



Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association held at Needham Market Community Centre on Monday 13th January 2025 – 7:30pm

Those Present: Andy Gilder **AG** (Chairman), Sue Gilder **SCG**, Andy Pooley **AP**, Frank Wilkin **FW**, Neil Jolly **NJ**, (Vice Chairman), Richard Sago **RS** (Match Secretary), Adam Hubbard **AH**, Jane Sago **JS**, Lauren De Banks **LD**

1. Apologies for absence: Sally Goodrich **SG** (County Captain), Jim Goodrich **JG**, Paul Daniels **PD** (Treasurer), Peter Dent **PDE**

2. Approval of previous minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 4th November 2024 were proposed by **FW**, seconded by **AH** and approved and signed by the chair.

3. Matters arising:

AG: When Peter said he wanted to depart, we thought it would be difficult to replace him. Thankfully we had some communication from Lauren expressing that she was willing to come on board. She is here tonight and will take on the role, providing she is happy to.

4. Chairman's Report:

AG: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen, welcome to the first meeting of 2025 and welcome to Lauren De Banks to our meeting. Lauren is here with a view to check us out and see if she would be able to work with us as secretary prior to taking the position. She will be taking the minutes so please assist her by being clear and uncomplicated.

At the festive time of year, it is always the same, someone loses a loved one, a close friend. This year is no exception, but this time we all have lost a close friend and an ally in the bowls world. I am of course referring to the loss of Keith Armes.

It would surprise me if people had not heard of some of the accreditations being spoke about when talking about Keith. A good friend, honest, hardworking, a stalwart when referring to Burstall Carpet Bowls. Keith was one of the founder members of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association in 1986, he was the Treasurer for a number of years in its infancy, he was a committee member for a long time, spent time as Chairman and has achieved great things both in Carpet Bowls and in his personal life too. He will be sorely missed by many people.

Our thoughts and prayers must go out to Lindsay and the family at this sad time. May you rest in peace Keith.

Keith's funeral is Monday 27th January 2025 at 10:30, 7 Hills Crematorium with a wake at The Brook Inn at Washbrook IP8 3HR should anyone wish to attend.

Continuing with my report, in November we started the inter county league again, first game was Norfolk which we won away, the second game was against Cambridgeshire again away and again we won. I don't want to go into too much detail and spoil the captains report, but suffice to say, congratulations to the captain and her team for keeping up the good work.

We have also had the County Triples during December, well done Richard for running them, again I'll not spoil his report.

Finally, Richard was busy yesterday with the Charity 4's competition, well done again Richard and I'm sure a shed load of money was raised, congratulations to both you and Jane as I know you both put a lot into this day.

I'm looking forward to this year, working with you all again. Thank you for your support.

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

6. Treasurers Report:

PD:

Submitted a report prior to the meeting – report read by **NJ**

Year to Date

We are currently showing a surplus of £1326, in comparison, at the same time last year, we were showing a loss of £429.

A reminder that we ended up last year with a loss of £1500, so we remain on track to at least break even. This was the intention when we discussed changing some costs.

Championships

Profit on the Championships so far (including cost of hall, but excluding trophy costs)

Fours £437 (£432 last year)

Triples £353 (£260 last year)

Charity Fours

We need to decide if we will continue to fully subsidise the cost of the hall for the Charity Fours.

Hall Hire

Needham have advised us of the changes to the hire fees for 2025:

Meetings £29.50 up from £27.60

Evenings £100.00 down from £110.00

All Day £250.00 up from £240.00

The increases are fairly moderate, given that they did not raise our prices at all last year, and it seems as if they've dropped the cost of an evening!

AG added that there are a lot of pluses for using Needham Market hall so it was more than acceptable and also that the decision that was made to increase some costs looked like the right thing to do as we are now on the right track for the year.

7. Match Secretary's Report:

RS:

Winter League: We are halfway through the season and all appears to be going well.

Results are all on the SCBA website.

Joe Rice Cup draw: Quarter finals are now ongoing.

Chairman's Plate: There are a couple of games left in the preliminaries then the quarter finals will take place by the 28th February.

Suffolk Triples: 15th November, 27 teams took part and a good day was had by most.

The final was between Claydon (Sam Runnacles, Andy Pooley & David Ford) v Knodishall (Chris & Shirley Tilbrook and Val Game) after a good tussle the game was won by Claydon 7-4.

Well done to all on the day and thanks for the help getting equipment out and back in store.

Again, final results and details are all on the website thanks to Paul D.

Suffolk Charity Fours: 12th January 2025, yesterday. Entries down this year and only 34 teams played. As usual teams would get 4 games each, with the winners decided on points, shots for, and finally shots against.

The day ended with just 2 teams going undefeated, but it was Norfolk Ally (Stephen Frost, Matt Frost, Maisie Self & Ally Hobbs) who came out on top with 8pts and 39 shots, ahead of Kenninghall (Phyllis Sutton, Rosemary Knox, Charlie Newbury & Patricia Clarke) with 8 pts and 33 shots.

Mark Murphey MBE, Ex Radio Suffolk and now CEO at Cancer Support Suffolk joined us to say a few words about the charity, present the trophy and prizes.

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us on the day, and who donated draw prizes (62), for helping us to raise a total of £1,205 (subject to confirmation) for the charity.

Full results are on the SCBA website.

RS added that he hoped the hall could continue to be subsidised by SCBA for this event.

Suffolk Pairs:- 9th February, 16 entries at present. Closing date 31st January so early days yet.

Suffolk Singles:- 9th March, entry forms out with these minutes.

8. Captains Report:

SG:

Submitted a report prior to the meeting – report read by **LD**

We got off to a flying start against Norfolk, away on the 24th November. Session 1: 6 points, session 2: 4 points. Then for some it was lunch time as you have to grab lunch when you can. I don't think we do well in the middle of the afternoon as in session 3, we made 4 points session 4, only 2. We rallied in sessions 5 & 6 with 4 points in each one, coming out with a win. 24 points to 12. Shots were 117 Norfolk, 159 Suffolk.

We then went to Cambridgeshire on the 8th December, we started off the same as last time with session 1: 6 points, session 2: 4 points, session 3: 4 points, session 5: 2 points and session 5: 3 points. With one session left to play, Suffolk picked up all 6 points. This was a very good result as the day was cold with no heating available. The scores were 11 points to Cambridge, 25 to Suffolk. Shots were 121 Cambridge, 179 Suffolk.

We now host Hertfordshire on 19th January which will be a hard-fought match I'm sure.

Just to let everyone know we have lost our refreshment lady for county games, anyone willing?? I would like to thank Trish for all her hard work over several years.

I will finish with wishing everyone a great 2025 and a successful season.

9. ECBA Report:

NJ:

Nothing much to report since our last meeting. There has been some dialogue with Bedfordshire and we are hopeful that we can regain their participation in the 2025 Champion of Champions and National County Championships.

Regarding the 2025 Nationals at Potters, the date has been set as the weekend of 25/26 October.

Attached to these Minutes are the Flyer and Entry Form for the Festival of Bowls being held at Potters over the week of 28 April to 2 May 2025. There are still spots available, if anyone wishes to take part.

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

10.ECCBA Report:

NJ reported the Hertfordshire Vs Norfolk round wasn't played due to venue difficulties. The game is to be played on 9th February at Hertfordshire's usual venue. A discussion may be needed at the meeting around the process of venue agreements to ensure the policy covers support for both team's involved when arranging matches.

11.Social Media Report: AP

AP:

Facebook have had a change of policy around Fact Checkers for posts. They have been replaced with Community Notes, meaning they need policing by the people that post. This potentially opens sites up to more abuse/hate speech etc. Although this may be not a major concern for our page, it is certainly something I will keep an eye on.

12. Forthcoming events:

19th Jan Suffolk v Hertfordshire at Needham Market
9th February – Suffolk Pairs – Needham Market
16th February – Suffolk v Bedfordshire – Bildeston
22nd February – Cockfield Invitational Fours
2nd March – Memorial Pairs – Littleport
9th March – Suffolk Singles – Needham Market
12th March – Cup and Plate Semi Finals – Needham Market
16th March – Suffolk v Essex – Needham Market
17th March – SCBA Committee Meeting.

13.Any Other Business:

A. AG reminded that players are asked to arrive early to help set up for County matches and events where needed. **NJ** added that we weren't specifically required to provide refreshments for county games as long as the visiting team were informed prior to the day.

B. SG advised that she will order plate and cup trophies next week.

C. NJ:

- i. asked if he should send out entry forms for Memorial Pairs at Littleport as it is for a good cause – all agreed.
- ii. proposed that as last year we had a scheduled meeting after the nationals and it was agreed not to do the same again this year that he would try to get the date changed – all agreed.
- iii. asked if he should go ahead and agree dates with Needham Market Community hall for 2027 - all agreed again.
- iv. Informed the committee that ECBA had been lucky enough to source some free equipment from Braintree Leisure centre - It was agreed some of the spare bowls would be sold to SCBA for £20. There is also plan to replace the mat we usually use as mat 9 in the smaller room in NM community hall. The mats will be checked and replaced.

D. NJ: Thanks to FW, we trialled some coloured bowls at the Charity 4's. It makes a huge difference for viewing on camera. The idea now is to purchase some colour bowls. NJ asked if the SCBA and ECBA split the cost (NJ hasn't yet proposed this to ECBA). Would there be objections if we decide to go ahead? **AH** asked how much they are - around £650 for a set. **AG** added that it would be

good because sharing the cost is beneficial to us. We just have to make sure that if we loan them out, we get them back - this was agreed.

- All agreed that they were happy to go ahead if ECBA agreed to share the cost.
- E. RS** clarified that Needham Market Community Hall ask each organisation that uses the facilities, to put someone forward someone to the Hall Committee, which he is happy to do. **RS** also added that Withersfield are going to run a charity event in June at Great Cornard. **NJ** confirmed that the date is on the updated calendar which is to go out with these minutes.
- F. AH** stated that he had discussed sponsorship with Oak Employment Ltd. They are happy to keep sponsoring us, we may need to give a report about what the money goes toward. **AH** had also discussed the possibility of shirt sponsorship for the county team with the current sponsor. **AG** added that it was agreed the sponsorship would go toward the technology needed to film the events. We need to check on the date for annual renewal if they are happy to continue. **NJ** contributed that the sponsorship would be separate for the county team as opposed to the SCBA. **SCG** added that we would need to establish how much shirts would cost first and then continue the conversation.
- It was agreed the discussion would continue between **AH** and the sponsor. **AG** will check with **PD** as to when the anniversary of sponsorship is.
- G. NJ** reminded us that it is SCBA 40th birthday this year, a message had gone out for ideas - we had no responses. He asked if we do want to do something and if so what; we need decide what and when quite soon. **SCG** said that it should be bowls orientated. **NJ** suggested that we could have a Random Fours as it is an individual entry and we could personally invite certain key people from the history of Suffolk bowls. We could have the Random Fours in the main hall and some novelty games in the small room like target bowls etc.
- It was agreed **NJ** would try to get a date where the hall is available and then we could sort out the details of what we are doing.

Attachment: Suffolk Pairs and Singles entry form, Festival of Bowls Flyer and entry form, Calendar dates,

Meeting closed: 8:43 pm