8	1	743	683	96	5.33
HADLEIGH	18	9	9	0	724	733	91	5.05
BRAMFORD	18	9	8	1	719	701	91	5.05
BENTLEY	18	8	10	0	692	767	83	4.61
OLD FELIXSTOWE	18	7	11	0	688	797	80	4.44
HARKSTEAD	18	5	13	0	650	770	78	4.33
WHATFIELD	18	6	12	0	696	766	72	4
DIVISION 3 EAST	Plyd	Won	Lost	Drawn	Sht/For	Sht/Agst	Pts	Ave %
BURSTALL	18	14	4	0	758	627	114	6.33
KESGRAVE	18	10	7	1	765	637	106	5.88
PETERS, IPSWICH	18	12	6	0	763	629	105	5.83
ELMSETT	18	12	6	0	792	662	104	5.77
BEALINGS	18	10	7	1	750	677	96	5.33
SOMERSHAM	18	6	12	0	601	719	90	5
POLSTEAD	18	8	9	1	753	674	87	4.83
STRATFORD ST MARY	18	7	10	1	687	757	82	4.55
TATTINGSTONE	18	4	14	0	623	836	58	3.22
SHOTLEY	18	5	13	0	600	783	58	3.22

RESULTS DIVISION 1		*denotes player short									
HOME v	AWAY >>	Belstead	Brantham	Chelmo	Claydon	Copdock	Gt. Blaken	Martlesham	Nayland	Tuddenham	
Belstead			7-3	8-2	6-4	8-2	2-8	8-2	8-2	7-3	
Brantham		6-4		8-2	6-4	4-6	3-7	6*-4	8-2	5-5	
Chelmondiston		3-7	10-0		10-0	8-2	10-0	8-2	10-0*	10-0*	
Claydon		6-4	8-2	6-4		10-0	6-4	10-0	8-2	8-2	
Copdock & Washbrook		6-4*	6-4	6-4	8-2		2-8	8-2	10-0	6-4*	
Gt. Blakenham		8-2	10-0	10-0	8-2	9-1		10-0	8-2*	9-1	
Martlesham		2-8	6-4	5-5	8-2	4-6	0-10		8-2	6-4	
Nayland		8-2	8-2	8-2	6-4*	6-4	3-7	6-4		2-8	
Tuddenham		6-4*	10-0	8-2	8-2	8-2	5-5	9-1	6-4		
RESULTS DIVISION 2		*denotes player short									
HOME v	AWAY >>	Bentley	Bramford	E. Bergholt	Hadleigh	Harkstead	Hintlesham	Old Felix	Sproughton	Stutton	Whatfield
Bentley			3-7	4-6	10-0	4-6	0-10	6-4	4-6	10-0	8-2
Bramford		10-0		2-8	7-3	2-8	6*-4	10-0	10-0	8-2	7-3
East Bergholt		6-4	8-2		8-2	6-4	6-4	6-4	3-7	6-4	8-2*
Hadleigh		4-6	2-8	10-0		10-0	6-4	10-0	8-2	6-4	7-3
Harkstead		4-6	7-3	3-7	8-2		4-6	2*-8	4-6	2-8	10-0
Hintlesham & Chattisham		4-6	10-0	10-0	2-8	6-4		8-2	10-0	8-2	7-3
Old Felixstowe		8-2	8-2	4-6	1-9	9-1	7-3		2-8	8-2	10-0
Sproughton		8-2	10-0	4-6	8-2	6-4	8-2	10-0		6-4	8-2
Stutton		8-2	5-5	6-4	8-2	7-3	8-2	7-3	10-0		3-7
Whatfield		4-6	8-2	2-8	10-0	6-4	2-8	8-2	8-2	2-8	
RESULTS DIVISION 3		*denotes player short									
HOME v	AWAY >>	Bealings	Burstall	Elmsett	Kesgrave	Polstead	Rivers	Shotley	Somersham	S. St. Mary	Tattingstone
Bealings			6-4	6-4*	5-5	7-3	8-2	10-0*	8*-2*	8-2	10-0
Burstall		6-4		8-2	6-4	8-2	6-4	9-1	7-3*	6-4	10-0
Elmsett		6-4	2-8		6-4	8-2	2-8*	9-1*	4-6*	10-0	6-4
Kesgrave		8-2	10-0	2-8		8-2	8-2*	9-1	8-2*	10-0	10-0
Polstead		8-2	8-2	4-6	3-7		8-2	9-1*	6-4*	5-5	6-4
Rivers, Ipswich		9-1	6-4	2-8	4-6	6-4		7-3	7-3*	8-2	8-2
Shotley		4-6	0-10	4-6	8-2	8-2	3-7		6-4*	3-7	8-2
Somersham		8-2	4-6	4-6	10*0	4-6	3-7	9-1		10-0	8-2
Stratford St Mary		10-0	4-6	3-7	7-3	8-2	2-8	10-0	8-2		8-2
Tattingstone		3-7	2-8	6-4	8-2	3-7	2-8	4-6	6-4	8-2	

SUFFOLK CARPET BOWLS

WINTER LEAGUES WEST FINAL TABLES 2010

DIVISION 1 WEST	Plyd	Won	Lost	Drawn	Sht/For	Sht/Agst	Pts	Avge%
BARKING	12	10	1	1	540	267	88	7.33
BROCKLEY	12	8	4	0	552	355	84	7
STANNINGFIELD	12	7	5	0	466	396	65	5.41
HUNDON	12	7	4	1	427	405	62	5.16
OFFTON / WILLISHAM	12	4	8	0	343	522	48	4
HOGGARDS GREEN	12	4	8	0	341	515	40	3.33
WOOLPIT	12	3	9	0	337	546	35	2.91

DIVISION 2 WEST	Plyd	Won	Lost	Drawn	Sht/For	Sht/Agst	Pts	Avge %
COCKFIELD	10	8	2	0	472	281	69	6.9
BARROW	10	7	3	0	462	280	66	6.6
NEEDHAM MARKET	10	3	7	0	322	350	47	4.7
HITCHAM	10	3	7	0	280	328	46	4.6
BILDESTON	10	5	5	0	261	408	43	4.3
IXWORTH	10	2	8	0	315	476	29	2.9

* Denotes player short

HOME v	AWAY >>	Barking	Brockley	H. Green	Hundon	Offton	Stanning	Woolpit
Barking			6-4	10-0*	5*-5*	10-0*	8*-2	8-2
Brockley		6-4		8-2	10-0*	10-0	10-0	10-0
Hoggards Green		2*-8	2-8		4-6	6-4*	8-2	8-2
Hundon		0-10*	6-4	8-2*		8-2*	8-2	7*-3*
Offton & Willisham		3*-7	6*-4	8*-2	8*-2*		4-6	8-2*
Stanningfield		4-6	9-1*	8-2	6-4*	9-1		10-0*
Woolpit		4-6	1-9	10-0	2-8	6*-4	3-7	

* Denotes player short

HOME v	AWAY >>	Barrow	Bildeston	Cockfield	Hitcham	Ixworth	N. Market
Barrow			8-2*	4-6	10-0	8-2	10-0
Bildeston		0*-10		8-2	3*-7*	8-2	6*-4
Cockfield		4-6	10-0		8-2*	10-0	7-3
Hitcham		10*-0	4*-6*	4*-6		10-0	6*-4
Ixworth		2-8	7-3	0-10	10-0		4-6*
Needham Market		8-2	3-7*	4-6	7*-3*	8-2	

SCBA Report for meeting 26th APRIL 2010.

Andy Gilder.

Since our last meeting there has been some developments regarding the Child Protection issues we have been trying to sort out. This has bearings on what we are required to do regarding these issues and how it affects the ECBA.

On 12th October 2009, the government decided in their wisdom to create new state legislation and the **Independent Safeguarding Authority**. (ISA) Their sole duty is to receive detailed personal information from members of the public in regular contact with children and vulnerable adults, either through work or on a voluntary basis. They will then search this information through all authorities such as CRB, police, courts and other government agencies and then decide if that person is then suitable to do their chosen job. The information gathered will then be held on a national computer in Darlington, the base of the ISA, for an undetermined period of time. (They estimate so many as 9,000,000 sets of very personal data will be held on this one computer.) The ISA will be working with the CRB and their checks as we know them. They are aiming to check everyone with regular contact with children/vulnerable adults, they are saying that **regular = once per week**. There are no exceptions. This is to be phased in over the next 5 years. Once you are on the ISA register, there is no need for re-registering, they keep you on file until they take you off.

The cost of registration with the ISA will be **£64.00**, but voluntary groups "free" of charge. This changes though, because if you cannot do a minimum of 100 referrals per year, you would have to use the "Umbrella" groups, you then have to pay an administration fee. (Currently Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations, SAVO, are charging £7.50 per referral – either ISA or CRB.)

What are the implications for the SCBA?

This is good news for the SCBA. As they organise limited competitions through the year and have varied contact with the children/vulnerable adults on a regular basis, they do not require to be registered. All the SCBA require is a Child Protection Policy to reflect this and encourage and advise the counties to embrace the policy. This we are already enforcing.

What are the implications for the clubs?

The club will require someone to implement the policy of the SCBA, a responsible person, if they have a child/vulnerable adult in its membership. As things stand at the moment the children/vulnerable adults are not subject to intensive coaching, the educational side of learning the sport then falls into a passive/secondary element. This alleviates the need for members to have a CRB check or be registered with the ISA as this becomes a social event rather than an educationally intensive one. I have been in contact with the Young Suffolk organisation to confirm current requirements regarding CRB checks and it is felt that it would be a sensible requirement of the responsible person to be CRB checked if they are not on the ISA register.

Conclusion.

It would seem that the ISA and CRB are getting their act together to make this somewhat simpler for us mere mortals to understand and implement.

As I have undertaken to become the CPO for the ECBA, they are paying for me to undertake a modular course which will certificate me for doing the CPO job to the best of my ability.

Each county has a council run entity, in Suffolk, it is Suffolk Youth. They deal with all matters regarding child protection every day and are in a position to talk to and advise of any problems you may come into contact with, and let you know who to contact too. Each county council will have several people employed, who also do all the required follow-up from any accusation should the need arise, all you do is contact them. It will be one of my duties to find such information and inform those who need to know.

As we are not fully trained/qualified social workers, we will not have the full training to deal with sensitive issues as there are in child protection matters. It is therefore recommended that a foundation course be taken by the county CPO that will then give the basic information on spotting abuse and what to do, who to call. The responsibility for investigations is not ours, all we do is report it.

Should anyone wish to take the CPO course these are available on line at www.virtual-college.co.uk and is their "Awareness of Child Abuse and Neglect" foundation course. This is priced at £30.00 and you download your certificate after completing the course.

And finally.

Thank you to those who have returned the forms indicating the club's responsible person. If there are any more people to complete these forms, please do so quickly as within the next couple of weeks I will be writing to these people to confirm what we do next and put wheels in motion to start CRB checks, and actually registering the children/ V.A.!!

Thanks for reading,

Andy Gilder,
SCBA CPO.

Hertfordshire – v – Suffolk

On Sunday 21 February Suffolk travelled to Cottered to play Hertfordshire. This was Suffolk's penultimate league match and they were looking for a much improved performance from their last match, a disappointing 18-18 draw away at Norfolk.

Going into this match Suffolk and Cambridgeshire were level at the top of the league, with Essex nine points behind.

Cottered was a new venue for Suffolk, but it didn't show in the first session as the Suffolk rinks quickly picked up the pace and lines of the away carpets. Whilst the three games were tight for the first few ends the Suffolk rinks all then secured leads which they held on to. A perfect start for Suffolk, three wins of 7-6, 11-4 and 13-6.

In the second session the other three Suffolk rinks again adjusted to the carpets well. Two of the games were low scoring and close from start to finish. The Suffolk rink edged one of them 8-6 and in the other, just held on to draw 7-7. In the final game the Suffolk rink were in complete control, winning 14-3. Overall Suffolk had started fantastically and deserved their early 11-1 match lead.

Suffolk's great start continued in the third session, as with the first session maximum points were scored again. The three Suffolk rinks played some consistent bowls to win all of the games 8-7, 11-3 and 11-5.

At the half way stage Suffolk held a significant 17-1 lead and it had been a far improved display to that point from their last match. However Hertfordshire had not bowled that badly and would certainly carry a threat in the second half. Suffolk would need to maintain their high level of performance to pick up more wins.

In the fourth session Suffolk suffered their first defeat of the day. In a game in which they were down from the start, they lost 10-3. However in the other two games early leads were gained and resulted in a 10-6 win and a convincing 19-2 win.

The penultimate session was Suffolk's worst of the day, as the points were shared. The Suffolk win was a comfortable 12-1 and their loss was an unfortunate one on the last end, 9-8. The other game was another close affair, again going to the last end and finishing 7-7.

In the final session Suffolk were looking to improve their overall advantage. The day finished well as a further two wins were secured. The first win was a straight forward 13-4. The other was less comfortable, holding off a late rally from the home rink to win 10-9. Unfortunately the other game was lost 10-8, with the last bowl of the day.

Suffolk had won the match 28 - 8 (shots 180 – 105).

It had been Suffolk's best performance of the season and a result that exceeded their expectations. Unfortunately Cambridgeshire also won their match, incredibly 33-3 away at Bedfordshire. Next month Suffolk are away to Cambridgeshire in the final match of the season. The Suffolk team can go into this match with confidence, knowing that a similar performance will give them every opportunity to get the result they need to win the league.

Neil Jolly (County Captain)

Cambridgeshire – v – Suffolk

On Sunday 21 March Suffolk travelled to Paston to face Cambridgeshire in their final league match. Their opponents were top of the league, with Suffolk five points behind. To win the league Suffolk had to win the match 21-15. It would be difficult but confidence was high after their performance in the 28-8 win at Hertfordshire.

Paston was a new venue for Suffolk and they couldn't afford for Cambridgeshire to get any early momentum. However the starting Suffolk rinks picked up the pace and lines of the away carpets well and kept their games close. All three games remained in doubt until the final ends, but two Suffolk rinks edged their games by the odd shot 7-6 and 9-8. Despite a late rally in the other game, it was lost by the odd shot 13-12.

In the next session the games were as close. In the first game the Suffolk rink staged a fantastic recovery from losing a six on the first end to draw 8-8. In the other two games the Suffolk rinks again adjusted to the carpets quickly. The scorelines stayed close but by the finish it was another two hard earned wins for Suffolk, 9-4 and 8-7.

Suffolk's great start continued in the third session. Playing some consistent bowls and tactically sound games a further two wins were secured. Again the games were close, with the outcomes in doubt until the latter ends. The Suffolk wins were 10-8 and 8-5, with the other game lost again only by the odd shot 9-8.

At the half way stage Suffolk held a 13-5 lead and it was well deserved. However the Suffolk team could not relax, knowing that Cambridgeshire had the bowlers to stage a second half fightback.

In the fourth session Cambridgeshire hit back, the Suffolk rinks all suffering defeats despite not bowling badly. They could consider themselves a little unfortunate as two games were lost by just the odd shot 7-6, the other game was lost 12-9.

The match swung again in the penultimate session with Suffolk winning two games. In the most one-sided game of the day Suffolk won a game 17-1, with the other win a lower scoring 7-3. In the final game a disappointing last end resulted in a frustrating 9-8 defeat.

In the final session Suffolk had to win two games to get the 21 points they needed to win the league. All three games started close, but unfortunately two of them drifted away from the Suffolk rinks and they were unable to recover, losing 10-5 and 8-5. The final game was won 11-7.

Suffolk had won the match 19 - 17 (shots 153 – 132).

A disappointing conclusion for the Suffolk team in what had been their best performance of the season. They had been the better team on the day, but had fallen agonisingly two points short of their overall target. Looking back on the day, five games had been lost by just one shot, it had been that close.

Whilst it is no consolation the Suffolk bowlers can be proud of their efforts, not just in this match where they had played particularly well, but also throughout the season. In their five matches, three of which were away, Suffolk had not been beaten.

Neil Jolly (County Captain)

Six Counties Championship, 2010

On Sunday 11 April 2010 the ECCBA Six Counties Championship was held at Braintree Leisure Centre.

The competition involved the six Eastern Counties, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk.

Each county were represented by six rinks (fours), each playing one nine end game against each of the other counties.

In the first session Suffolk's opponents were Hertfordshire. The Suffolk rinks all adapted to the carpets quickly and took control in four of the six games. Early leads were held on to in those games and resulted in wins of 10-5, 10-6, 11-4 and 12-4. In one of the other games an early lead was quickly turned around, but a fantastic four shots on the final end stole a 12-12 draw. The final game was tight from start to finish and finished in another draw, 7-7. Overall Suffolk had scored an excellent ten points against Hertfordshire, a great start to the day.

Next up for Suffolk were Cambridgeshire, likely to be their main rivals in the competition. In the first two games the Suffolk rinks were unable to get any control and were playing catch up from the start. Two defeats followed, 10-2 and 14-7. A recovery was needed in the other four games and the Suffolk rinks responded superbly. All four games were close but in three of them it was the Suffolk rinks that played the better bowls and deservedly earned wins of 8-4, 12-7 and 8-7. In the final game it took another fantastic four shot final end with the last bowl to secure a valuable point in a 7-7 draw. So seven points against Cambridgeshire was a good return that Suffolk were happy with.

Suffolk's next games were against Essex, who after the first two sessions of games held an early overall lead and were playing confidently. That showed in the first three games as Suffolk could only manage the one win 10-6. The other two games were lost 8-6 and 11-2. The situation did not improve in the other three games. Two of the games were close run affairs but wins were edged by the Essex rinks 8-6 and 8-7. In the final game the Suffolk rinks were in complete control and eased to a comfortable 12-5 win. However taking only four points from twelve overall could be costly for Suffolk come the end of the day.

In the competition overall it was now very close at the top with only a couple of points separating Cambridgeshire, Essex and Suffolk, so it was still all to play for.

After the disappointing session of games against Essex, Suffolk had to bounce back against Bedfordshire to maintain their challenge. The session started very well for Suffolk as in the first four games early advantages were secured with some consistent bowling. Those leads were extended as the games progressed and finished with four important wins, 10-2, 13-8, 9-3 and 9-3. In the final two games there were contrasting fortunes for the Suffolk rinks. In one game the Suffolk enjoyed a comfortable game and strolled to a 15-4 win. However in the other the Suffolk rinks struggled and the game was lost 8-4. However Suffolk had taken an excellent ten points from Bedfordshire.

With one session to play Suffolk now had an overall competition lead, but it was only a slim lead. The winner could still come from either Cambridgeshire, Essex or Suffolk.

The final opposition for Suffolk were Norfolk and the session started well with the Suffolk rinks winning the first two games. Early shot advantages were earned and the rinks went on to win 9-4 and 9-6. With four games to play Suffolk knew they needed at worst, two wins and a draw to finish in first place. In two of the games the Suffolk rinks took control and never looked back, securing wins of 13-4 and 12-8. The other two games were far closer and their outcomes were in doubt until the final ends. However agonisingly both slipped away, finishing in defeats for the Suffolk rinks of 9-4 and a tighter 9-8.

In the competition overall Suffolk and Cambridgeshire had finished level on thirty nine points each. Unfortunately Cambridgeshire had scored just eighteen shots more, 282 against 264, to sneak first place.

However the drama didn't end there.

The ECCBA competitions have a rule that states once a game scoresheet is signed and handed in, no amendment can be made. Even in the event of both teams agreeing that the result was incorrectly completed on the scoresheet.

It was discovered that in one of the final games between Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire, the scoresheet was handed in recording a 14-7 win to Bedfordshire. However the correct score was a 14-7 Cambridgeshire win. As a result Cambridgeshire lost those two points for a win, which meant that on a technicality Suffolk had won the competition.

This put the Suffolk team in a very difficult position, as in reality they knew that Cambridgeshire had won overall. Suffolk made the decision to refuse to accept the win and the trophies because they had not won the competition in the manner that is expected. However the rule also prevented Cambridgeshire from winning the event.

In the circumstances the organisers were left with no alternative other than to void the competition which was a farcical and disappointing end to a competitive day's bowling.

It is hoped that this crazy situation forces the ECCBA to review the rule in question to ensure that such a conclusion to a competition never happens again. Surely common sense must prevail.

Looking back over the event most of the Suffolk rinks had performed reasonably well and there had also been some excellent individual performances. The games lost against Essex had been the most disappointing of the day and on reflection had cost Suffolk the overall win.

The Suffolk squad are now looking forward to visiting Durham in August and then the National County Championships at Blackpool in November.

Neil Jolly (County Captain)

Roll of Honour

2009 - 2010

SUFFOLK LEAGUE CHAMPIONS for the Scapa Leisure Surfaces Sheild.

WINNERS – Great Blakenham

RUNNERS UP – Barking

JOE RICE CUP

WINNERS – Great Blakenham

RUNNERS UP – Barking

CHAIRMAN,S PLATE

WINNERS – Brockley

RUNNERS UP – Hintlesham & Chattisham

MICK McNEIL SPORTS SHEILD

EAST SUFFOLK CHAMPIONS – Great Blakenham

WEST SUFFOLK CHAMPIONS – Barking

SECOND DIVISION CHAMPIONS For the Shire Sports Trophy

WINNERS – Cockfield

RUNNERS UP – Hintlesham & Chattisham

THIRD DIVISION CHAMPIONS

WINNERS – Burstall

RUNNERS UP – Kesgrave

SUFFOLK SINGLES CHAMPION

John Varden – Barking

SUFFOLK PAIRS CHAMPIONS

Keith & Neil Jolly – Brockley

SUFFOLK TRIPLES CHAMPIONS

Jane & Richard Sago, Keith Armes – Burstall

SUFFOLK FOURS CHAMPIONS

Heather, Trevor, Steven Cain & Don Allum – Great Blakenham