



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 on 21 March 2022 at Needham Market Community Centre

Those Present: Andy Gilder (**AG**) – Chairman, Neil Jolly (**NJ**), Paul Daniels (**PD**) - Treasurer, Richard Sago (**RS**) - Match Secretary, Jane Sago (**JS**), Jim Goodrich (**JG**), Sally Goodrich (**SG**), Sue Gilder (**SCG**), Andy Pooley (**AP**) Peter Dent (**PD1**) - Secretary

1. **Apologies:** Received from Clint Watling (**CW**)
2. **Approval of minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 17 January 2022 were unanimously approved and were duly signed.
3. **Matters Arising:** There were no matters raised.

4. Chairman's report:

Good evening everyone, it is nice to see you all. I must begin with an apology, I did not keep an eye on the diary and when the next meeting was, I only realised on Thursday evening when doing some work on the computer that it came to me in a vision. I must be getting old; time is going so quickly! We have had a couple of county closed competitions lately; the Pairs will be completed Wednesday evening after our unfortunate medical intervention on that Sunday. We must be aware of the stress we are putting our bodies under doing this bowling lark! I am pleased to say that Rita is recovering well after having a stent fitted in Addenbrookes, chomping at the bit to return to bowling but can't at the moment. The Triples was held next, played to the end, congratulations to the winners Claydon, Andy Pooley Ally Hobbs and Sally Goodrich all played well all day and had a great final against the 5-time winners Tom, Sam and Clint. Again, well done to Andy and his hareem. I keep hearing about the Triples League, everyone enjoying playing in it, even the "smaller" fish are enjoying the challenges of playing new teams from other leagues. Next to decide is the Summer Leagues, how do we do that will be discussed later.

5. **Secretary's Report:** There was nothing to report.
6. **Correspondence:** There has been no correspondence since the last meeting.
7. **Treasurer's Report:** **PD** reported that nothing significant had occurred since the last meeting.
8. **County Captain's report:** No report provided by **TR**.

9. **ECBA Report: NJ** attended an online ECBA meeting on 22 January 2022. All nine counties reported back on carpet bowls activity, this varied from some counties having started local leagues, to others where no competitive play had commenced. As regards ECBA events:

The Fours will take place on 24 April (hosted by Durham CBA).

The Triples is set for 4 September (hosted by Suffolk CBA at Needham Market).

The Festival of Bowls is going ahead during the week 9 – 13 May (at Potters).

The Champion of Champions will be over the weekend of 11/12 June (at Stanley).

The National County Competition is scheduled for 4 – 7 November (at Potters).

The Nationals was discussed in more detail, given that Potters had gone to an all-inclusive business model & cost had increased. It was felt overall that staying at Potters was the best option currently, given that alternatives would involve a separate venue for the event and accommodation, as well as issues such as getting equipment to the venue. It was agreed that the ECBA would commit to going ahead with the event at Potters.

Regarding participation, discussion around the detail of the event would take place at the next ECBA meeting. It was hoped that all counties would field a full team of 24, but there could be a rule in place to allow teams to drop down to 20 players.

NJ to attend the next ECBA meeting on 23 April 2022, which is set to be in person.

10. **ECCBA: PD** reported back on a recent ECCBA meeting. Five (Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk) of six counties in attendance, with Bedfordshire not there. It is planned that the ECCBA League will restart in November and there will be a Six Counties competition (instead of the Teambowl) on 25 September, likely to be held at Littleport Leisure Centre. The winner of this event will represent the East in the Inter-League match played on Friday night at the Nationals in November, being held at Potters.

11. **Triples League: RS** reported that the Triples League continued to run smoothly. There was a slight concern over all matches being played by the scheduled finish date, but **RS** will report back nearer the time if there is an issue.

12. **Summer League 2022:** There was a discussion around plans for the Summer League and potential format. It was agreed that to differ from the ongoing Triples League and to reflect to some extent, previous Summer Leagues, we would go with two fours and two pairs, minimum of eight bowlers/ maximum of twelve. **RS** will prepare the Summer League entry form and this would be sent out to all SCBA member clubs shortly. League make-ups to be decided when entries are all in.

13. **Winter League 2022/23:** It was agreed that we need to start considering the Winter League and instigate communication with all clubs that could potentially wish to enter. In particular, we need to hear from those clubs that were in the Winter League pre-pandemic but are not currently playing in the Triples League. It was agreed by way of a starter that an online survey will be prepared and sent out mid-April to get an update on all clubs and their bowling numbers. Information obtained from that survey would then be considered at the next SCBA meeting in May, further discussed at the June AGM before probably meeting with all participating clubs to reach a final decision.

14. Triple League Finals Night: This is set for Wednesday 4 May (7.30pm start) at Needham Market, with the four group winners and runners-up taking part. **PD** shared a format that he had prepared for the night and it was agreed to go with this.

15. Forthcoming events:

Suffolk Pairs finals night (23 March): **RS** confirmed everything was in hand, **SG** agreed to provide tea/coffee/ biscuits to be done on an “honesty box” basis and **RS/JS** said they would look after this on the night.

Random Triples (27 March): Suffolk Squad Fundraising event, everything in hand.

Suffolk Fours (3 April): **RS** advised that entries are still coming in.

Suffolk Singles (10 April): **RS** advised a few entries so far but still some time to the closing date.

Triples League finals night (4 May): Previously discussed.

Suffolk v Bury League (11 May): **NJ** advised that Nick Wood was the new Chairman of the Bury League and he would be their best point of contact. **SCG** agreed to own this for the SCBA and will contact Nick to see if the Bury League still wish this night to go ahead.

16. Any other Business:

CW wrote to the Chair regarding the recent medical emergency at the Suffolk Pairs and suggested that the SCBA should consider looking to have qualified First Aiders at all their events.

This was discussed and the concept was unanimously agreed. It was acknowledged that the SCBA would need to establish that any individual was suitably qualified. It was agreed that this would be raised in the Minutes to identify any individuals within our Suffolk bowls community who are First Aid trained and would be prepared to provide their name to the SCBA, so a list could be compiled.

Could we please ask that if there is anyone out there who is First Aid trained and would be willing to put their name forward, if they could make themselves known to an SCBA Committee member.

CW also raised a question around replacement players for the two Champion of Champions events, for those winning our county competitions. It was suggested that our rules are quite restrictive in that respect, particularly now that bowler numbers in clubs have reduced. Our rules do allow for replacement bowlers (to cover unavailability) from the winning club, but could this be relaxed a bit further, whilst retaining the aim of our competition winners (as far as possible) being able to take part. This was discussed and **NJ** agreed to look at the exact wording and come up with any proposed change for further discussion.

NJ raised some points for discussion:

The annual East v West match currently didn't have a date in our diary, as we have used it for the Triples League Finals night. It was felt that this match should go ahead if possible. **NJ** agreed to try and book an evening date later in May and speak to **TR** around organising the representative teams.

At the recent Suffolk Pairs, we had needed nine carpets in play, but the SCBA only have eight centre blocks and had to borrow one for the day. **AG** advised he was looking into someone being able to make us three new centre blocks. **JG** added that pre pandemic the SCBA had put in an order with a supplier for three discs to go on centre blocks during county matches, he will investigate whether they were produced.

NJ advised that Needham Market Community Centre had unfortunately advised him of some double bookings. Initially our 8 January 2023 Charity Fours had been cancelled. **NJ** had made enquiries and there are no convenient free Sunday dates between January and April 2023. After discussion it was agreed **NJ** would investigate possible Saturday dates in that period.

NJ also advised that a date previously booked for the 22/23 Suffolk Fours was also double booked and had been cancelled. However a revised date had been sorted and the 22/23 Closed Competition dates are:

Triples: 18 December 2022

Fours: 22 January 2023

Singles: 5 February 2023

Pairs: 12 March 2023

Lastly on dates, **NJ** advised that the proposed ECCBA Six Counties competition date (25 September) does clash with our Chairmans Triples event (Suffolk Squad fundraiser). **NJ** to liaise with **TR** and Fundraising Committee, can we move the Squad Trials (Sunday 16 October) to a Saturday and use the trials date for the Chairmans Triples?

NJ reported that the ECBA Triples were to be hosted by the SCBA on 4 September and enquired if we would give permission for the equipment to be used. This was passed unanimously.

Finally, **NJ** advised that he and **PD** had swapped ideas around possibly making the Joe Rice Cup format different to that of the Winter League. One option that they had come up with was to keep the eleven end games, but break them down into two five end games (two points each) and a one end shoot-out (one point), therefore playing for twenty points across the match. The format would be similar to that played in the World Indoor Bowls event. There was a general discussion regarding the Joe Rice Cup in that maybe it was time to make some changes and this should be on the agenda when we start discussing Winter League formats and plans.

SAG advised that the Suffolk Triples trophy had not been engraved by the previous winners. It was agreed that it should be engraved accordingly, with the previous winners being asked to pay their share.

SAG also enquired about a trophy for the overall winners of the upcoming Triples League Finals. It was agreed that whilst this was a one-off league, something should be presented to the overall winners. A shield was suggested with a single centre piece being suitably engraved for the competition and **SAG** was given permission to use her discretion to purchase this on behalf of the SCBA.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.15pm.

Date of next meeting: Monday 16 May 2022