

**The Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the
Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association
Held at Needham Market Community Centre on Monday 14th. April 2014.**

The meeting commenced at 7.30pm

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

1. Apologies for absence: Andy Gilder (AG).

2. Approval of previous Minutes:

It was proposed JV and seconded by MW that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved as written.

3. Matters Arising:

- KJ said that he had received a corrected cheque referred to in his previous report.
- NW said that he had written to the two clubs relating to the cancelled match. He understands that the clubs have now managed to play the fixture on a rearranged date.

4. Chairman's report:

NW presented his report as follows:

The Fours Championship was a successful day, albeit the entry showed a further decline on last year. Despite the previous uncertainty everything fell into place nicely on the day. Well done to all those involved with the organisation of the day and congratulations to the qualifying teams. With qualifying for all disciplines complete I hope everyone involved in Finals Day has a good day.

Since the last meeting the county squad have secured the Eastern Counties League. Things got a bit tense over at the Ware Drill Hall as it went down to the wire. Anyone suggesting that Carpet Bowls is not a modern sport should have seen the number of players checking text messages, Facebook and Twitter feeds throughout the day to see how other county matches were going.

I missed the Random Triples but heard from my fellow club members that it was an enjoyable day as usual. It's a hugely popular event; I understand that a number of entries had to be turned away long before the cut-off date.

I imagine Neil will talk about the Cup & Plate competitions in a bit more detail. For me, holding the quarter and semi-finals at Needham Market appeared to be successful. It certainly seemed to help create a good competitive atmosphere. I hope that feedback from clubs is positive and that the competitions will have a successful future.

5. Secretary's report:

GR stated that he had received a few changes to the contact list.

It was noted by one member that the current contact list had not been sent out to clubs with the Summer League entry forms as previously agreed. NW said he was aware some clubs had received a hard copy contact list with the minutes of the January executive committee meeting.

NW said he had received an email from Needham Market expressing their club's concerns about the impact of promotion to the Winter League Division 1 West. Their first concern is the increased travelling as division 1 clubs tend to be further afield. They also say that some players would find the standard of play in the first division daunting with concerns that they would become disheartened.

They asked if it was possible for them not to be promoted and to stay in the second division. After some discussion it was agreed that there was no provision within the structure of the Winter League for a club not to be promoted, so Needham Market's request could not be accommodated.

Following on from the discussion about league promotion JG suggested that, due to the lower numbers in the west divisions we should perhaps consider only one club moving up and down at the end of the 2015 season onwards. It was agreed for to be raised as an agenda item at the forthcoming AGM and the opinion of the West Division clubs sought.

JG said he'd received a letter from Stratford St Mary saying that they were happy with the decision not to penalise clubs when they are unable to field a full team of 16. They hoped this would continue in future.

6. Treasurer's report:

KJ provided an income expenditure report saying that there was not much change since the last meeting. Charity and Durham payments to be made by the end of April.

Income and expenditure from the Cup and Plate games being played at Needham Market had resulted in a deficit of £5.00. It was felt this cost was insignificant given the benefits to the competition.

KJ asked for all expenses to be given to him by the end of April.

MW to prepare a new list of equipment. **(MW)**

After some discussion it was confirmed that the raffle at the Cup & Plate quarter finals, semi-finals and finals nights shall be run by SCBA for the benefit of the association. However, because SG had agreed to arrange and run the raffle at this year's Cup & Plate Finals night at short notice, it was agreed that proceeds from the raffle that night would go to county squad funds.

KJ suggested it would be a good idea to purchase a Laptop computer for the Suffolk Secretaries' use rather than use their own personal computer. The cost is thought to be less than £300 and would make it easier to pass information on should there be a change of Secretary. The committee agreed and asked NJ and GR to look into the purchase and transfer of all data to the new laptop. **(NJ & GR)**

7. Match Secretary's report:

JG said that the winter league had finished with Great Blakenham at the top of Division 1 East and Barking at the top of Division 1 West. JG confirmed the teams being promoted and relegated.

JG said that he'd received 35 entries for the Summer league having lost Hundon. Divisions have been established looking at the locations of the clubs entered and taking into account comments received from clubs where possible.

JG said that only phone numbers appear on the contact list for the fixture secretaries where they are different from a club's secretary. After some discussion it was agreed that JG should obtain postal addresses for those clubs that don't have an email contact.

NJ spoke about the changes to the Joe Rice Cup and Chairman's plate saying that there was a good atmosphere at the various finals evenings. Feedback received was so far positive. NJ will share feedback with the sub-committee before contacting the clubs that didn't enter. NJ also said that there is a need to ensure organisational arrangements for events such as the finals evenings are made far enough in advance in future.

8. CPO Report:

There was no CPO report.

9. County Captains report:

NJ reported that the last league game at Ware on the 16th. March against Hertfordshire got a bit fraught but managed to secure a win sufficient for Suffolk to win the League. Credit goes to all players.

The Random Triples received good feedback and cleared £480 for squad funds.

For the Six Counties the squad were looking good to defend the title, however Suffolk were a little below par and ended up second to Cambridgeshire.

The squad are holding a Quiz on May 10th, entries are welcome. Details can be found on the SCBA website.

Hotel rooms are booked for the Durham weekend. NJ is waiting to hear from Durham with final arrangements for the weekend.

The team for the Nationals at Potters in November will be selected shortly.

10. English Carpet Bowls Association: MW presented the attached report from the meeting held on March 29th. The main point from the report is that ECBA will be looking for a new secretary as Dirk will not be standing for re-election at the AGM on June 7th.

11. ECCBA: NJ reported from the meeting held on March 13th regarding the dress code for the Champion of Champions competition. It was said that teams should wear their club uniforms. Where a team consists of players from more than one club they should wear smart dress. NJ also mentioned that ECCBA are looking for nominations for Chairman as Mike Walker will be standing down at the AGM.

12. Closed Championships: Following on from the previous meeting there was continued discussion regarding the moving of Closed Championships to Needham Market Community Centre from next season. GR said that there were savings to be made and that entries were unlikely to be affected by the move. KJ said that savings on venue hire charges and not having to give clubs a contribution for providing equipment mean the move will provide financial benefit. MW suggested the entry fee could be reduced. It was suggested that Needham Market being more central may well encourage an increased entry. MW will investigate the availability of the community centre for suitable dates based on 2 following Sundays each for the Singles and Pairs competitions, 1 day each for the Fours and Triples. It was agreed to have a short pre-AGM meeting on Monday June 2nd to finalise the details and agree the move to allow member clubs to be notified of the change, and the reasons behind it at the AGM. It was also agreed that the Closed Competition finals day should be brought forward to the end of March to allow winners more time to arrange accommodation for the Champion of Champions. **(MW)**

13. Summer Charity Competition:

MW reported that he has received 13 entries so far. JS has sent entry forms to Radio Suffolk Suffolk Family Carers and will follow up. MW has asked for donations of bottles of wine for the wine draw. **(MW)**

14. AGM:

MW asked NW if he was willing to be nominated for Chairman, he said that he would. NW asked officers and members present if they were willing to continue, all said that they were. GR was asked to send out nominations forms as soon as possible. NW said that he had received the draft committee recruitment form, he will forward to GR to send out with the nomination forms. **(GR) (NW)**

15. Suffolk v Bury: JV has agreed to select the Suffolk teams. It was agreed that neither teams should include County bowlers. A fair representation from all five divisions was suggested. JV will send an invitation to the Bury League Chairman Dan Rogers. FW and GR have agreed to run the

Raffle and will purchase prizes and tickets. Tea, coffee and biscuits will be available on the "honesty box" basis. Others agreed to help on the night. **(JV,GR,FW)**

16. Any other Business:

- GR to chase up the Closed Championship trophies. JG will do the same with the League Trophies **(GR) (JG)**

- GR was asked to book Needham for a pre AGM meeting on June 2nd **(GR)**

- NJ suggested that arrangements should be made for the organisation of League and Championship finals on April 23rd and 27th. Various offers of help from committee members. JS agreed to run the raffle on Championship Finals Day and will purchase prizes etc. If attending, GR & FW will organise the raffle on League Finals Evening on April 23rd. NW said that he may not be available to present trophies on April 23rd but hoped to be able to attend on the 27th in the afternoon.

- KJ asked about the subsidy paid by SCBA to people representing the association at Champion of Champions. It was agreed that this should remain at £25.00 each. The SCBA also has to pay ECBA £100 entry fee.

The meeting closed at 9.54pm.

The date of the next meeting will be 7:30 pm Monday 2nd June 2014 at Needham Market Community Centre.