



# 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 17th March 2025 – 7:30pm

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

### 1. Apologies for absence: None

### 2. Approval of previous minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 13th January 2025 were proposed by **RS**, seconded by **FW** and approved and signed by the chair.

### 3. Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

### 4. Chairman's Report:

Good evening all, I hope you are all well and in fine spirits. Welcome to tonight's meeting, good to see you all again.

I am going to stop making these reports, at the last meeting we heard about the passing of Keith Armes, this meeting we say goodbye to Michael, Michael Daniels. After a short illness Michael passed, with his family at his side. He had done so much in his life, from Motor Racing to Bowls and achieved top honours in them all. Our thoughts go to Paul and the rest of the family.

9<sup>th</sup> February saw Mick Watkins and Tony Stevenson get together and win the Suffolk pairs, the singles was played on 9<sup>th</sup> March, many congratulations to Ellen for winning the title and Rita for being a valiant runner-up. I am sure Richard will have more to say on the subject.

As per our last meeting, I have been in touch with our sponsor Oak Employment and discussed our sponsorship. They are happy to continue as they are, with the funds they are supporting us with, assisting in streaming the game to all, and spreading the word to new followers and players all over the world. We are to continue to support them on all our correspondence.

Yesterday, 16<sup>th</sup> March, saw the Suffolk Team play their final match against Essex at Needham. At the time of writing, I have no idea how many Suffolk won the match by, so far as to say, congratulations Suffolk on another fine League win, and commiserations to Essex for losing the match. I am sure Sally will be mentioning this small massive achievement in her report.

Right, onto business .....

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

## 6. Treasurers Report:

**PD:**

### Year to Date

We are currently showing a surplus on the year of £254. For reference, at the same time last year, we were showing a loss of £1600, so we remain well on track to at least break even.

### Championships

Profit on the Championships since the last meeting (excluding trophy costs)

Pairs £415 (£355 last year)

Triples £123 (-£2 last year)

That gives us an overall profit for the four competitions of £1300, compared with £1000 last year, excluding trophies. It's all down to the very encouraging increase in entries we've seen this year, so many thanks to all those who have entered, and to Richard for all his efforts.

**AG** thanked all bowlers who continue to enter competitions and show their support.

## 7. Match Secretary's Report:

**RS:**

**Winter League:** We are almost at the end of the season, all appears to have gone well again this year.

Division 1 East, Claydon have taken a close top place beating Barking by only 3 points.

Division 1 West, still being contested by Stanningfield and Withersfield who play each other on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April, only 2 points difference but Stanningfield have the home advantage.

Division 2 N, Needham Market have won all 14 games and take top place.

Division 2 S, will be a close call between Martlesham and Clapgate Lane, should be decided today or tomorrow when they each play their last game, Clapgate Lane away v East Bergholt and Martlesham at home v Old Felixstowe.

**Joe Rice Cup & Chairman's Plate:** Semi-finals took place last week,

In the Cup Needham Market & Claydon played with Claydon winning through 8 – 2 (59 - 27).

Belstead v Stanningfield with Stanningfield winning 8 – 2 (42 – 35).

In the plate, Gt Blakenham played Barking who finished winners 10 – 0 (53 – 20) the second game was between Hintlesham & Chattisham and Copdock & Washbrook with C&W winning 8 – 2 (24 - 22)

**Joe Rice Cup & Chairman's Plate:** Finals take place this Wednesday and will be between Claydon v Stanningfield, and Barking v Copdock & Washbrook.

**Suffolk Pairs:-** 10<sup>th</sup> February 51 teams took part and a good day was had by most. The final was between Mick Watkins & Tony Stevenson and Steven Cain & Michael Welham was close and required an extra end to decide with Mick & Tony winning.

**Suffolk Singles:-** 9<sup>th</sup> March, 52 players were involved, the event produced the first ladies winner since 2012, and only the third ever, as Ellen Grube and Rita Runnacles played out what was the first all-female Singles final, with Ellen coming out on top.

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I had confirmation yesterday (Sunday) as to who will be attending the Champion of Champions events, some winners having other commitments and unable to attend the ECBA event at Stanley and others are happy to stand in.

**Fours** at both events, winners Hintlesham & Chattisham will be, Frank Wilkin, Glen Avis and Lauren & Tom Beckett

**Triples** at ECBA, Claydon, will be Sally Goodrich, Sue & Steve Isles,

at ECCBA, winners Claydon, will be Sam Runnacles, Andy Pooley & David Ford.

**Pairs** at both events, winners Mick Watkins, Barking and Tony Stevenson from Belstead.

**Singles** at ECBA, will be Rita Runnacles from Barking at ECCBA, winner Ellen Grube from Hundon

**League finals**, I have just been advised that Needham Market will be unable to put a team forward for this event, lets discuss the options please.

**AG** asked the committee for their thoughts on the matter.

**NJ** clarified that there is a trophy for the winning team between North and South and suggested that the trophy goes to the other team. It wouldn't be feasible to put the runner up through as that would potentially be deemed as unfair. There will however only be one match on finals night. The hall is already booked and paid for so there doesn't seem to be an alternative.

A discussion was held around the rules and stating whether the runners up could be entered instead.

**AG** summarised the proposals and it was agreed that the title will be automatically awarded to the other team.

The committee have all shared that it is disappointing that Needham Market were unable to put a team forward despite dates being known and it is hoped this will not be repeated in future.

**Summer League 2025:** Entry form is just about ready to send out after discussing final details this evening.

**RS** shared the details of the form, these are very similar to last year. All agreed to proceed with proposed form. Entry form attached with these minutes.

## **8. Captains Report:**

**SG:**

Since the last meeting we have had a home match against Bedfordshire on the 16<sup>th</sup> February, this was played at Bildeston as Needham was unavailable, it was nice to see some old and new faces and the day was a great success. For some of our new players the mats can be challenging here and it really wasn't as easy as the score suggests. Suffolk came away with a good win 34 points to 2, shots were 250 to 69.

A summary of games for the 24/25 season.

Away to Norfolk: 12 points - shots 117. Suffolk 24 points - 159 shots

Away to Cambridgeshire on a very cold day (with no heating available): 11 points to Cambridge - shots 121, Suffolk 25 points - shots 179.

Home to Hertfordshire (not a good day) Suffolk were really under par and had to fight all day: Suffolk 18 points - 162 shots, Hertfordshire 18 points - 136 shots.

Home to Bedfordshire: Suffolk 34 points - shots 250. Bedfordshire 2 points - shots 69.

We played our last County League match against Essex at home on 16<sup>th</sup> March, it was going to be a crunch game as both Essex and Hertfordshire were close on our tails.

The first session of play, Suffolk were 4 points to 2 but after the second session it was 6 points each. Suffolk scored well in the next 4 sessions to come out 28 points - shots 185. Essex 8 points - shots 112. A good win for Suffolk, this should be another League win and I'll add my thanks to all our great girls and guys. We now have Six Counties Competition on 13<sup>th</sup> April at Littleport in Cambridgeshire, which will be a challenge as we are 4 players short. The selectors and I will have a get together to sort players but I'm sure with the great players we have, we will carry on being the great team we are. My thanks go to Jane and Richard for our early morning cuppa's, Sue I for organising the Raffle for county home games, Paul D and Neil for help when needed, Shirley and Rita for yummy cakes and everyone who has helped out doing jobs for the county squad, much appreciated.

## 9. ECBA Report:

**NJ:**

**NJ** chaired the last ECBA meeting, online on 7 February 2025.

Financially the ECBA are c£900 better off than they were at this time last year. This comes from increased income from both the Festival of Bowls and the Nationals.

Entries for the 2025 Festival of Bowls at Potters (end of April) have been maintained again. Just before that, the ECBA Rinks is taking place at Littleport on 27 April. It's being hosted by Norfolk CBA and the entry form is available on the SCBA website.

Looking further ahead, the ECBA Champion of Champions takes place at Stanley Indoor Bowls Club over the weekend of 7/8 June.

There was a lengthy discussion about the "Playing Short" rule for the Nationals, on the back of a proposed rule change by Durham CBA. Whilst a useful debate, any decision on rule changes would have to wait for the ECBA AGM. In relation to the Nationals (24-27 October), Potters accommodation cost had only gone up by £10 per person on 2024. It is expected that Potters would be issuing their paperwork to the counties shortly.

It was acknowledged that there is work that can be done to further promote carpet bowls and further discussions to pool ideas will be needed.

The next meetings are the AGM and Committee meeting, in person on Saturday 12 April at The Brentwood Hotel, Rotherham. **NJ** and **PD** will be attending.

For those that don't know, Mick Watkins is the National referee and has decided to stand down. He has also done a lot of development work too. We don't currently have a replacement; other counties have been asked to suggest any replacement they know of and that work was being done to clarify the role.

**AG** added that he would like to see some other counties join the ECBA Committee and the workload be shared around more.

## 10. ECCBA Report:

**PD:** There hasn't been a meeting so nothing to report other than that Bedfordshire will be playing at the Six Counties.

## 11. Media Secretary Report:

**AP:** Nothing to report.

## 12. 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations:

**AG** shared that at the last meeting it was agreed that we would be holding an event to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and that we need to decide what we will be doing.

**NJ** informed the committee that a date has been booked for 7<sup>th</sup> September. He had the following suggestions:

- suggest we could hold a random fours, which could take 96 entries. You wouldn't need a final so people wouldn't disappear through the day and could present trophies to the top three on the day.
- We could also introduce a some different scoring methods to add variety to the games.
- We could have target bowls in the smaller room.

Other things to consider – Where does the money go?

**AG** suggested that each entrant be entitled to a vote of which charities they would like to see the money raised go to. It was agreed that the entry form would have a space for entrants to nominate their chosen charity.

**NJ** also stated that there are a lot of people out there that have done a lot for Suffolk Carpet Bowls. And it would be nice to send them an individual invite to come along as a guest, not pay an entry fee and either play or not play and just come along for the day. This was also agreed.

**AG** shared his thanks to Neil who has put a lot of thought in to all of this.

**AG** asked if the committee wanted to decide now about the running of the day or wait until the next meeting.

**NJ** said that we need to consider firstly when the entry form should go out and that it perhaps needs to be sooner before clubs stop for the Summer. It was agreed to send them out in May around about the time of the next meeting.

**LDB** suggested a smaller working party to discuss the details further and then bring it to the next committee meeting to be agreed. It was agreed **LDB** and **NJ** will get together to discuss further and put together the entry form ready for the next meeting.

### **13. Forthcoming events:**

19<sup>th</sup> March – Cup and Plate finals – Needham Market.  
30<sup>th</sup> March – Random Triples – Needham Market  
9<sup>th</sup> April – Winter League Finals – Needham Market  
13<sup>th</sup> April – Eastern Counties Championships – Littleport  
27<sup>th</sup> April – ECBA Rinks – Littleport  
28<sup>th</sup> April – 2<sup>nd</sup> May – Festival of Bowls – Potters  
7<sup>th</sup> May – East V West – Needham Market  
11<sup>th</sup> May – ECCBA Champion of Champions – Littleport  
14<sup>th</sup> May – Bury League V Suffolk League  
18<sup>th</sup> May – Bury League Pairs – Risby  
19<sup>th</sup> May – SCBA Committee Meeting – Needham Market

**SCG** informed the committee that all trophies are done or being done for upcoming events.

**AH** agreed to select for East team for East vs West on 7<sup>th</sup> May. **AG** will contact Colin Fellingham to arrange for the West selection.

**RS** said he is away for the Bury League V Suffolk League so someone else is needed to run on the day. **AP** agreed to do this.

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

**AH** said he was asked to raise an issue of teams bowling short during the Winter League and whether we can look at the drawing out process whereby if players that can only play one game, play second. There was a discussion around the reasons for some players only being able to play once and why they may need to play in the first half.

**NJ** added that it is down to the dialogue between the two captains on the night and they agree the best way to proceed.

**JG** asked about the format for the Bury V Suffolk League. It was clarified that neither team picked from County players.

**NJ** informed the committee that dates for 2027 have been booked with Needham Market Community Hall. The only one that wasn't entirely satisfactory was the triples which had to be booked for the 19<sup>th</sup> December, it is quite close to Christmas but may be open for review nearer to the time.

**NJ** had also received an email from Foxearth Bowls Club who are looking to begin playing more matches. They may want to join SCBA and possibly join a league in the longer term.

**RS** checked if there were subsidies usually given for the Champion of Champions. **PD** said that it was £25 per head for the ECBA event.

**AP** raised that he has been looking at the division 2 leagues and established that there is a large gap between the top and bottom of each league. He proposed that the leagues be reviewed so that more competition was offered in these leagues, perhaps returning to the system of three tiers with leagues grouped to offer a more equal competition.

It was agreed that this would be discussed further and that the committee would gain opinion from the clubs involved after this current season has ended.

**Attachments:** Summer league entry form

Meeting closed: 9:05 pm