



Suffolk **Carpet Bowls** *Association*

SCBA Website is www.carpetbowls.org/suffolk

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association

Held at Needham Market Community Centre, on Monday 9th June 2025

The Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Representatives attended from the following clubs:

Hintlesham and Chattisham, Claydon, Barking, Burstall, Belstead, Bramford, Barking, Bentley, Felixstowe, Offton and Willisham, Harkstead, Chelmondiston, Elmsett, Hundon, Needham Market, Brockley

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanked all for making the effort to attend the AGM.

1. Apologies for absence

Tostock, Ousden, Saxmundham, Elmswell, Great Blakenham,

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 10th June 2024 were confirmed as a true record.

Proposed by Lesly Chisholm (Needham Market), seconded by Frank Wilkin (Hintlesham and Chattisham) and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

There were none raised from the last AGM.

4. Chairman's Report

Good evening all, thank you for coming tonight and supporting the association. The SCBA committee have had a good year this year, there have been no major catastrophes to report.

The county team has continued its successes, they have retained the National Trophy, the ECCBA trophy, the League trophy, the intercounty trophy and Suffolk members have been successful in some form in the national competitions, champion of champions events and the Festival of Bowls. My sincere congratulations to them

all. As a county, Suffolk is in good health in many ways.

Unfortunately, although we are doing great in the carpet bowls world, (Suffolk has the most teams in any association, Suffolk hold more competitions than most) we still have shrinking numbers in our clubs. People are retiring from the sport through illness, through travel issues, moving away, and through plain old age. They are not being replaced. It certainly is not through lack of trying; people are simply not coming to the sport.

Consequently, we have the position that more teams do not have enough players to field a full team for a match. Some teams are very lucky and have a plentiful amount of team members, God bless them and good luck, but these teams have an important role to play in continuing our sport. They must be supportive to the teams that have fewer members, so they are not frightened to play, they need some compassion when doing the draw out. Some of our members are not as fit as others and need support to complete one game, never mind two. If they didn't play, the club may have to fold as their team may not have sufficient membership. This might be the only contact some have with the outside world.

Gone are the days when clubs played short to try and gain an advantage.

We, the club members, must keep doing what we can to encourage the new members to our clubs. Sometimes it seems a thankless task, sometimes it pays off, as several clubs can testify but if we all put the hard work in, we will be rewarded at some time.

I would like to close by clarifying that we, the SCBA are 40 years old this year!!! This is a fantastic achievement and one we will be celebrating on September 7th at Needham Market. We are going to try and drag some old bones from the cupboard to see you all, and there will be plenty of fun on the day. Look out for the invitations, get them in quick because there will be limited space.

5. Secretary's Report

Just to say thank you for having me on board and I hope I do the job and you all justice. I have nothing further to report though.

6. Treasurer's Report

Last financial year we lost £1500. At the last AGM we put a plan in place to try to break even by increasing income but decreasing expenditure. If you look at the balance sheet, we almost did it and only dropped £170. I don't see a need to change anything going forward this year. I would like to thank Keith Jolly for auditing the accounts.

There were no further comments.

7. Match Secretary's Report

A good season was had by most and was fully reported on for the May committee

meeting. We had:

- 31 teams in the Winter league again this year
- 27 teams in Summer league again this year
- 19 teams entered the Cup & Plate (24 last year)

I should mention our Charity event, £1205.00 was raised on the day for Cancer Support Suffolk. Thanks to all involved in the event.

In the ECCBA Champion of Champion finals at Littleport, 6 counties took part.

SINGLES – Rita, standing in for Ellen finished 4th

PAIRS - Mick Watkins and Tony Stephenson finished 3rd

TRIPLES - Sam Runnacles, Andy Pooley, David Ford Won, they finished 4 points clear of second-placed Essex, and were the only ones in any of the disciplines to win all 5 of their games.

FOURS - Frank Wilkin, Glen Avis, Lauren De Banks, Tom Beckett finished 3rd

Despite Hertfordshire winning the Singles, Pairs and Fours, Suffolk's greater consistency meant that they were able to finish top of the teams on 27 points, 2 points clear of Herts.

At the ECBA event in Stanley (Durham) this weekend 8 counties took part.

SINGLES – Rita, standing in for Ellen, finished 8th; unlucky to miss out on any wins but only losing 3 games by 1 shot in each.

PAIRS - Mick Watkins and Tony Stephenson finished 4th.

TRIPLES – Sally Goodrich with Sue and Steve Isles, standing in for Sam Runnacles, Andy Pooley, David Ford, finished 3rd.

FOURS - Frank Wilkin, Glen Avis, Lauren De Banks, Tom Beckett finished 6th.

Team position 6th

Well done to all our teams in these events I hope you all had an enjoyable time.

All our results and reports are on our website, thanks to Paul Daniels for his help.

Thanks to all players and colleagues for your help in getting equipment set up here for all our Championship and County games.

8. Election of Officers

All the current Officers were prepared to stand again and all those clubs present were happy that they should all remain.

The current elected Officers therefore remain as:

President – David Schofield (Offton and Willisham)
Chairman – Andy Gilder (Barking)
Vice Chairman – Neil Jolly (Brockley)
Honorary Secretary – Lauren De Banks (Hintlesham and Chattisham)
Honorary Treasurer – Paul Daniels (Belstead/Kelsale)
Match Secretary – Richard Sago (Burstall)
Child Protection Officer – Andy Gilder (Barking)

Proposed by Lesley Chisholm (Needham Market), Seconded by David Tennant (Old Felixstowe.)

9. Election of Committee (Max. 10)

The current Committee were all prepared to stand again, and the Chairman asked the meeting if there were any further nominations for Committee members. None were forthcoming, so it was proposed that all the current members of the Committee should be re-elected en-bloc.

The Committee members remain as follows:

Sally Goodrich (Claydon) and County Capt
Sue Gilder (Barking)
Jim Goodrich (Claydon)
Adam Hubbard (Chelmondiston)
Andy Pooley (Claydon)
Jane Sago (Burstall)
Frank Wilkin (Hintlesham)
Peter Dent (East Bergholt)

The Chairman said that if anybody knew of anyone who might be interested in joining the Committee, they could contact any Committee member, as there was space for an additional two.

10. Winter League 2025/26

Suggestion from Andy Pooley (Claydon) that the Winter Leagues return to pre-pandemic form; Division one, two and three and division 1 west. He explained that there is a huge disparity between the teams and it should balance things out to make a fairer league.

Lesley Chisholm (Needham Market) raised that clubs may have an issue with travelling.

Paul Daniels (Belstead) suggested that it would help the teams lower down the

league to play more even teams and play matches that they may be more able to win.

Andy Gilder (Chairman) suggested it would be the same number of teams split into the leagues. When asked if it would not just mean that they were playing the same teams. Andy Gilder (Chairman) said that this would be something that would need to be looked at when the divisions were agreed. Richard Sago (Burstall) added that it would be beneficial as the top teams from each league would mix together as would the teams lower down the table.

Lesley Chisholm (Needham Market) reiterated that it should be considered that some clubs may not want or be able to travel.

Comments will be taken to the committee and discussed at the next meeting.

A letter from Stutton CBC, Chris Leach raising the issue of clubs playing short was read by the Chairman and he asked for a discussion about the suggestion. A decision would then be made at the first committee meeting. The letter suggested that skips would not be entered into the draw if teams were short.

Andy Gilder (Chairman) explained that this is an issue that is and has been raised year on year. Teams try hard to get new players on board and some have been successful whilst others haven't and should clubs be penalized for it.

Sally Goodrich (Claydon) stated that if clubs can't or don't play their new players then they won't stay at the clubs.

Lesley Chisholm (Needham Market) added that although it is known that Needham Market struggle for players, they will always play as many players as they have available to them. It is and should be about getting out and playing for fun, some clubs have lost that spirit and have lost sight of that. If we lose the fun we lose Carpet Bowls.

Neil Jolly (Brockley) reiterated the original point and that the rules at the moment are in place and help all teams as much as possible. It is unfortunate if skips get pulled out in the draw but it is the luck of the draw. The rules have been looked at and agreed and are working.

Andy Gilder (Chairman) agreed that this is the case and that we would leave things as they are.

11. Any Other Business

Lesley Chisholm (Needham Market) asked why finals nights are always played on a Wednesday. Richard Sago (Burstall) said that it was down to hall availability mainly. Lesley added that a lot of players at Needham Market are otherwise committed on a Wednesday evening. Richard replied that the calendar has been the same for many, many years and that there is a good relationship between NMCC and SCBA. Neil Jolly (Brockley) added that the dates were booked around two years in advance. It was suggested that they could be played at a weekend. AG replied that the hall availability is very limited and unlikely that weekend dates would be available other than the existing dates used for competitions

Mick Watkins (Barking) offered a vote of thanks to all of the committee.

There was no other business from the floor.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting closed at 8:06pm

Date of next AGM: 15th June 2026 (7.30pm) – Needham Market Community Centre.

Date of next SCBA Committee meeting: 30th June 2025 (7.30pm)