



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 22nd November 2010**

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm.

Those present: Keith Armes (KA)(Chairman), Keith Jolly (KJ)(Treasurer), Graham Robinson (GR)(Secretary), Neil Jolly (NJ), Mick Watkins (MW),, Sally Goodrich (SG), Jim Goodrich (JG),), Rita Daniels (RD), Freda Wright (FW), Richard Sago (RS), Marion Brown (MB)

1. **Apologies for absence:** Peter Jones(PJ), Jane Sago(JS)
2. **Approval of previous Minutes:** The minutes of the Committee Meeting of 13th September 2010 were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chairman Keith Armes.
3. **Matters Arising:** Due to an oversight, GR did not produce the breakdown of clubs information after the replies from the questionnaire. This will receive priority for the next meeting.
KJ has now received the outstanding cheques requested from the ECBA regarding the Nationals and will now forward these to the ECBA.
4. **Chairman's Report:** The Chairman reported that he had received a letter from AG tendering his resignation following his change of work which would take him away from the area.
5. **Secretary's Report:** The Secretary had nothing to report.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer presented a balance sheet to all committee members.
7. **Match Secretary's Report:** JG reported tha the winter leagues and cups were progressing well.
The question regarding bowlers playing for 1 team in the league and 1 team in the cup arose again.After discussion it was agreed to allow this again.
Offton and Willisham have asked for a week extension to play their league games if need be due to the building work being carried out on their new hall. The committee agreed that this would be ok .JG asked GR if there could be a new copy of Diary Dates sent with these minutes.

8. **Child Protection Officer's Report:** There was no report as the CPO has tendered his resignation. The confidential paperwork has been passed to the Chairman for safe keeping.

9. **County Business:** NJ reported that the entries for the County Trials had increased this year. There will be some new faces in the County Squad. Please see enclosed reports regarding the Eastern Counties Team Bowl and the Nationals.

10. **English Carpet Bowls Association:** MW reported that there had been no meeting since our last meeting. It would appear that Cambridge have now reconsidered going to Potters which means there could possibly be 11 Counties participating.

11. **Eastern Counties Carpet Bowls Association:** PJ has sent a copy of the minutes of the last meeting to GR. PJ felt there were no outstanding matters.

12. **Thurston Letter:** Regarding an application to Sport England to help with the purchase of a 3 mat Electrowind for their club. After discussion SCBA will act as referee and PJ is willing to be the contact for Sport England .

13. **Any other Business:**

a) Charity fours – This is due to be held on the 22nd January 2011 at Needham Market Community Centre, the chosen charity will be Alzheimers – local branch preferred. RD will send out the invites and has offered to run the event. JS will run the raffle. FW will do the catering if required.

GR was asked to book the venue for 2012.

b) RD was asked if would we like to store a mat at East Bergholt School and could they use the said mat themselves. After discussion, the decision was no.

The meeting closed at 9.01 pm

The next meeting is Monday 24th January 2011 at Needham Market

Durham – v – Suffolk 2010

Over the weekend of 7 and 8 August, the Durham county team hosted the visit of the Suffolk county team. Over 30 bowlers travelled from Suffolk up to Durham.

On the Saturday afternoon there was a pairs competition at Pelton, with every Durham bowler being paired with a bowler from Suffolk. As always there were some friendly, yet competitive and high quality group and knockout games.

In two close semi-finals Steven Cain (Suff) and John Kinghorn edged out Heather Cain and Andrew Cooper (both Suff) 7-5, whilst Peter Runnacles (Suff) and Mar Guy beat Neil Jolly (Suff) and Jan Miller 6-5.

The final was just as close, with the outcome in doubt until the last bowl. However after a high standard of bowls from both pairs, it was Peter and Mary who won 6-5.

On the Saturday evening many of the Durham team joined the Suffolk bowlers and supporters at their hotel for an enjoyable meal.

On the Sunday the two counties met at the Riverside, Chester-le-Street for the county match. Both were represented by six rinks, each rink playing four nine end games. The Durham team contained many experienced bowlers, Suffolk knew they were in for a difficult match.

In the first session the Suffolk bowlers adapted to the away carpets fairly quickly and all of the games were close at halfway. However the Suffolk rinks then took greater control of the games and by the finish had secured three wins 7-5, 10-3 and 8-7, with the other game being drawn 10-10. A fantastic start for the away team.

Suffolk's momentum continued at the start of the second session and two of their rinks pressed on to win comfortably 10-4 and 14-9. Unfortunately the other two games were lost 10-4 and on the last end 7-6.

The outcome of all of the games in third session were in doubt until the latter ends. At the finish four close games were shared, Suffolk winning 9-6 and 8-6, with the other two games lost 10-8 and 10-6.

At the halfway stage Suffolk had an overall 15-9 lead, due to that excellent first session. However both teams were playing well and there was little between them. The Suffolk rinks would have to sustain their performance level during the afternoon to win the match.

In the fourth session the Suffolk team extended their overall match lead by a couple of points. One game was a comfortable 15-5 win, another was a far closer 8-7 win and there was also a drawn game 7-7. Suffolk losing the final game 10-7.

In the penultimate session Durham fought back and reversed the outcome of the previous session. Suffolk could only win one game 9-7, together with a draw 6-6. The other two games were lost 10-8 and 10-4.

Suffolk needed just one win in the last session to win the match. They finished as they had started winning three games, 13-3, 6-5 and 8-4, with the other game lost by the odd shot 7-6.

After a competitive and friendly days bowling Suffolk had won the match 29-19 (shots: 197-168), winning the Raymond White Challenge Shield for the seventh consecutive time. However the final score did not reflect how close many of the games had been. Suffolk had performed consistently all day, but their win was mainly due to a great start in the first session and a strong finish in the last.

National County Championships 2010

On Friday 12 November the Suffolk team and their supporters travelled by coach to the Norbreck Castle Hotel in Blackpool for the National County Championships.

The Suffolk team had a memorable 2009 Nationals, winning the event after a close fought tussle with Cambridgeshire. They knew that retaining the trophy would be more difficult, but the team were in optimistic mood.

The competition included eight other counties, Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, South Tyneside and Sunderland. Each county were represented by six rinks (fours), each rink playing one nine end game against all of the other counties, over two long days of bowling.

First up on Saturday morning for Suffolk were Sunderland, a rapidly improving team who had high hopes themselves of winning the event. It was an edgy start from Suffolk rinks A, B and C on three tricky carpets. However after settling down, Suffolk went on to gain two well earned wins 10-6 and 11-6. The other game was lost 10-3.

Rinks D,E and F started their weekend's bowling against Norfolk, who with their experienced team are always difficult to overcome. Three close games ensued, Norfolk edging the first 10-9, but Suffolk holding on for wins in the other two games, 9-4 and 10-8.

Next up for rinks A, B and C were South Tyneside, not the strongest of the northern teams so Suffolk were looking for their first maximum six point session. They were denied this with one of the games ending in an 8-8 draw. However the other two Suffolk rinks eased to wins in their games 10-4 and an astounding 24-1.

After the lunch break rinks A, B and C were on again, this time against the very experienced Durham team. The six point maximum again proved elusive as a game was lost 10-4. However two valuable wins were secured, 13-7 and 11-7.

Local rivals Essex were the opposition in the next session for rinks D,E and F. Essex, a county squad full of consistent bowlers who are always a difficult team to beat. Again Suffolk came close to winning all three, but one game was lost 12-6. However there were wins of 14-5 and a low scoring 6-4.

Rinks A, B and C faced Hertfordshire next and finally Suffolk secured their first maximum six point session of the weekend. However this was in doubt until the final end of one game, which Suffolk edged 10-8. The other two games were more comfortable though, wins of 13-3 and 18-3.

The penultimate session saw Suffolk up against Cambridgeshire, last years runners-up and multiple winners of the competition. It was a double point session that neither county could afford to lose heavily. As always the games were long and tactical, but unfortunately it was Cambridgeshire who came out on top in two of them. The Suffolk rinks losing 13-8 and 8-4, but earning a crucial win of 10-8.

The final opponents on Saturday for Suffolk were Northumberland. After the disappointment of the previous session, a confidence boosting end to the day was needed. As had happened in many of the earlier sessions two wins were secured, scores of 12-4 and 18-8. The other game being lost 12-4.

The first day had been a reasonable one for Suffolk. The overall team performance had not been great and they had not been able to convert four point sessions into maximums. However with 33 points Suffolk were sitting nicely in behind the leaders Cambridgeshire who had a two point advantage. The dangerous Sunderland were third on 28, with Essex and Durham only a few points further back.

On Sunday morning Suffolk rinks D, E and F knew they needed a good start against Sunderland to maintain the gap between the two teams. In one of the games the Suffolk rink raced away to a comfortable 15-6 win. The other two games were far closer and went right down to the final bowls. The outcome was a fair one game each, Suffolk winning 7-6 and losing 10-9.

In the same order of play as Saturday, Norfolk were the next opposition for rinks A, B and C. As with the previous session it was Suffolk who ran away with a game, winning 13-1. Again the other two games went to the final ends, but this time the Suffolk rinks did not lose, winning a game 8-6 and securing a draw of 8-8.

Against South Tyneside next, Suffolk D, E and F were looking for maximum points. Unfortunately one game, again on the final end, was lost 10-7. The Suffolk rinks controlled the other two games however and won comfortably 21-2 and 15-6.

In the competition overall, as had happened last year Cambridgeshire and Suffolk were tight at the top and Sunderland remained a threat in third.

Returning after the lunch break, Durham faced Suffolk D, E and F. There followed three close and low scoring games, but a disastrous outcome for Suffolk with defeats in all of them. In games that they were just not able to gain control of, frustrating losses of 8-6, 9-6 and 7-5.

Suffolk rinks A, B and C needed to bounce back immediately against Essex, but it wouldn't be easy. Disappointingly Suffolk could only gain the one win, a straight forward 14-4, but lost the other two, in close games, 10-5 and 9-5.

Cambridgeshire had taken advantage of Suffolk slip ups and now had a healthy lead in the competition overall. With only three sessions of bowls to go Suffolk knew that they couldn't afford any more defeats.

Against Hertfordshire next there was an improvement in performance by rinks D, E and F, but again a costly game was dropped in a narrow loss of 9-7. Suffolk had to play well to earn wins in the other two games, 13-8 and 14-9.

The next session saw the top two teams facing each other. To even have a slim chance of winning overall Suffolk had to win all three games. As expected all the games were close fought but it wasn't to be for Suffolk as Cambridgeshire edged away to win two of them. Suffolk's winning game was 9-7, with defeats of 12-5 and 6-5.

Six Counties Charity Teambowl 2010

On Sunday 26 September 2010 the Bedfordshire CBA hosted the Six Counties Charity Teambowl at Littleport. Their chosen charity was the East Anglian Air Ambulance.

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

Each county were represented by four singles bowlers, four pairs and four triples, each playing one seven end game against each of the other counties.

Suffolk were the defending champions, having won last years event at Soham.

Norfolk were the opposition in the first session, a team that often raises their game against Suffolk. However it was a dream start for Suffolk with all of their singles bowlers winning their games, 8-1, 4-3, 5-4 and 7-4. Next on were the pairs and Suffolk's good start continued. Whilst one game was lost, the other three were won 7-2, 9-5 and a convincing 14-2. The triples then repeated that outcome with another three wins, 7-3, 5-4 and 9-2.

Overall Suffolk had taken a confidence boosting twenty points from Norfolk and had the early competition lead.

The next opposition were Hertfordshire, who in the first session had scored very well against Cambridgeshire. The Suffolk singles again got the team off to a great start with three wins from four, scores of 8-2, 10-2 and 9-4. The pairs then followed this up with a clean sweep of four wins, 8-3, 10-4, 9-1 and 8-3. The triples then completed the games against Hertfordshire with another three wins, 7-3 and comfortably 14-1 and 11-0.

Suffolk had again taken an impressive twenty points and at the same time had played some excellent bowls. Overall Suffolk's early lead had increased further.

The hosts Bedfordshire were Suffolk's next opponents. Again it was the consistent Suffolk singles that set the tone, winning another three games, scores of 7-4, 6-2 and 9-4. The confident pairs then went one better securing their second maximum of the day, wins of 6-5, 10-3, 12-3 and 8-5. The triples then came close to matching that, with three wins, 6-3, 9-5 and 10-2, with the other game drawn 4-4.

Against Bedfordshire, Suffolk had only lost one game on their way to an outstanding twenty one points. With three sessions played Suffolk now had a substantial overall competition lead. However with more difficult games left against Essex and Cambridgeshire there was plenty of work to do to ensure they finished in top spot.

Essex were up next and the Suffolk singles were all involved in their toughest games of the day. However confidence was high and they maintained their performance level to secure five valuable points. Two wins of 5-4 and 9-5, with a 5-5 draw. Unfortunately this time the Suffolk pairs were unable to come out on top. In four high quality games, only one went Suffolk's way, 8-2. However the triples recovered the situation by winning another three games, 9-4, 7-4 and a convincing 16-1.

Suffolk had achieved a reasonable thirteen points from a strong Essex team, which had maintained their position at the top of the leaderboard. Essex and the final opponents Cambridgeshire were vying for second spot.

Going into the final set of games Suffolk knew that a couple of wins would see them home, however against Cambridgeshire nothing could be taken for granted. The Suffolk singles were in no mood to take their foot off the pedal and proceeded to win another three games, 8-4, 8-2 and 7-6. The pairs then scored five points with two wins 6-4 and 7-3, together with a 8-8 draw. Unfortunately the last session was an anti-climax as in four tight games Suffolk could only achieve one draw 5-5, with the other games only being lost by a couple of shots each.

Despite that disappointing finish Suffolk had still scored a creditable twelve points from their main rivals. However all of the hard work had been done well before that and Suffolk had deservedly led the competition from start to finish.

The final points and placings were:

Suffolk	86
Cambridgeshire	75
Essex	74
Hertfordshire	56
Norfolk	34
Bedfordshire	34

It had been a fantastic all round team performance from Suffolk. Their heavy scoring in the first three sessions had earned them such a significant lead that they never looked like being caught. There had been many good individual displays and the overall consistency and tactical play had been maintained at a high standard throughout the day. It was also rewarding for the selectors that the points won had been shared across the whole team.

The Suffolk team are now looking forward to defending the National County Championships at Blackpool in November.

Neil Jolly (County Captain)