



# Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association

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## Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association held at Claydon Community Centre on Monday 4th November 2024

**Those Present:** Andy Gilder **AG** (Chairman), Paul Daniels **PD** (Treasurer), Sally Goodrich **SG** (County Captain), Sue Gilder **SCG**, Andy Pooley **AP**, Frank Wilkin **FW**, Neil Jolly **NJ**, (Vice Chairman), Richard Sago **RS** (Match Secretary), Jim Goodrich **JG**, Adam Hubbard **AH**

**1. Apologies for absence:** Jane Sago, Ralph Sadgrove, Peter Dent

**2. Approval of previous minutes:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2024 were proposed by **FW**, seconded by **AH** and unanimously approved.

**3. Matters arising:**

There were no matters raised from the previous committee meeting.

**4. Chairman's Report:**

Hi everyone, I hope we have all recovered from our exploits in Potters. Another great showing, consistency, support, captaincy and determination as we have done in previous years. Many congratulations to all involved. I will leave the captain to continue in her report later.

With all the good news there must be some sad I'm afraid. After our last meeting, I was saddened to receive a letter of resignation from our secretary Peter. Peter has during his tenure been solidly behind me and the committee, has always supported the County in everything they have done. However, Peter has been struggling with the minutes and feels it time for him to stand aside and let others take the strain. Whilst leaving the secretary's position, Peter does feel he has support for the committee to offer and would like to remain as a committee member to which I have agreed. Thank you, Peter, for all your work during your time in office, it has always been appreciated.

In the interim, the Chairman and Vice Chairman will cobble together some minutes for meetings, Peter has agreed to continue to post out the information to our postal contacts, all until a replacement has been appointed. Any volunteers please step forward.

Quite a lot has been going on since the last meeting, Summer League finals, Chairmans Triples, and a County Team Bowl. I will let the relevant people do their reports and not steal their glory this time. Except one mention, the County Team Bowl. Once again, we travel to Littleport as a county, this time with several availability issues, we compete in our usual manner, fierce and competitive, and there is no county that can overcome us. I am so proud of the County Squad, County Captain and selectors and those who stood in to assist with our needs, thank you and well done to you all. Great display and great win.

Right, enough said by me, time to move on .....

As an addition to his prepared report **AG** advised he had received a text message that morning from Ralph Sadgrove, advising that he wished to stand down as a committee member. **SG** also advise that

Ralph had informed her of his wish to stand down from being a county team selector. **AG** advised that he would contact Ralph to discuss further.

**5. Secretary's Report:** There was nothing to report.

**6. Treasurers Report:**

**PD** was pleased to report that we are in a much better position this year, than we were at the same time in 2023.

This time last year, we were showing a loss on the year of £600, and at the end of the year we were £1500 down. As of the start of November, we are showing an £800 surplus, thanks to the measures to cut costs and increase income that were put in place at the AGM, putting us on target to at least break even across the financial year.

**PD** also advised that he had been made aware of an alternative insurance provider that may be able to give cheaper cover, he will make some enquiries.

**7. Match Secretary's Report:**

**RS** advised that the **Summer League** finals took place on 6<sup>th</sup> September between Barking, Stanningfield, Belstead, Claydon and Elmsett. Sorry but I was away for the finals but according to Pauls report some good games took place and congratulations go to Claydon who won all four of their games to take a comfortable win on the night, and to Stanningfield for securing the runners-up spot. Well done to all teams for taking part this season and congratulations to the winners. Final details are all on the website thanks to **PD**.

**Joe Rice Cup draw:** Preliminaries have been played and main fixtures are now ongoing, looks like a busy night tomorrow the 5<sup>th</sup> November as three games are being played and it looks as though there could be fireworks inside a couple of halls with matches between Claydon & Chelmondiston, Belstead hosting Hintlesham & Chattisham and Bentley playing Copdock & Washbrook.

**Suffolk Fours:** 26 teams played on the 20<sup>th</sup> October and a good day was had by most. The final was between Claydon/Chelmondiston (Sam Runnacles, Ally Hobbs, and Adam & Karen Hubbard) v Hintlesham & Chattisham (Frank Wilkin, Glen Avis and Lauren & Tom Beckett). Although Claydon /Chelmo were the favourites H&C didn't give them a chance and finished clear winners after 6 ends with a score of 12 – 1. Well done to all on the day and thanks for the help getting equipment out and back in store. Again, final details are all on the website thanks to **PD**.

**Suffolk Triples:** 15<sup>th</sup> December, entry forms are out on our website and closing date is 3<sup>rd</sup> December.

**Suffolk Charity Fours:** 12<sup>th</sup> January, just about sorted, entry forms should be sent out shortly. **AG** apologised that there had not been a discussion regarding the charity choice at the last meeting. **RS** advised that local enquiries had been made and provided details of a couple of options. After discussion and vote, it was unanimously agreed to go with Cancer Support Suffolk.

**RS** advised that whilst some Joe Rice Cup matches were still to be completed, the draw for the Chairmans Plate needed to be done and this came out as follows:

**Chairmans Plate (Preliminary Round matches) – to be played by 17 January 2025**

(Loser of) Elmsett/ Bramford v (Loser of) Chelmondiston/ Claydon

(Loser of) Old Felixstowe/ Martlesham v Bustall

(Loser of) Needham Market/ Woolpit v Clapgate Lane

**Chairmans Plate (Quarter Final matches) – to be played by 28 February 2025**

(Loser of) Belstead/ Hintlesham v Needham Market/Woolpit/ Clapgate Lane

Elmsett/ Bramford/Chelmondiston/Claydon v (Loser of) Copdock & Washbrook/ Bentley

(Loser of) Stanningfield/ Barking v (Loser of) Withersfield/ Brockley

Old Felixstowe/ Martlesham/ Bustall v Great Blakenham

## **8. Captains Report:**

**SG** advised that she didn't really know where to start as October was a busy month for bowls, we played the TeamBowl at Littleport on 6<sup>th</sup> October which we had 5 or 6 players down due to other commitments but we rallied round and came out winners with some close fought games.

We then had our Trials Day on 13<sup>th</sup> October which we had a good turn out with 33 people, another intense day with some outstanding bowls played.

Then came the ultimate challenge our National Competition when we started Friday evening with the inter league match between North and South league winners, we got off to a slow start with only one team winning by end 6 of a 9 end game but Suffolk were not going down without a fight and managed to get 2 draws and 4 wins to take the title again.

Early Saturday morning arrived without any mishaps and we all knew we had two days of hard games but by late Sunday afternoon with one session to play we had won the event, so very proud of all who came and the support was amazing. Think that's all, could talk all day about how great Suffolk bowlers are.

## **9. ECBA Report:**

**NJ** As ECBA Chairman, attended the 14 September online meeting, where the National Championships (26/27 October) at Potters was discussed, to ensure all necessary arrangements were in place.

This was the first meeting for the new Chairman (**NJ**) & Vice Chairman (Peter Cook, Hertfordshire) & both put forward some topics for discussion, including whether any improvements could be made to the ECBA Triples, Fours or Champion of Champions events. County delegates were asked to discuss these at their own county meetings, for any new ideas.

It was also agreed that **NJ** would compile & issue a questionnaire to all county delegates to establish what each county does, how they communicate with their members, etc, with the aim of learning from each other & maybe improving what is done.

Last weekend was the ECBA National Championships. Attended by eight counties, the event went without a hitch and feedback is being sought from county delegates as to their experience. I will leave others to report on how the weekend went for the Suffolk team. As soon as Potters have communicated the 2025 date, counties will be informed.

The next ECBA meeting (online) is 8 February 2025, which **NJ** will attend and report back on.

- 10. ECCBA Report:** **PD** advised that there had been a brief meeting at Littleport after the Teambowl event. Not much of note discussed, other than the suggestion by Bedfordshire that a laser measure could be used, as well as a traditional measure. It was agreed that Bedfordshire should take a laser measure to all of their ECCBA league matches to give every county an opportunity to trial it.
- 11. Social Media Report:** **AP** advised that as usual last weekend was a busy time for Facebook posting, during the Nationals. All posts were well received, with 100% positive reactions and we gained six new followers and reached over on thousand people.
- 12. Forthcoming events:** All events coming between now and the next meeting were discussed to ensure everything was in hand.

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November: Norfolk v Suffolk (Wortwell Community Centre)**

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December: Cambridgeshire v Suffolk (Littleport Leisure Centre)**

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December: Suffolk Triples (Needham Market)**

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2025: Suffolk Charity Fours (Needham Market)**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January: SCBA Committee Meeting (Needham Market)**

#### **14. Any Other Business:**

**SCG**, further to a previous meeting discussion point advised that she had twelve trophies bought before, but unused due to Covid. It was agreed that they could be sold to the Suffolk Squad Fundraising team to be used for upcoming events, so as not to waste them. £80 was agreed as a suitable sum.

**NJ** suggested, further to the recent ECBA meeting, that to improve viewing of our videoed finals, coloured bowls would be better than the traditional black/ brown which are sometimes difficult to distinguish. Perhaps the SCBA and ECBA could split the cost, initial enquiries suggest a cost of c£650. In principle there was no objection to this, but first it was agreed to put an advert on the SCBA website to see if any club had a coloured set that they no longer used and wished to sell.

**AG** enquired further to the last meeting, what response we'd had from league clubs that did not play in the Joe Rice Cup that we had emailed. **NJ** advised that thirteen clubs had been emailed and six had responded. Generally the reasons for not participating in the Joe Rice Cup related to travel, hall availability and just wanting to play in the league. It was agreed that next season, a separate entry form for the Joe Rice Cup could be sent out (rather than including it with the league), giving more detail with the aim of attracting other clubs to enter.

**NJ** advised that he had spoken to the caterers who provide refreshments for SCBA events. They are no longer able to do home county matches (with exception of the Bedfordshire match in February 25 at Bildeston). It was agreed that this was not an issue, as there was no longer an expectation on home counties to provide full refreshments.

**AH** asked whether any thought had been given to potential sponsorship of the county team, acknowledging that Oak Employment already support the SCBA. It was agreed that there was no issue with enquiries being made of local companies, to see if there was any interest in supporting the county team.

**FW** asked whether any research had been carried out, further to his enquiry at the last meeting around the age of the SCBA. **NJ** advised that from his research, the first carpet bowls clubs were set up in Suffolk in 1983 and there was a Sports Council league for those clubs in 1984. He'd found a newspaper article showing that Hintlesham were SCBA league champions in April 1986 and there was a SCBA AGM later in 1986 but no indication that was the first AGM. Therefore, best guess is that the SCBA was formed in 1985 and as such the SCBA would be forty years old next year (2025). A discussion was held around whether that milestone should be celebrated and the consensus was that it should, although with what, was undecided. It was agreed though that any decision would have to be made at the next meeting, so a date and venue could be booked.

**SCBA clubs/ bowlers: If you have any ideas around how the SCBA could celebrate it's 40<sup>th</sup> birthday next year, please email [suffolkcba@gmail.com](mailto:suffolkcba@gmail.com)**

**Attachment:** Suffolk Triples entry form

Meeting closed: 9.15pm