



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 30th June 2025 – 7:30pm

Those Present: Andy Gilder **AG** (Chairman), Neil Jolly **NJ** (Vice Chairman), Paul Daniels **PD** (Treasurer), Lauren De Banks **LD** (Secretary), Richard Sago **RS** (Match Secretary), Andy Pooley **AP** (Media Secretary), Frank Wilkin **FW**, Jane Sago **JS**, Sally Goodrich **SG**, Jim Goodrich **JG**, Sue Gilder **SCG**

- 1. Apologies for absence:** None received - Adam Hubbard **AH** was absent from the meeting.
- 2. Approval of previous minutes:**
The minutes of the meeting held on 19th May 2025 were proposed by **FW**, seconded by **RS** and approved and signed by the Chair.
- 3. Matters arising:**
AP: I was going to create a WhatsApp link to the Facebook page but this is not possible so will not be happening.
There were no other matters arising.
- 4. Chairman's Report:**
AG: Good evening, friends.
Well, that was a good AGM, nothing major any of the clubs are worried about, they seem happy with what we are doing and the way we are doing it. That is a great testimony to all of you, for your time and dedication to our sport, for the sacrifices made to be able to do this. Thank you all. There is nothing really for me to report on, most of it was said at the AGM and we will be looking at points raised later.
- 5. Treasurers Report:**
PD: Having just paid out the best part of £5000 for insurance, the accounts are looking a little sickly at the moment, as we wait for the payments to come in from the clubs.
At the moment, 18 of the anticipated 64 clubs have renewed their membership.
- 6. Match Secretary's Report:**
RS: Basically, nothing much this time around, results still coming in ok.

Some of us had a good day at Withersfield event last week, Brockley finished worthy winners beating Ellesmere in the final. Around £1350 was raised for their charity.

Also, an update today is that Great Blakenham have said they will have to withdraw from the Summer League due to illness, they cannot make the team up to play the games. They send their apologies. **AG** added that it was sad to hear that they were struggling. **RS** said that they were sure that they would be ok for the Winter League.
- 7. Captains Report:**
SG: I attended the ECCBA AGM on 19th June. Items raised: fees to remain the same as this season. The Dates for county games in 25/26 will be 23rd Nov, 14th Dec, 18th Jan, 15th Feb, 15th Mar.
The Dress Code rule for ECCBA Champion of Champions will be revised, but remaining smart casual and penalty only one point each player, to be deducted from the overall team score & not

the individual discipline. It may be a good idea to make our clubs aware of a different set of rules for Suffolk, ECCBA and English when it comes to playing in certain competitions.

The committee will remain the same but Gerald (Chairman) said it was his last year. Next year's ECCBA AGM will be Thursday 18th June 2026.

Suffolk County Team Report:

We have played Marion's Fab Fours which is a fundraiser to help county squad payments at Potters. I'm aware that perhaps people don't enter our trials day because of the cost incurred so we do try very hard to help. Our season consists of five league games through 25/26 and also two county team bowls which will be held at Littleport in Cambridgeshire, then our big event the Nationals at Potters against the eight other Counties.

Our Trials Day this season will be 19th October at Needham Market, if any extra information is required, do not hesitate to ask. Also, first county tops are provided so let's hope we see lots of new faces.

We are still in the process of finalising Potters accommodation for this year.

8. ECBA Report:

NJ: Since our last meeting, the ECBA Champion of Champions event took place over the weekend of 7th and 8th June at Stanley Indoor Bowls Club. Eight counties were there, with only Bedfordshire missing.

The Saturday was a difficult day for all of the Suffolk representatives, with wins hard to come by. For the most part, Sunday was a far better day, with improved performances securing some hard-earned wins.

The four from Hintlesham & Chattisham of Glen Avis, Tom & Lauren Beckett and Frank Wilkin finished in sixth place, with two wins and a draw from their seven matches. Had it not been for a couple of narrow losses, they would've finished a few places higher.

The Claydon triple of Sally Goodrich, Sue and Steve Isles were Suffolk's best performers of the weekend. An unbeaten Sunday lifted them to third place overall and generally they played well for their three wins and two draws.

The pair of Tony Stevenson and Mick Watkins also had a very good Sunday, winning three of their four games, to add to a draw from the Saturday. Their fourth-place finish was a respectable outcome in a high-quality field.

Rita Runnacles (Barking) in the singles competition had a tough weekend, unfortunately not able to buy a win. That is not the whole story though, Rita lost three games by a single shot, and two games by just two shots.

The next ECBA meeting is online on Saturday 20th September, **NJ** to attend. Before then is the ECBA Triples on Sunday 14th September at Coxhoe Village Hall, hosted by Durham Carpet Bowls Association, the entry form will be out shortly.

9. ECCBA Report:

SG: Bedfordshire had raised an issue around financing for the raffle draw but it was agreed to keep things as they were.

NJ asked about last season's Norfolk Vs Hertfordshire venue issue. **SG:** It was agreed that it was up to the teams to sort out and agree, referring to the ECCBA Committee if needed.

AG asked whether the issue with the dress code following the Champion of Champions has been put to bed. **NJ:** It was sorted and most bowlers turn up in the correct clothing and when they don't the rules are there to action.

10. Media Secretary Report:

AP: Nothing to report.

11. Election of officers:

Captain (2 Yr period) - **Sally now into her 3rd year.**

No one has come forward to offer to take over. **SG** said she was happy to continue. The

committee were happy to continue with **SG** as Captain.

Selectors: **Currently Ally Hobbs and Karen Hubbard**

Ally and Karen are happy to re-stand. **SG** added that she had asked Colin Fellingham, to have someone to cover the west side. She hadn't heard back as yet. **AG** agreed it was a good idea to invite someone from the west to join and express any opinion from the west that is necessary. **SG** will check with Colin and if he is happy to stand then he will join the selectors. All agreed to this.

Committee members: can increase by 2 if required - No one has come forward to stand.

12. Matters arising from the AGM held on Monday 9th June

AG:

Point 1 – Winter Finals night being played on a Wednesday. **JG:** It has been this way for 35 years and shouldn't be changed. **SCG:** It may not be a solution to their availability anyway. **NJ:** No other clubs had ever had an issue and the dates are out there a year ahead of time. It was agreed this could be reconsidered in future if more clubs came forward with an issue with attendance.

Point 2 – Letter regarding playing short and drawing out. **AG:** We don't need to discuss the matter any further than it was discussed on the evening of the AGM.

NJ: The East division league decision - as a reminder to all. It does not need to be discussed in depth as yet but we could start to look at the teams and think about how it might look. A brief discussion was held about travel and it was agreed that teams have to travel no matter what and this should not be an issue that should stop the change. **AG:** Does anyone have any other suggestions to try. **NJ:** In terms of entry paperwork and timings, what are people's thoughts. It was suggested that paperwork be drawn up now and issued shortly.

13. 40th Birthday Celebrations (Sunday 7th September at Needham Market)

AG: Entries are starting to come in – about 16. **FW** added that he hadn't had contact with **AH** to discuss what was happening in the Burton room. **SCG:** I have been pricing up some mugs with 40th on so it is something a bit different. It was agreed this was a good idea. **AG:** shall we do medals and a mug. **SCG** agreed to look into possibilities. It just needed to be a keepsake for the day. **NJ:** It's a celebration, can we do something slightly differently/ should we do anything else to celebrate? **LD:** Happy to do decorations. **NJ:** Should we have a cake? Does anyone know anyone that can make one? Further discussion was had about what we could do and it was agreed we would discuss via email between now and the September meeting to get plans sorted.

14. Forthcoming events:

19th / 20th July - Sunderland English Open Competition – Stanley

1st September – SCBA Committee Meeting – Needham Market

15. Any Other Business:

NJ: AGM 2026 – Should we investigate the possibility of holding the AGM in the Burton Room due to the low numbers of attendees. It was agreed this is a good idea and that it may be a slightly cheaper rate.

SCG: Summer League trophies – are we keeping the same as last year? One for each league winning club to have and one for each individual on the overall winning team. It was agreed to keep it the same.

Meeting closed: 8.27pm