



Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association

SCBA Website is www.carpetbowls.org/suffolk

**The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association
Held at Needham Market Community Centre Monday November 18th 2013.**

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Those present: Neil West (NW) Vice Chairman, Keith Jolly (KJ) Treasurer, Graham Robinson (GR) Secretary, Neil Jolly (NJ), Mick Watkins (MW), John Varden (JV) Jim Goodrich(JG), Sally Goodrich(SG), Richard Sago(RS), Jane Sago(JS) and Freda Wright(FW)

1. Apologies for absence: Andy Gilder(AG)

2. Approval of previous Minutes: The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the following correction to the fourth paragraph of section 5: Contact list shall be distributed to clubs in March and July. Proposed by JV and seconded by NJ and duly signed.

3. Matters Arising:

- NJ reported after threatening the previously supplier with legal action, he had now recovered the squad uniform logos and passed them to Days Sports. Three logos are usable, the forth may need to be reproduced at a cost of approximately £20. Day Sports have provided a catalogue that appears to show suitable clothing.
- NJ said that he had set up the new SCBA email address and let GR, NW & JG the access details. NJ has set up various contact lists some including 'out of county' email contacts. All SCBA clubs have been contacted and advised of the new email address; GR and NW have also made use of it.

4. Chairman's report: Please see enclosed report

5. Secretary's report: GR wishes to thank all clubs who entered the Pairs and offered to supply equipment (without which the competition could not run). We had 75 entries this time!!

GR had received an e-mail from Bealings CBC regarding the rules relating to players bowling in league matches for more than one club. NW read out the letter which seemed to suggested confusion about The Bury League and The Heritage League being part of SCBA. NW had already drafted a reply and asked GR to send it to Bealings. (GR)

GR has received a letter from Gt. Blakenham regarding the Joe Rice Cup and Chairman's Plate. NW read out the letter in which they complain about having been drawn against a club that involves travelling some distance, in spite of having requested to stay local. NJ explained that the draw had been quite a challenge, they had tried to equalize groups based on areas, looking at the worst case scenario in each draw. The new format is likely need tweaking. The sub-committee are looking to learn from this year and will try harder next year to accommodate all club's wishes. NW asked NJ to draft a suitable reply for GR to send.

(NJ, GR)

6. Treasurer's report: KJ provided an income expenditure report. Unfortunately there was the added expense of approx £250.00 for repair to the photocopier...it has been working "overtime" of late.

KJ said that revenue from the Triples was down from £267 in 2012 to £217 this year. Due to the increased Pairs entry, revenue was up by £87 on the previous year.

There followed some discussion about the costs associated with Closed Championships. GR said that the he had difficulty getting sufficient carpets for the Pairs Championships. There was some discussion about the Triples entry requiring only 8 carpets which would have allowed it to be played at Needham Market using the SCBA carpets. The 2013 fours closed championship was held at Needham Market, MJ thought it had been agreed to move the 2014 championship there also. Although some members recalled having such discussion no record of the decision could be found. Because the calendar shows the Fours venue as East Bergholt it was agreed that it should be held there regardless of the entry.

7. Match Secretary's report: JG reported everything running ok. He was hoping to meet up with a rep. from the Ipswich Star at Belstead at the end of November regarding publicity for Carpet Bowls. The draw for the Chairman's Plate will be made early December.

8. CPO Report: Please see enclosed report.

9. County Captains report: In September the Suffolk team were the winners of the ECCBA Teambowl(refer attached report). In October, the last fundraising event (Chairmans Triples) was a great success. 35 teams took part & a triple skipped by Steven Cain (Gt.Blakenham) beat a Witherfield triple in the final. In November, the Suffolk team capped off an excellent season at Potters by winning the Inter County Match against Sunderland & the National County title (refer attached reports). Most recently the Suffolk team got their ECCBA league campaign off to a fantastic start with a convincing 26 – 10 away at Cambridgeshire (refer attached report).

The team's next two matches are both at Bildeston against Essex (8th. December) & Bedfordshire (19th.January).

10. English Carpet Bowls Association: MW reported no meeting of late. Possibility of an extra-ordinary meeting in January before the AGM regarding constitution changes. There is a desire to hold the AGM during the National Championships at Potters. This requires an amendment to the constitution which currently says that there must be no more than 15 months between AGMs MW said that the previous ECBA Chairman was fighting to prevent this change preferring the AGM to held at a more central location,. He was threatening to withdraw his county from the ECBA.

MW reported that they have been unable to establish a regular date for the Nationals with Potters. Currently it is thought that to have to alternate between two dates. MW said the Champion of Champions could be held in Durham.

11. ECCBA: NJ attended an ECCBA Committee meeting on 10th. October.

At the meeting the Suffolk team were congratulated on their win at the ECCBA Teambowl. Dress code at ECCBA events was discussed, following some bowlers (not Suffolk)wearing none county clothing at the Teambowl.

It was agreed counties should consider the introduction of a penalty for non-compliance with Dress Code, to be discussed at the AGM.

There was also a brief discussion about player registration & confirmation of the ECCBA rule of the season commencing on September 1st.

The next ECCBA Committee meeting is on 13th.March 2014.

12. Charity Tournament: January 4th.2014 at Needham Market Community Centre. This year the charity will be SARS. RS reported the entries currently stand at 22. NJ said he would re-send entry forms on the new website. Shirley Watkins has kindly offered to cater for this event. JS will be looking for help on the day to run the raffle etc. (NJ)

13. Committee recruitment: NW asked if members had any suggestions for potential new committee members. Two names were suggested which NW will follow up. It was felt that maybe-the East divisions may like more representation. NJ said he would e-mail clubs. (NJ)

14. Any other business:

- MW said that of all the committee members attending the Pairs Championship, he and GR were left to tidy the hall and stack the chairs. He pointed out that the committee was responsible for doing this. NW said that, now all members are aware of this he felt sure that more would stop to help next time.

- MW suggested holding a further charity competition. BBC Radio Suffolk charity of the year is Suffolk Family Carers. Presenters Mark Murphy and Lesley Dolphin are championing the charity. Both have played carpet bowls before. It was felt that their involvement in a charity tournament raising funds to Suffolk Family Carers would be a good source of publicity for the sport. It was agreed to look at the combined ECCBA calendar and talk to Needham Market Community Centre a suitable free date in June can be found. (MW)

- JG reported that Suffolk Windows and Conservatories were willing to sponsor the Suffolk County Squad to the value of £800.00 over the next 5 years. There was some discussion about how the sponsorship should be used, also how and when the sponsor's name should be used. It was proposed JV and second KJ that the idea of sponsorship should be pursued and NJ, JG & SG should discuss it further. (NJ, JG, SG)

The meeting closed at 9:19pm.

The date of the next meeting will be 7:30 pm Monday 20th. January 2014 at Needham Market Community Centre

Chairman's report November 18th 2013

Since the last meeting I've been kept busy presenting trophies.

A successful Summer League Finals evening saw some close competition, congratulations to Brockley who managed the extra couple of shots needed to lift the trophy.

This was closely followed by the Chairman's Triples, a well attended and well run competition.

Congratulations to the Suffolk Triples Champions, the Runnicles boys with Clint Watling battled through some extremely tough competition. Well done to Graham & Paul for their organisation of this event.

I experienced the County Squad Trials for the first time, an interesting day. All those that took part should be proud of their efforts. It can't have been an easy task filtering out the unsuccessful candidates.

While on that subject; congratulations to the County Squad who outclassed others at the Eastern Counties Team Bowl at the end of the September, winning by 13 points over second place Cambridgeshire.

They also had a phenomenal result at the Nationals. I'm sure Neil Jolly will comment further on this. Suffice to say; what Carol & I witnessed on the Saturday was near complete domination of the 8 other regions. Reading the report on the ECBA website, it's clear that they had to dig deep on the Sunday, when the others finally started to fight back.

Finally, the Pairs Championship was extremely well attended with 75 teams on 15 carpets. Congratulations to the teams that made it through to the final eight and well done to Graham, Paul and others for organising and running the day.

NPW

CHILD PROTECTION OFFICER REPORT

NOVEMBER 2013.

Hi there everyone, I hope the bowling is going well for you all.

We have not had a report for a while due to lack of movement from the government. All seemed to be just ambling on waiting to change when it all came through.

December 2012, the government announced that it was going to have an urgent review on the registration of people working with children and vulnerable adults. This was due to an antiquated system which in some areas was failing to do its job and they wanted a central body to be responsible for this process.

June 2013 it all started. Government decided to amalgamate the 2 vetting agencies used by all companies, voluntary services and NHS departments to vet their staff. One was the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB,) the second the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA.) They joined and formed the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS.)

Originally, the CRB would check all criminal records of any individual who completed a special form and the CRB would confidentially notify the company and the individual of its findings, the instigator of the report would then decide if that individual was suitable to do the tasks within his work criteria, i.e. look after children or vulnerable adults. The ISA was more of a register of people within the NHS and all related bodies who worked with children and vulnerable adults on a regular basis, keeping records of disciplinary against individuals and anything relating to possible indiscrepancies relating to the individual.

Now all that information is handled by the one government office and is called the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS.) this service holds all records for individuals who have applied for a disclosure notice and work with children and vulnerable adults. It is all held on one computer in the Midlands area and when you are on the register, you are on it until you request to be removed or they bar you from working with children and vulnerable adults. Your disclosure form is sent to you as an individual; your employer can request a copy of this certificate from you and contact the DBS to gain any further information, with your permission, that has been added to your file. They can then decide on your

employment suitability. You will need to be registered on their update service at a cost of £13 per year, (certificate holder responsible for paying.)

The next question is, how does this all affect carpet bowls? The simple answer is that it does not affect carpet bowls.

Whilst changing the way things are done, they reviewed the criteria required to have a disclosure made.

If you work with children or vulnerable adults, part or full time, you will need a disclosure done. If your club or county has children or vulnerable adults at their meetings or competitions, which means that they are not in your care for long periods, it is felt that a family member would nearly always accompany that individual, thus take the responsibility from the club for their wellbeing. Thus carpet bowls clubs do not have to have a designated person responsible. The only time this would change is if your county or club decided to do regular and specific coaching sessions for children or vulnerable adults.

The Child Protection Policy we currently have in place shows that the sport of carpet bowls takes things such as child and vulnerable adult protection very seriously and should this criteria change again from the government directives, we have a policy in place which we can implement to the letter to suit.

Should anyone have any questions regarding child protection, please contact me via e-mail busman62@live.co.uk or letter (1 Windmill Close, Somersham, Ipswich IP8 BQ,) and I will answer your question as soon as I can.

Regards to you all,

Andy Gilder.

Child Protection Officer. SCBA, ECBA.

National County Championships 2013

On Friday 8 November the Suffolk team and their supporters travelled to Potters Leisure Resort at Hopton-on-sea for the 2013 National County Championships.

Nine counties were competing, Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, Sunderland and Suffolk. Each county were represented by six rinks (fours), each rink playing one nine end game against all of the other counties, over a weekend of bowling.

The team selected to represent Suffolk was:

A: Jim Goodrich, John Varden, Paul Daniels, James Rous
B: Sam Runnacles, Ellen Grube, Jon Jordan, Sue Gilder
C: Andy Pooley, Don Allum, Neil Tuckey, Tom Runnacles
D: David Ford, Rita Runnacles, Andy Gilder, David Mittell
E: Peter Runnacles, Ralph Sadgrove, Mick Watkins, Steven Cain
F: Sue Davey, Sally Goodrich, Colin Fellingham, Neil Jolly

The competition started on the Saturday morning and Suffolk's first opponents were Norfolk. None of the Suffolk rinks got off to a particularly quick start but it was A who found their form first, going on to win 8-4. In the other two games, going into the last ends Suffolk were looking like losing both. However two superb final ends saw B grab three shots to steal an improbable 9-8 win and C a couple of shots to salvage an 8-8 draw. A five point start was probably more than the performances deserved.

With an odd number of counties competing, in the second session Suffolk were not playing. Rinks A, B and C returned for the next session against an improving Durham team. This time it was C who started better and they were comfortable 10-4 winners. Meanwhile A and B were involved in tighter games, which by the end were shared, A sneaking a 9-7 win and B just falling short, losing 8-9. Overall four points was a fair return from a tricky session.

The fourth session of the day saw rinks D, E and F play their first games, not an easy start though against defending champions Cambridgeshire. Suffolk E wasted no time in hitting top form as they ran away to an astonishing 19-2 win. D and F were involved in closer games though which would go to the final ends. D ended up losing 7-10, but a five shot last end count for F saw them come from behind to win 10-6. Suffolk were pleased to get a four point return from their main rivals.

Northumberland were the next opposition for A, B and C and this was Suffolk's best session so far. With all the rinks improving from their earlier games, three wins were secured. In particular B played very well in a difficult game to win 8-4, A won 12-6 and C were dominant in their convincing 19-4 win.

Hertfordshire were next up for D, E and F and again it was E who led the way with an impressive 13-4 win. That was soon followed up by F winning 11-8 and finally with D edging an 8-6 win, another maximum six point return was secured.

A, B and C faced Bedfordshire next, all of them got off to terrible starts and it wasn't until the third ends that Suffolk even scored a shot. Performances improved gradually as the games went on but going into the final ends, all of the games were level. With perfect timing the Suffolk rinks all played their best end and turned what could have been a horror session into three valuable wins, A winning 10-7, B by just 7-6 and C by 13-10. Six crucial and hard earned points.

Local rivals Essex were up next for D, E and F and difficult games were expected. D proved otherwise as they strolled to a 15-2 win and E played well again to win 12-5. It was less comfortable for F though and it took until the last end for them to get a 6-5 win. Another six points on the board for Suffolk.

The final session on Saturday saw A, B and C face Sunderland, who weren't having a good day. Having to play better than they did against Bedfordshire, performances were improved from the start and three wins never looked in doubt. A winning 10-4 for their fifth consecutive win of the day, B won 13-7 and C won 16-6 to stay unbeaten for the day.

It had been an unbelievable day for the Suffolk rinks, losing only two games and dropping just five points out of a possible forty eight. During the afternoon they had won fifteen consecutive games, over the five sessions. Overall Suffolk led the way with forty three points, an eleven point lead over Cambridgeshire, with Essex four points further back.

Sunday morning, as with Saturday got off to a tricky start for Suffolk with games against Norfolk. Two of the rinks continued from where they had left off, with E and F winning well by 11-3. It was less comfortable for D though and they were unlucky to lose 4-5 to the last bowl of the game.

After Suffolk's session break D, E and F returned to face Durham. D immediately bounced back well from their earlier defeat to win well 9-2. Meanwhile F were involved in great tactical battle, playing well in the middle ends to get a lead, finishing with a 10-6 win. Finally it was disappointment for E who couldn't recover from a poor start, losing 6-11. Four points was a fair reflection of the session, but overall Suffolk's lead had been reduced to nine points.

It was now a crucial session, with the top two teams facing each other. Cambridgeshire started all three games well and the Suffolk rinks had no answers. A got closest, playing good bowls in the last few ends but just fell short, losing 9-10. In the other two games B lost 3-8 and C lost 2-9. Suffolk's overall lead was now down to just three points.

Suffolk needed to respond immediately and get the momentum back and D, E and F did just that against Northumberland. Whilst the performances weren't convincing, D were the most impressive in winning 10-4, F struggled to a 10-7 win and E fought hard to get a 6-6 draw.

Against Hertfordshire it was essential A, B and C returned to winning ways, but it wouldn't be easy. It didn't take A long to hit something near top form again, as they raced away to an early lead and won 19-4. C were involved in a great tussle and it wasn't until the latter ends that they had an advantage, but they held on to win 12-6. Lastly B had the closest game, a low scoring affair in which they did well to edge a 6-5 win. Six crucial points secured.

Bedfordshire faced D, E and F next and the Suffolk rinks all got off to sluggish starts. With everything going against them early on, E recovered well to win 12-6 and that was soon followed by a 12-2 win for F. Unfortunately D just had one of those games where nothing went right and they slipped to a 14-2 defeat. However on a positive note, Cambridgeshire had just lost two games and Suffolk's overall lead was back up to five points.

The penultimate session started well for Suffolk, when Cambridgeshire lost another game. This meant if Suffolk could win all three games against Essex, the championship was theirs. C pretty much finished their game after the first end, scoring a seven from which they never looked back to win 16-5. A recovered from a slow start to control the middle ends and won 10-5. C were also behind early but showing great composure they hit back and secured the vital third win by 12-5.

Suffolk were the National champions, with a session to spare.

The final games of the weekend for D, E and F were against Sunderland. With the overall win already secured and the pressure off the rinks finished with a flourish. Three more wins, D by 9-2, E by 11-6 and F by 12-3.

Overall the finishing positions were:

		PTS	Shots+	Shots-
1st	Suffolk	78	485	279
2nd	Cambridgeshire	71	441	301
3rd	Essex	56	387	360
4th	Durham	49	397	357
5th	Norfolk	43	350	376
6th	Hertfordshire	36	367	423
7th	Sunderland	34	336	446
8th	Northumberland	33	327	432
10th	Bedfordshire	32	331	447

It had been a fantastic weekend for Suffolk, firstly winning the Inter-County title on the Friday night and then following that up with the National Championships. The all round team performance on Saturday had been superb. Sunday was more a test of character, particularly after the three game loss to Cambridgeshire but the whole team responded, losing only one game out of the last fifteen.

The Suffolk team thank everyone who travelled to Potters and supported them during this long weekend of bowls, it was greatly appreciated.

Looking back at 2012/13, this Suffolk team has won everything, firstly the ECCBA league, then the Six Counties and Teambowl, concluding with the double win at Potters. This is a very talented group of bowlers who play the game in the right way and with a smile on their face. Every Suffolk bowler can be extremely proud of what they have achieved and the team spirit and camaraderie shown throughout the season.

Neil Jolly (County Captain)

ECCBA Six Counties Charity Teambowl 2013

On Sunday 29 September 2013 the Essex CBA hosted the ECCBA Six Counties Charity Teambowl at Littleport. Their chosen charity was the Macmillan Cancer Support.

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 looking to add the Teambowl title to the league and Six Counties Championship already won.

The team selected to represent Suffolk was:

S1: Tom Runnacles (single), Sam Runnacles & Andy Gilder (pair), Sally Goodrich, Ellen Grube & Sue Gilder (triple);

S2: Mick Watkins (single), Peter Runnacles & Colin Fellingham (pair), Sue Davey, Peter Fellingham & Neil Jolly (triple);

S3: Paul Daniels (single), David Ford & David Mittell (pair), Don Allum, Rita Runnacles & Steven Cain (triple);

S4: James Rous (single), John Varden & Jim Goodrich (pair), Andy Pooley, Ralph Sadgrove & Jon Jordan (triple);

It was a difficult start for Suffolk as their first session opposition were a competent Essex team. However the Suffolk singles soon got the first points on the board with three good wins. Mick led his game from start to finish winning 13-1, whilst both James and Paul left it late to win their games 6-5 and 8-7 respectively. They were followed on by the pairs and after some tight games, Suffolk were again unbeaten in three. S2 and S3 winning 7-5 and 11-8, whilst S4 earned a hard earned point with a 4-4 draw. Finally it was a similar outcome in the triples, this time three wins from S2 by 10-4, S3 by 10-5 and S4 by 9-4. Suffolk had scored seventeen points against Essex, a great start and straight into first place overall.

The games would get no easier in the second session as the opposition were the defending champions, Cambridgeshire. The singles got Suffolk off to a good start, Mick and James winning again, 11-2 and 7-4, with Tom adding an extra point with a hard fought 5-5 draw. All of the pairs were then involved in close low scoring games and the final outcome of two each was a fair reflection, S2 and S3 both winning again by 7-6 and 5-3. It was then an identical outcome to the triples games when S2 and S4 both won their games comfortably, 9-2 and 10-1. Suffolk had just edged their rivals overall by 13-11 and it was enough to keep them in top spot, three points ahead of Norfolk.

It was first versus second next when Suffolk faced Norfolk. Again the consistent singles got Suffolk off to a good start with three wins. Mick and Paul winning well 9-2 and 7-2, followed by James playing a superb last end to steal his game 5-4. The pairs then continued their good start with two comfortable wins, S1 (10-6) and S4 (12-6) and a well earned 7-7 draw on the last end by S2. The triples then had Suffolk's best session of the day so far when maximum points were secured with four wins. S1 won well by 12-5, but the other games were close and went to the final ends before S2 won 7-5, S3 and S4 both by 6-4. Nineteen points against Norfolk was a fantastic outcome and overall Suffolk had extended their lead at the top to eleven points ahead of second place Cambridgeshire.

Suffolk's penultimate opponents were Hertfordshire and this time the singles could only share their session. James kept up his unbeaten record with a comfortable 12-2 win and Paul got the other two points with a good 10-3 win. Things took a turn for the worse in the pairs when some good play from the opposition restricted Suffolk to just two points, S3 also maintaining their unbeaten day with the solitary win by 6-4. A recovery was needed and the triples did just that with theirs and Suffolk's second maximum session of the day. Leading all of the games from start to finish, four wins were secured, S1 (10-3), S2 (16-1), S3 (9-3) and S4 (12-3). Not the best result overall but a fair reflection of the games played. Fourteen points against Hertfordshire kept Suffolk in first place with a healthy nine point lead over second place Cambridgeshire.

Going into their final set of games against Bedfordshire, it was Suffolk's competition to lose. As with previous sessions the singles got the team off to a steady start. In four low scoring tight games Paul edged a last end decider by 7-6, James won well again 9-2 and Mick recovered from an early deficit to secure a 5-5 draw. The pairs improved on their last performances by getting another three solid wins, S1 (12-7), S2 (13-1) and S3 (10-6). Finally the triples finished the day on a high with another unbeaten session, S1 battled well for a 6-6 draw and the others all won, S2 (9-4), S3 (6-5) and S4 (10-2). Overall Suffolk had taken eighteen points from Bedfordshire.

The final points and standings were:

	Pts	Shots +	Shots -
Suffolk	81	442	292
Cambridgeshire	68	406	328
Norfolk	61	354	361
Essex	53	361	378
Hertfordshire	51	325	413
Bedfordshire	46	310	426

It had been another great team performance from Suffolk, leading the competition from the first session to the last. The points had been shared across the team and particular mention should go to those who didn't lose a game all day, James Rous (five wins), the pair of David Ford/ David Mittell (four wins and a draw) and the triples Sue Davey/ Peter Fellingham/ Neil Jolly (five wins) and Andy Pooley/ Ralph Sadgrove/ Jon Jordan (five wins).

The Suffolk team will now be looking to continue this good form into the National Championships at Potters over the weekend of 8 – 10 November.

Neil Jolly (County Captain)

Inter County League Play-Off Match 2013

The 2013 Inter County League Play-Off match was held on the evening of Friday 8 November 2013 at Potters.

The match was between Suffolk (Eastern Counties League winners) and Sunderland (Northern Counties League winners) for the 2012/13 season.

Suffolk were looking for their third consecutive win in this match, having beaten the same opposition in the last two years.

Each county were represented by six rinks (fours), each playing one nine end game. The team selected to represent Suffolk was:

A: Jim Goodrich, John Varden, Paul Daniels, James Rous

B: Sam Runnacles, Ellen Grube, Jon Jordan, Sue Gilder

C: Andy Pooley, Don Allum, Neil Tuckey, Tom Runnacles

D: David Ford, Rita Runnacles, Andy Gilder, David Mittell

E: Peter Runnacles, Ralph Sadgrove, Mick Watkins, Steven Cain

F: Sue Davey, Sally Goodrich, Colin Fellingham, Neil Jolly

As with the last two matches between Suffolk and Sunderland, all of the games were close for the first few ends, with neither county able to secure a significant advantage.

It was Suffolk A who made the first decisive break, dominating their game from the middle ends, running away to a very comfortable 17-2 win.

Sunderland soon countered that win as the game gradually slipped away from Suffolk B. Whilst not playing badly, they ran out of ends losing 2-9.

All of the remaining four games were close and by halfway the overall winner was no clearer.

It was then that the Suffolk rinks began to take greater control. Suffolk D secured a lead and held on to win 11-7. That was soon followed by Suffolk F who after a slow start won a number of consecutive ends to ease away to an important 10-4 win.

With three wins in the bank, Suffolk needed just one more to win the title again. Suffolk C were involved in the tightest game, with only a shot in it with an end to play. Playing a controlled last end they secured the crucial win, 10-7.

In the other game Suffolk E were just not able to gain any momentum and lost 4-11.

It had been a great start to the weekend for the Suffolk team and they were delighted to win 8-4 (shots: 54 – 40).

Suffolk had defended their title and won the Inter County League trophy for the third year in succession.

Neil Jolly (County Captain)

Cambridgeshire – v – Suffolk

On Sunday 24 November, fresh from their success at the Nationals a fortnight before, Suffolk played their first ECCBA league match of the 2013/14 season, away against Cambridgeshire at Milton. Against their main rivals, this was the toughest possible start for the Suffolk team in their effort to retain the league title.

The team showed some personnel and positional changes from the winning Nationals team with Trevor Cain and Clint Watling making their league debut for Suffolk. The rinks selected were:

Suffolk 1 (S1): Jim Goodrich, John Varden, Andrew Cooper, Paul Daniels

Suffolk 2 (S2): Trevor Cain, Ellen Grube, Andy Pooley, Sue Gilder

Suffolk 3 (S3): David Ford, Rita Runnacles, Clint Watling, David Mittell

Suffolk 4 (S4): Sam Runnacles, Don Allum, Mick Watkins, Tom Runnacles

Suffolk 5 (S5): Peter Runnacles, Ralph Sadgrove, Andy Gilder, Steven Cain

Suffolk 6 (S6): Sue Davey, Sally Goodrich, Colin Fellingham, Neil Jolly

In the first session it was soon apparent that the fast swingy carpets wouldn't be easy to play and the Suffolk bowlers would have to adapt quickly. It was S5 who picked up the speed and lines of their carpet first and they quickly built a lead they never looked back from, getting the first Suffolk points on the board with a 13-3 win. That was then followed up by S3 who despite a slightly slower start, grew in confidence as their game progressed and by the end had won well 9-4. S1 meanwhile hadn't made a good start but by the middle ends had recovered well to level their game 6-6. It went to the final end, indeed the final bowl and they were unfortunate to come out on the wrong side of the 9-8 scoreline.

Having had the benefit of watching the carpets for a session, the other Suffolk rinks all got off to a decent start. Leading the way were S2 who controlled their game from start to finish, gradually edging further away they finished with a comfortable 13-5 win. The pattern of that game was repeated in the other two games, as both S4 and S6 both built early leads which they never looked in danger of surrendering. S4 winning their game 11-4 and S6 also winning well by 9-3.

After the first two sessions, Suffolk were delighted with their overall 10-2 lead.

From the start of the third session it was clear the games were going to be far tighter than the previous session. In two of the games there was very little separating the teams going into the final ends. It was S3 who were involved in the closest game and it was only some excellent bowls played on the last end that saw them scrape home 7-6 for two well deserved points. It was a similar story for S5, but again some composed play towards the end of their game earned them an important 8-6 win. Unfortunately in the other game S1 were just unable to recover from a bad start and with everything going against them, they lost 11-1.

With confidence high after their unbeaten first games, S2, S4 and S6 all flew out of the blocks at the start of the fourth session. Setting the pace were S6 who soon had a healthy looking lead and despite a couple of careless ends in mid-game, they finished with a resounding 20-8 win. Not far behind them were S2 who continued their fine form, never looking in any danger whilst on their way to a 13-3 win. Lastly, S4 were involved in a slightly closer game but they were also playing well and completed the clean sweep of wins with a 9-4 success.

The penultimate session was disappointing for Suffolk as two of the three games were lost. The one bright spot was another good team performance from S3, in a close game. It was their consistency which saw them to their deserved third consecutive win of the day, by 9-5. In the other two games, S5 got off to a dreadful start which they were unable to turn around, losing 4-13. Finally S1 also got off to a bad start which they recovered well, but then the final ends went away from them and the game was lost 9-20.

The start of the final session saw the Suffolk rinks determined to end the day on a high and in doing so extend their overall lead. Again it was S6 who led the way, securing an early slim advantage which they extended as the game progressed and they won 10-1. S2 bounced back well from their previous game loss, in playing far more consistently from start to finish in edging a close game by 10-7. In the last game S4 were continuing to play well and had earned a small lead going into the final ends. However a disappointing last end saw the game turn around and they slipped to a 6-8 defeat.

The match finished with a Suffolk win 26-10 (shots: 169 - 120).

What a fantastic day it had been for Suffolk. Away from home, against their main rivals on tricky carpets, they had dominated the match from start to finish. The new bowlers settled into the team and played well and the revised rink combinations had gelled quickly. However the main difference between the two teams had been the consistency and drawing bowls throughout the day of Suffolk's early bowlers.

Congratulations should go to S2, S3 and S6 who won all of their games.

Suffolk will be looking to build on this great start and hopefully improve on this performance in their next match on Sunday 8 December, at Bildeston against Essex.

Neil Jolly (County Captain)