



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 via "Zoom" virtual meeting on Sunday 20 June 2021

The Meeting commenced at 10.30am

Those Present: Andy Gilder (**AG**) – Chairman, Sally Goodrich (**SAG**) - Vice Chair, Neil Jolly (**NJ**) Paul Daniels (PD), Richard Sago (**RS**), Jane Sago (JS), Jim Goodrich (**JG**), Sue Gilder (**SCG**), Adam Hubbard (AH), Clint Watling (CW)

1. Apologies for absence

Andy Pooley, Keith Hull

2. Chairman's Statement

Good morning ladies and gentlemen, thank you for attending this meeting. There is a lot to go through, so I will be brief.

I was hoping that we were going to have a more exciting meeting, after we had been allowed to "go back to normal" by Mr. Johnson, but alas that is not to be at the minute. Firstly, I would like to say a heartfelt thank you to our Jim. He has decided to step down as Match Secretary after a number of years doing a great job. Thank you for what you have done, organised and contributed to the game of carpet bowls. You are a star, and you will be tough to follow. Thank you for remaining on the committee, your input is always valuable.

Secondly, I need to officially thank NJ and PD for their hard work, keeping on top of what is happening, keeping me informed and generally being great ambassadors for the SCBA. Thanks guys.

Mr. Johnson has changed the date of freedom to 19th July, subject to anything else occurring in the virus world. Where do we go from here?

The first thing we must do is find out what we have to work with, how many clubs we have left, numbers at the clubs and their willingness to restart bowling. We also need an idea of what we need to do regarding protocols, hand sanitizers, masks and the like to try to keep everyone safe. A questionnaire to the clubs will give us this information.

I do not think we can make plans on anything until we have the information on membership numbers, club member numbers so we can gauge whether we continue as we have done or take this opportunity to change.

Our treasurer has suggested that we are able to waive the membership fee for this year, which is a great idea if we can do it as this will encourage the clubs to remain with us if they are automatically members for 2021/22. Right, to business

3. Matters Discussed

SCBA Membership: PD proposed that the SCBA membership fee be waived this year & effectively be a continuation of last year's membership. This was agreed unanimously.

Insurance: PD confirmed that a letter to clubs was ready to go, requesting insurance payments for both Public Liability & Equipment cover. It was agreed that this letter would be sent out as soon as possible, with a 31 July 2021 deadline for payments to be received from clubs. AG agreed to prepare a Chairman's communication to go out with that letter & also to be posted on the SCBA website.

Survey to clubs: Further to previous email communications between Committee members, it was agreed that sending a survey or rolling surveys to clubs was the best method initially of getting information around what club memberships looked like, when a full return to bowls was possible. There was some discussion around timing for an initial survey & it was agreed to give clubs a few weeks to re-open their doors (hopefully after 19 July) before doing anything. PD & NJ had already been working on some questions & a Google spreadsheet that clubs could access, these will be shared with Committee members before finalising. It was also agreed that there may in time be a need to telephone club contacts to secure more information.

SCBA AGM: AG proposed that we look to arrange an in person AGM at the earliest opportunity & it was agreed to keep this under review. This will also give clubs an opportunity to let the SCBA know what their membership looks like & will assist in shaping what the SCBA do in the future as regards league/ cups, formats & other events.

SCBA website: CW asked whether the SCBA website could be updated. It was agreed that it had been appropriate during the pandemic to communicate the deaths of local bowlers. It was further agreed that this Meeting should be Minuted, posted on the website to let our member club bowlers know that we are looking to the future & have a working plan in place. NJ will draft a separate document which we can post that will show what the SCBA are doing & things our clubs can look forward too.

Return to competitive bowls: SAG raised a general point around when did we see the SCBA/ clubs doing something more formal. It was agreed that the survey(s) would assist our decision making & we need to give clubs time to re-open their doors & get going again. NJ had come up with an idea of a "matchmaking" service where the SCBA can ask in time ask clubs to let us know when they are ready to play friendly matches & how

many bowlers they have. We can then circulate that information, enabling clubs to know who out there is willing to play. Some clubs don't run during the summer months anyway, so it may be a few months before there is significant take up.

Attracting new bowlers: **CW** raised the longstanding & pre pandemic problem of attracting new bowlers to our game. It was agreed that in time, this should form part of the SCBA's action plan & we should do what we can to assist clubs. Suggestions such as open days & seeking out connections with other clubs, e.g.: outdoor bowls were mentioned.

SCBA Committee: **AG** asked if all Committee members on the call were willing to stand again & a positive response from obtained from all. **AG** will make contact with those Committee members who were not in attendance at the meeting to establish their intentions. There was no immediate take-up for replacing **JG** as Match Secretary & there also needs to be a replacement for **NJ** as ECCBA Representative.

There being no further business, so the meeting closed at 11.15am.

Date of next meeting: To be arranged, with the possibility of this being in person