



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 31st October 2022 at Needham Market Community Centre

Those Present: Andy Gilder (**AG**) – Chairman, Neil Jolly (**NJ**), Paul Daniels (**PD**) - Treasurer, Jim Goodrich (**JG**), Sally Goodrich (**SG**) - Vice Chair, Sue Gilder (**SCG**), Jane Sago (**JS**), Richard Sago (**RS**) - Match Secretary, Adam Hubbard (**AH**), Tom Runnacles (**TR**), Peter Dent (**PD1**) - Secretary

- 1. Apologies:** Received from Andy Pooley (AP)
- 2. Approval of minutes:** The Minutes of the Meeting held on the 23rd August 2022. Proposed by **PD** and seconded by **AH** were unanimously approved and were duly signed.
- 3. Matters Arising:** **AG** reported that he had contacted the local residential home further to their enquiry about the availability of equipment. But that he had not received a reply to date. He hoped to have the response by the next committee meeting.

4. Chairman's Report:

Good evening, friends, good to see you all in fine health.

Just after our last meeting we were informed of the passing of our colleague Ian Hunt from Martlesham CBC. No details have been forthcoming, but it was quick and painless, so he did not suffer. He was a member of the committee for a short time but voiced his opinions when it was required. Our thoughts go out to his family and friends at this sad time.

Since the last meeting Suffolk attended the 5-county challenge in Littleport. I do not wish to steal any thunder from my fellow members but suffice to say that I was proud to be part of a winning team. Well done to all those involved. Also, on 16th September the Suffolk Squad held their final fundraiser for this year – The Chairman's Triples. A great day was had by all with some brilliant bowling throughout the day. Congratulations go to Tom, Rita and Peter Runnacles (Hit and Hope) who came out overall winners. Commiserations to those who didn't quite make it but thank you for participating.

We shall be discussing this later, but it appears that the Winter League has been met with mixed responses. Timings seems to be the main issue, but personally I think that we need to persevere till the end of the season to give it a chance to settle down and gain acceptance.

At a higher level than our committee, there has been much discussion and argument on how we look when bowling, what we should be wearing at the "major" competitions. To eliminate the SCBA from being dragged into the muck spreading, I feel it would be better that we set out what we expect someone to be wearing when attending the County League and National events which we attend. Hence the item on the agenda.

Apart from the above, I think it is all quiet on the western front, except to add that with the passing of Ian, there is a space on the committee if anyone is aware of someone who would be a candidate to come join us.

5. **Secretary's Report:** There was nothing to report.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** PD reported that there was nothing specific to report since the last meeting. There were squad events creating some movement of funds but that was all.
7. **Match Secretary's report:** RS advised that the match results were coming in. There had been some changes of match dates due to illness, but otherwise there were no serious issues raised. A belated enquiry by Rivers to join the league had not been followed up by them, so no action had been taken.
8. **Captain's Report:** TR reported that the new team uniform had been acquired and was in place. There was only positive feedback from the squad and bowlers from other counties. In the first ECCBA event since Covid, Suffolk had won the recent 5 Counties competition, with Cambridgeshire in second place, seven points behind. The team was now looking forward to the Nationals at Potters this coming weekend.
9. **ECBA Report:** NJ reported that on 4 September, the SCBA hosted the ECBA Triples at Needham Market. A maximum entry of 40 triples was secured before the closing date. Entries were received from all of the Eastern counties, together with a few teams travelling down from the Northern counties. After an enjoyable day of bowling, there was good Suffolk representation in the final, of Claydon (Sue & Steve Isles & Andy Pooley) against the mixed team of Jaxon McKenna (Durham), Steven Cain (Gt Blakenham) & Neil Jolly (Brockley). A close final was 4-4 with an end to play, with the McKenna/Cain/Jolly triple winning with the final bowl.

NJ attended an online ECBA meeting on 24 September.

The upcoming Nationals (5 & 6 November) at Potters was discussed. All eight counties taking part anticipate having a full team of 24 bowlers. With one less county (Bedfordshire) involved, it was agreed, games would be played over eleven ends, rather than nine. Further to the previous ECBA meeting, dress code was discussed again, with agreement that uniform was to comply with each county's dress code. It was expected that those running county teams would be sensible & all bowlers would be smartly presented.

The ECBA had been contacted by the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) about a safeguarding issue, which potentially involved carpet bowls. The ECBA Child Protection Officer (CPO) dealt with the matter, which was concluded satisfactorily. The ECBA CPO was then invited to sit in on some BDA meetings, following which the ECBA were asked if they would like to join that safeguarding group. This would give the ECBA access to resources they wouldn't otherwise have & if a player was suspended by another part of the BDA, the ECBA would be asked to support that suspension in carpet bowls. The meeting agreed, the ECBA should accept the BDA's invitation.

The next ECBA meeting will again be online, on 21 January 2023.

10. **ECCBA Report:** PD reported that at the recent meeting the main topic of conversation was Bedfordshire, who have only just restarted their league, and who were not in a

position to enter the Eastern Counties League for this forthcoming season. Their new county captain, Neil Rixon, was present, and advised that he will be doing his best to rebuild the team by visiting league clubs to drum up interested.

The committee recognized the importance of helping Bedfordshire get back into the league, and so it was agreed to meet again in next March for an Extraordinary General Meeting, for an update from Bedfordshire, and to discuss possible rule changes to accommodate counties who find themselves unable to field a full team in competitions. It was agreed to remove the points penalty for counties playing short in league matches, which will apply for the forthcoming season, other than that, the rules remain the same. There was also a proposal to adopt a 3 wood format for the Pairs at the ECCBA Champion of Champions, as opposed to the current 2 woods, to bring it into line with individual county competitions. This will too be discussed at the EGM.

- 11. Winter league:** AG reported that he had received some feedback relating to the timings within the league matches, specifically the time gap between the fours and triples games in the first half. When the new format was set up, it was acknowledged that the first half game finishing times would be different, further feedback would be sought at the end of the season but things have to remain as they were for now.

JG reported that there had been issue at a match when after the captains had written out their teams, the home team then changed their mat numbers around prior to the start of the first half games. It was agreed that this was not allowed, normal practice being that carpets and centre numbers are laid prior to the arrival of an opposition team. Home teams are free to number their carpets 1 and 2 how they wish and then the away captain can decide their playing format according to this information.

- 12. SCBA Uniform:** Following the purchase of the new Suffolk top, dress code overall was discussed in relation to events involving the Suffolk team. NJ confirmed that at the recent ECBA meeting, for the upcoming Nationals, the dress code wording was amended to say – “players must comply with their own counties dress code at all times”. The following was proposed by AG and seconded by TR:

County Uniform

Each player is expected to look smart and as part of a team.

Suffolk County Polo Shirt.

Plain Black Trousers – unbranded, to include bowls trousers but NOT Jeans or Cargoes.

Or

Plain Black Tailored Shorts – unbranded and NOT Denim or Cargoes

Alternatives for Ladies

Plain Black cut off trousers – unbranded NOT Denim.

Plain Black Skirt.

13. Forthcoming events:

4th - 7th November 2022 – Nationals at Potters

12th November 2022 - Squad Trials

27th November 2022 – Suffolk Triples (11 entries so far, reminder to be sent).

11th December 2022 – Match (Essex Home)

15th January 2023 – Match (Norfolk Away)

16th January 2023 – SCBA Committee Meeting

14. Any Other Business:

SG enquired as to whether the raffle draw tickets had been purchased for the Nationals and **PD** confirmed that they were, with Essex responsible for running the raffle and each county providing the usual £25 worth of raffle prizes.

JG advised that he had now picked up the three centre block discs, to be used at home county matches and these would be stored at Needham with our other equipment.

NJ enquired as to whether the SCBA Secretary had any stamps, given that the current design of postage stamps will be changed by the end of January 2023. **PD1** advised that we did have stamps and he would have to look into the online process to get those returned and exchanged for the new stamps.

NJ advised that he had been approached by a team captain raising an issue around a club playing with a mis-matched set of bowls on one mat. The SCBA play to the ECBA rules and ECBA rule 1.8 states that all bowls should be made by the same manufacturer. So on a mat, the two sets of bowls must match from the same manufacturer, i.e.: you cannot have on a mat, one team bowling with Thomas Taylor and the other with Henselite. In relation to this enquiry, it was agreed that **RS** would speak to the club in question to check the position and advise them of the above rule. There was a feeling at the meeting that this may be an issue for some other clubs.

Please can clubs check and ensure they are not playing with mis-matched sets of bowls.

RS asked, in connection with the upcoming Nationals, whether Potters were allowing day visitors. **JG** advised that generally Potters were not allowing day visitors but anyone interested should contact Potters directly to be sure.

JS referred to our Charity Fours coming up in February 2023 and due to a personal family connection, proposed **Livability Icanho** in Stowmarket as the SCBA's chosen charity. They support adults with personal injury, specialising in brain injury sufferers. The Committee unanimously agreed with this proposal.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Date of next meeting – Monday 16th January 2023.

Message from the SCBA Committee - MERRY CHRISTMAS!!