



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 19th May 2025 – 7:30pm

Those Present: Andy Gilder **AG** (Chairman), Neil Jolly **NJ** (Vice Chairman), Paul Daniels **PD** (Treasurer), Richard Sago **RS** (Match Secretary), Andy Pooley **AP** (Media Secretary), Frank Wilkin **FW**, Adam Hubbard **AH**, Jane Sago **JS**

1. Apologies for absence: Lauren De Banks (Secretary) **LD**, Sue Gilder **SCG**, Sally Goodrich **SG**, Jim Goodrich **JG**

2. Approval of previous minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th March 2025 were proposed by FW, seconded by JS and approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising:

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report:

AG: Good evening, all. Well, here we are once again, a little older, a little wiser and definitely more knackered than the last time!

Sad news first, we have to say farewell to one of our stalwarts of the game, played from one end of the country to the other, knew everyone in the game and could beat all of them on his day. I am of course talking about Uncle Jim Southgate. A true character of the game, although had been unwell for a while. RIP Jim.

To start with we had the Joe Rice and Chairmans Plate finals at Needham, congratulations everyone who entered, all the finalists but special well done to Claydon – winners of the Joe Rice Cup and Barking for winning the Chairmans Plate. Thank you to Richard for all his hard work organising the evening.

We also had the Random Triples fundraiser for the squad and WOW what a turnout. Record numbers entered, (102) all had a great day's bowls and congratulations to the winners, Mick Watkins 4th, Barry Thorpe 3rd, Adam Hubbard 2nd and Rita Runnacles 1st.

We also had the winter league finals, a bit of a flop to be brutally honest. What is supposed to be the pinnacle of the season for any team, was spoilt as one team were unable to raise a squad to play on the night, although it is clearly noted that there is to be a finals night at the end of the season for league winners to attend. This meant their opponents had a walkover which is a shame and left a rather good final with no atmosphere for the remaining three teams attending. Not something I would like to see repeated.

Eastern Counties Championships were played in Littleport, I will let the ECCBA report cover this event.

April was the turn of the ECBA to hold their annual rinks event in Littleport, a happy hunting ground for Suffolk, but I will let the report from the ECBA cover that event.

At the beginning of May we had the Festival of Bowls at Potters. This is a well-attended event, a great week for any carpet bowler and highly recommended. I am sure we will hear more on the results in later reports, but I understand a great showing from our Suffolk contingency.

East v West was held on 7th May, I understand that the East were the successful team this year. Well-done Adam Hubbard for organising the East and Colin Fellingham for the West. No doubt Adam will enlighten us with goings on later.

11 May was the ECCBA Champion of Champions, as of this moment I have no idea of the winners, but I hope the results will be in Suffolks favour, as I know we will always do our very best wherever we play.

Finally, the Bury League had their Pairs competition yesterday, I hope all went well for them, and congratulations to whoever came through winners.

On a personal note, Sue and I have not entered as many competitions as we may have wanted to over the past couple of years. As some of you know, we have had the responsibility of looking after my mother who had dementia and other issues, so we had to be available for her. On Friday 9th May my mother passed away peacefully, so hopefully we will be able to participate a little more often.

5. Secretary's Report:

LD: (comments sent prior to the meeting)

Very little to report. Copies of the last minutes were posted to two clubs with a request to provide an email address for ease and speed of delivery. There was no response from either club so these, and future, minutes will continue to be posted for now.

6. Treasurers Report:

PD: We have ended the year with a small loss of £170 compared with last year, when we lost £1500.

Although we didn't quite manage to break even, we have been able to stabilize our finances, and halt the decline, thanks to the plan that was put in place at the end of the last financial year.

I don't see any need to make any further changes for the forthcoming year.

7. Match Secretary's Report:

RS:

Joe Rice Cup: Claydon v Stanningfield. Claydon were in great form on the night and won 9-1 (44 - 23)

Chairmans Plate: Barking v Copdock & Washbrook. Barking strongest on the night and winning 8-2 (39 - 30)

Winter League, Finals night: Division 1, Claydon v Withersfield. Claydon again were in great form on the night and won 9-1 (38 - 27)

Division 2, Martlesham v Needham Market. Unfortunately, Needham Market were unable to raise a team, so the Division 2 trophy was awarded to Martlesham, by default.

Summer League: Is now under way, most fixture lists have been received.

ECCBA Champion of Champions: A win for the triples and the team, full report on the website

Suffolk v Bury League: A win after many years, well done to all involved, thanks to the following teams for playing: Elmsett x 2, Martlesham, Clapgate Lane, Bildeston & Belstead with Copdock & Washbrook.

8. Captains Report:

SG: (report sent prior to the meeting and read out by **AG**)

Since my last report we have played the Six Counties on 13th April, we had three players out and had to rearrange some teams, but we still had a great success winning with one game to spare. I can't tell you all how proud I am to be County Captain with such a great number of players. I would like to thank David Ford, Tom and Lauren De Banks for their support in the county squad, sad to see them go, and to add my thanks to Oscar Mew and Jim Goodrich for filling in.

Our next challenge will be the ECCBA Team Bowl on 5th October at Littleport, followed by the Squad Trials, then the Nationals at Potters.

I always find it difficult to sort the Trials out and to encourage people to have a try, so any suggestions would be greatly received. Also, I'm happy to continue with being Captain if required and I hope Karen Hubbard and Ally Hobbs (selectors) will be with me.

9. ECBA Report:

NJ: Since our last meeting, there are a number of ECBA matters to report back on.

In mid-April, there was an ECBA in person meeting and AGM. The main points to come out of those meetings were:

- Following a couple of proposals for a rule change and a vote, the Playing Short Rule for the National County Championships remains unchanged;
- After a proposal and vote, the ECBA Champion of Champions Pairs, will change from two to three woods each;

- There had been ECBA attendance at Lincoln and Southport, where carpet bowls had started to be played and support continued to be provided. In conjunction with this, two ECBA Development Officer roles were created;
- Contact had also been made with the Bowls Development Alliance and this will be followed up to investigate what they could offer carpet bowls;
- At the AGM, Neil Jolly (Chairman) and Paul Daniels (Treasurer) were voted back into their respective roles. Mick Watkins stood down from his role as National Referee and his work in this position and on the developmental side over a number of years were acknowledged.

On the mats, the ECBA Rinks was held at Littleport, hosted by Norfolk CBA. Despite a disappointing entry of 22 teams, there was some high-quality bowling over the day. Well done to Hundon (Linda and Ralph Sadgrove, Kevin Salmon and Ellen Grube) who made it through to the semi-finals. The final being won by a team from Bottisham.

Most recently there was the ECBA Festival of Bowls at Potters, where there was a good showing from bowlers from Suffolk. The fours was won by Jim and Sally Goodrich, Ally Hobbs and Neil Jolly (Claydon/ Brockley), beating a team which included Sue and Paul Cousins (Elmsett) in the final. Peter and Rita Runnacles (Barking) were in a four making the semi finals. In the pairs, Rob Myall and Stuart McNeill (Withersfield) were beaten in the semi final by Jim Goodrich and Neil Jolly, who went on to lose a close final. In the singles, Lisa Edmead (Withersfield) made the quarter finals and Neil Jolly, the semi finals.

Looking ahead, the ECBA Champions of Champions is being held at Stanley over the weekend of 7 and 8 June, all the best to the bowlers from Suffolk taking part.

10. ECCBA Report:

PD: Last weekend saw the ECCBA Champion of Champions at Littleport, hosted by Cambridgeshire.

The county was represented by Frank Wilkin, Glen Avis, Lauren De Banks and Tom Beckett in the Fours, Sam Runnacles, Andy Pooley, and David Ford in the Triples, Mick Watkins and Tony Stephenson in the Pairs, and Rita Runnacles in the Singles, who replaced Ellen Grube at the last minute, due to injury.

In the Singles, Rita won two and drew one in her first 3 games, but lost the last two. She finished fourth, just 2 points off the winner. The Pair did the opposite, losing their first 2 games, but winning their last 3, to finish 3rd, also 2 points behind the winners. The Triples won all their games, the only team to do so in any discipline on the day, winning with a game to spare, 4 points clear at the top. The Four did well to win two, draw two, and only lose one game, they also finished third, 2 points off the winners.

The Singles, Pairs and Fours were all won by Hertfordshire, but Suffolk were more consistent, and came out on top of the Team event, finishing on 27 points, with Herts two behind on 25 points.

The ECCBA AGM will be held at Newmarket on 19 June.

With reference to the ECCBA AGM, **NJ** reported further on the Champion of Champions event, where some bowlers (not from Suffolk) had points deducted for infringement of the dress code rule. At last year's ECCBA AGM, a very specific dress code rule was voted in, which included "black smart/casual trousers or skirt, or black tailored shorts". Unfortunately, some bowlers failed to adhere to this and were deducted four points in accordance with the rule. Fortunately, the outcome/ winners of the events were not impacted by the deductions.

After the event, **NJ** had spoken with Hertfordshire CBA and agreed they would put forward an AGM proposal for a revised dress code wording, which fell in line with the ECBA wording. The proposal will be:

The Officers of the ECCBA reserve the right to exclude any player wearing clothing that is considered as being outside the prescribed dress code, which is smart casual.

The preference is trousers, skirt or tailored shorts, together with club or county or matching tops. What will not be allowed are: Jeans and tops advertising a product or a football/ sports team/ club.

The onus is on the county delegates to make their bowlers aware of the dress code before the event.

NJ sought the meeting's agreement that Suffolk would support this proposal at the ECCBA AGM, this was unanimously agreed.

NJ also advised that following this season's cancelled Hertfordshire/ Norfolk county match, the former would be putting forward a further AGM proposal, reading:

'If two counties cannot come to an agreement in relation to whether a fixture should take place the county due to host the fixture will refer the matter to the ECCBA officers who will make a decision.'

NJ requested the meeting's agreement that Suffolk would also support this proposal and again this was unanimously agreed.

As an action point, it was agreed that whoever attended the ECCBA AGM, as Suffolk's representative (likely to be **SG**) should be asked to vote in accordance with the meetings wishes.

11. Media Secretary Report:

AP: Following is up to the highest it has ever been, with 331 followers and 265 likes globally.

My fears about the Facebook fact checking policy don't seem to be affecting us so that's good news.

I would like to increase the amount that I post but I can't do that without the help from the clubs. I need information from them, if they are running competitions, if they are celebrating a landmark, anything really that they would like to share. They can send me details, pictures etc. on messenger or my personal email.

I am considering creating a WhatsApp group or community to increase exposure expressly for the use of club information to be posted.

12. 40th Birthday Celebrations (Sunday 7 September at Needham Market)

NJ reported that since the last meeting, **LD** had prepared a draft flyer for the event and this was circulated at the meeting. **NJ** and **LD** had also worked on a draft entry form and letter, the latter would be sent to those agreed specified invitees. **NJ** went through the potential invitees and these were agreed. **NJ** and **LD** to finalise the three documents and send out when completed. Entries to go to **AG**, **PD** to work on the event format, **FW** and **AH** to be responsible for the target bowls, **RS** and **JS** to look after the raffle on the day and **AP** to send out an early advert on Facebook, to make followers aware of the event date.

13. Forthcoming events:

25th May 2025 – Marions Fab 4's – Needham Market
7-8th June 2025 - ECBA Champion of Champions – Stanley
9th June 2025 – SCBA AGM – Needham Market
22nd June 2025 – Withersfield Charity 4's – Gt Cornard Leisure Centre
30th June 2025 – SCBA Committee Meeting – Needham Market

Regarding the upcoming meetings, **AG** asked those in attendance if they were willing to stand again for Committee and all at the meeting confirmed they would.

14. Any Other Business:

AP: At the last meeting he advised that he'd looked at the two East Division 2 leagues and noted there was a large gap between the top and bottom of each. He proposed that there would be a benefit to returning to the three tiers (as was pre Covid) with leagues grouped to offer a more equal competition. **AP** suggested that this be raised as a discussion point at the AGM, to give clubs an opportunity to express their views, ahead of our 30 June meeting, where a decision could be made. All at the meeting agreed this was a sensible idea.

Meeting closed: 8.29pm