



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

SCBA Website is [www.carpetbowls.org/suffolk](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 16th March 2020

The Meeting commenced at 7.25pm.

Those Present: Andy Gilder (**AG**) – Chairman, Sally Goodrich (**SAG**) - Vice Chair, Neil Jolly (**NJ**) Paul Daniels (**PD**), Richard Sago (**RS**), Andy Pooley (**AP**), Jim Goodrich (**JG**), Ian Hunt (**IH**), John Varden (**JV**), Sue Gilder (**SCG**), Adam Hubbard (**AH**), Keith Hull (**KH**) Peter Dent (**P-D**) - Secretary

### **1. Apologies for absence**

Peter Elmy (**PE**), Jane Sago (**JS**).

### **2. Approval of minutes**

The minutes of the Meeting held on the 13<sup>th</sup> January 2020 were approved having been proposed by **JG** and seconded by **AP** and were duly signed.

### **3. Matters Arising**

**JV** reported that the logos for the centre wooden discs were progressing well, and that only minor modifications were in hand, principally stiffening of the back plate and the inclusion of the carpet numbers in the logo.

### **4. Coronavirus and effects on SCBA events**

The problems relating to the virus and the latest government advice was discussed by the committee for some time and it was decided that **all** future events should be postponed/ cancelled. A separate statement was written during the meeting relating to future actions, and this was agreed by everyone. This was to be immediately circulated to all clubs as well as attached to the meeting minutes.

### **5. Correspondence**

**P-D** reported that there was no general correspondence to report.

**AG** reported that he had received a letter of complaint from the Chairman of Hundon relating to an incident during a recent League match. The content of the letter was discussed, an outcome agreed and **AG** will write letters to both the individual concerned and the Hundon club.

### **6. Chairman's Report**

Good evening ladies and gentlemen.

As a county we are experiencing very different criteria than some of us have experienced before, as a county we are lucky at the moment with only a few cases reported of the coronavirus. As a county Association, we have to be seen to do the right thing for our members, as well as the sport. Some difficult decisions need to be made and we have to make those decisions. Please do not make any decision personal, make them for the benefit of all and the sport.

On more general stuff, Great Blakenham are in a new venue, we don't know where exactly, but they are having regular practices and are looking to join the Summer league and next seasons Winter League, good news.

Not to spoil PD's report but I have the pleasure to report that Mr Mick Watkins has agreed to re-join the ECBA as their National Referee, we wish him luck with his old role.

I would like to thank RS and JG for their continued work with the closed championships and the Joe Rice and Plate competitions respectively, they are running very smoothly as per usual. Not to forget SG for her support of the County Squad with the honesty pots at these events, a handy addition to funds.

I am sure the county captain will have things to say but, on a personal note, along with I am sure 23 other bowlers, we had the worst feeling I have experienced for a long time on 17<sup>th</sup> February. The Suffolk Squad lost for the first time in nearly 9, yes 9 years. Our opponents on the day were Hertfordshire, they played well and deserved the result. Congratulations to them. I will leave the rest to NJ to report on.

We should have played our last game yesterday, against Cambridgeshire, unfortunately it was postponed due to the coronavirus.

That ends my report, and finally just to say that on behalf of the Committee I should like to thank all those clubs that are about to follow the government advice and I hope that we will all be playing again sooner than predicted.

## **7. Secretary's Report**

There was nothing additional to report.

## **8. Treasurers Report**

The Treasurer (**PD**) provided the latest *Income & Expenditure* statement and added that the only other matter to report was the profit from the recent Suffolk Pairs was £117 as opposed to £205 last year. And £84 from the Singles as opposed to £128 last year. Unfortunately, this clearly confirms a trend mainly due to a decline in entries.

## **9. AP report (reference East Anglian Daily Times)**

**AP** had nothing to report other than to say that the EADT were sometimes reporting the League results.

## **10. Match Secretary's Report**

- **JG** reported that the Leagues were running very much as expected, several matches appear to have been re-arranged, but no issues have arisen. The Summer League entry forms had been sent out and some replies returned, however the latest problems around the Coronavirus issues will clearly affect the Summer League.
- The Rivers Club had requested a name change to Gainsborough Bowls Club as the original club had been sold for housing development. A concern had been raised by them as to any change in League status, but the Committee agreed, this would not be affected. Relevant club contact updates were supplied and these to be included in the next Contacts listing.
- There had been an error in the scoring/ final result with the Hadleigh v East Bergholt recent league match. The matter had been resolved without any problems, however **JG** but pointed out that recorded incorrect results presented could only be altered with both captain's agreement.
- There had been telephone calls regarding the number of clubs in the relevant Leagues. After discussion it was agreed that there would be no change at the moment, and two clubs would be moved up/down in each league. Any change would depend on the number of clubs entering and should this change then the rule relating to moving up or down a league would be discussed.
- There had been a suggestion of a formation of a Peninsular League during the summer months, presumably acting as a break-away group. This relates to the Shotley area but also may include inland clubs. The situation is to be monitored.

## **11. County Captain's Report**

Since our last SCBA meeting, the Suffolk team have played their third and fourth matches of the season. Their first two matches, both at home had seen comfortable home wins over Essex (34-2) and Bedfordshire (31-5).

For their third match, the Suffolk team travelled to Wortwell to play Norfolk. Whilst the team got off to a reasonable start, by halfway Suffolk held only a slender 10-8 lead. However, with a strong finish, losing only one of the last nine games, Suffolk won the match well 25-11. This win kept Suffolk at the top of the league, with a healthy twenty-one-point lead over second place Cambridgeshire.

The fourth and penultimate match of the season was another one on their travels, away to Hertfordshire. This time the team made a mixed start and it was a far from convincing 10-8 lead again at halfway. Unfortunately, the fourth and fifth sessions were disappointing, and Suffolk went into the final session 13-17 behind overall and needing three perfect performances to salvage the day. At one stage it looked on, but despite best efforts, the match was lost 16-20.

Whilst it had been a disappointing team performance on the day, in the context of the league it was not disastrous, as Suffolk still held a fourteen-point advantage over Cambridgeshire with the two teams facing each other in the final round of matches. Also putting the defeat into context this was Suffolk's first league match defeat since March 2011, a run of forty-three winning league matches, an unbelievable record.

The final match away against Cambridgeshire scheduled for Sunday 15 March was postponed. Despite neither side's players showing any signs of symptoms, it was mutually decided that a postponement was the most sensible and responsible thing to do in the circumstances. The match will be rescheduled, but currently no decision has been made.

## **12. Closed Championships Report**

**RS** reported that the Closed Championship Finals Day was on hold and would hopefully be played 'as & when'.

## **13. ECCBA Report**

There is nothing to report since our last SCBA meeting. The next scheduled ECCBA meeting is their AGM on 18 June, which **NJ** will attend. This may change in light of the Coronavirus and the need to re-arrange the final round of county matches and possibly the Six Counties competition (Sunday 19 April) and/or the ECCBA Champion of Champions (Sunday 10 May), both to be held at Littleport Leisure Centre.

## **14. ECBA Report**

There was nothing to report as all the events are either cancelled or put on hold, also there was doubt as to whether the AGM could be held.

There was to be a vacancy for Vice -Chairman, and **NJ** intended putting his name forward. He was told that there would be full support from all the Committee.

## **15. Forthcoming Events**

- 25<sup>th</sup> March Cup and Plate Finals – Needham
- 29<sup>th</sup> March Random Triples – Needham
- 5<sup>th</sup> April Suffolk Finals Day – Needham
- 15<sup>th</sup> April Winter League Finals – Needham
- 18<sup>th</sup> April Nayland 4's – Nayland
- 19<sup>th</sup> April ECCBA Six Counties Championships – Littleport
- 26<sup>th</sup> April ECBA Rinks – Sunderland
- 6<sup>th</sup> May East V West – Needham
- 10<sup>th</sup> May ECCBA Champion of Champions – Littleport
- 11<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May ECBA Festival of Bowls – Potters
- 13<sup>th</sup> May Suffolk League V Bury League – Needham

**All of the above to be cancelled or put on hold**

## **16. Any Other Business**

- **JG** reported of a potential problem with a possible shortage of four key committee members at the AGM. However, as it was now uncertain whether the AGM will be held on the scheduled date of 15<sup>th</sup> June, and if as is likely the AGM will have to be re-scheduled, then the shortage of members would no longer exist on an alternative date.
- **KH** said that he felt it important that meetings should be maintained irrespective of the current problems.

- **NJ** referred to the recent passing of Margaret Southgate and that she had done a lot of work for carpet bowls in Suffolk. He suggested that we should consider naming a trophy in her name, possibly the Suffolk Triples or the Chairman's Triples. Everyone agreed and this will be discussed further at a later date.
- **AG** informed the Committee that Radio Suffolk had a live programme 19.00-2100hrs every Tuesday with John Wright as host. The show publicised new ideas concentrating on local events, activities and situations. It was agreed by all that it would be an ideal opportunity to promote carpet bowls within Suffolk together with the benefits in order to attract both new & younger members. **JS** to follow up to see whether we could attend the live programme. An ideal time would be at the end of the current situation.
- **AH** advised that Clint Watling (Claydon) has expressed an interest in becoming a Suffolk team selector, given the availability of a role when NJ stands down as Suffolk captain. This was duly noted and voting for the new captain/ selectors is scheduled to take place at the July 20 Committee meeting.

There being no further business, so the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

**Date of next meeting:** Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2020 at Needham Market at 7.30pm