



Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association

www.carpetbowls.org/suffolk

Supported by



oakemployment.co.uk

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association held at Needham Market Community Centre on Monday 3rd November 2025 – 7:30pm

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

2. Apologies for absence: Adam Hubbard **AH**, Jane Sago **JS**

3. Approval of previous minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 1st September 2025 were proposed by **FW**, seconded by **RS** and approved and signed by the Chair.

4. Matters arising:

No other matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report:

AG: Good evening, colleagues.

I am so proud of every single one of you. We came together and worked as a team to make our birthday party a real special one. Thank you and well done to you all. £700 was raised, and the chosen Charity was The East Anglian Air Ambulance, and when I contacted them, they were so grateful, they thought we were marvelous. With the promotional material we can use, it will put us back on the map.

Wednesday 29th October saw a delegation of Richard, Jane, Jim and Andy P, go up to Norwich Airport to present the cheque to the EAAA at their headquarters. Thanks to them and I must say I am impressed with the resulting promotional photos which can be seen on the website.

Summer League finals have come and gone, back to the cold, dreary winter nights, driving miles in the dark, thinking why? Never mind, soon be Christmas and then soon after spring again!! I am getting old; the time is flying by and I just want it to slow a little so I can enjoy what we have got and have worked for.

The weekend of the Nationals of 2025 has now been and gone, and what a weekend. Suffolk, as we will hear later, were beaten in the ECCBA Team bowl in Littleport just before Potters, by a very good Hertfordshire team and so lost their crown for this year. I am sure it is only on loan, but the National weekend saw a different Suffolk, the fight, the determination and the comradery were all there again and paid off handsomely. With Suffolk retaining the National Championship Trophy for the 11th time in a row, some achievement. That is not the whole story, I am sure the captain may have something to say about it later. But a huge well done to Sally and her team for getting it right.

6. Treasurer's Report:

PD: The 40th Birthday Celebration yielded a profit of £669.51, which has been rounded up to £700, and delivered to East Anglia Air Ambulance.

Oak Employment have renewed, and increased their sponsorship for this year. Their support is greatly appreciated.

We are currently showing a surplus of £1100 for the year to date, which is completely in line with where we were at the same time last year.

7. Match Secretary's Report:

RS:

Summer league Finals night

Thanks to those who prepared for the event as I didn't return from holiday until the day before. Withersfield ran out as comfortable winners with 3 wins and a draw to top the event with 7 points. Chelmondiston had 2 wins, 1 draw and 1 loss to finish 2nd on 5 points. Copdock & Washbrook had 2 big wins and finished 3rd on 4 points. Claydon managed only 1 win and 1 draw and finished 4th on 3 points. Elmsett managed only 1 draw and finished 5th on 1 point.

Winter League 25 – 26

All appears to be running well, results are coming through fairly quickly after the events either by email or WhatsApp. I have just about managed to get all clubs to send copy of result sheet to me, it's nice to see who is doing what on the night.

SCBA Fours 16th November

Closing date was Saturday and I have 27 team entries, one more than last year, I am waiting to hear from 1 other club who will let me know (tonight or tomorrow) if they have a team. The secretary has been away working and forgot to sort.

SCBA Triples 7th December

Half a dozen entries at present.

The cup is proceeding well.

8. Captain's Report:

SG: Nationals Report

Going into the Nationals, we knew it was going to be harder than ever to keep our run of victories going. The last 2 years had seen us only just beating Hertfordshire, and they were going to be very strong again this year, as were Sunderland and possibly Durham.

The weekend began with the Inter-County playoff against Sunderland, which proved exactly how tough the weekend was going to be, with 3 games won, and 3 lost, it all came down to shots, which were completely even at 45 each. It was the first time there had ever been a tie, and with no rule in place to determine the winner, the trophy was shared.

Onto the main event, and Suffolk were into the lead immediately. Herts and Sunderland had some unexpected losses early on, while Suffolk didn't make any slip-ups. The only losing session we had all day, was against Hertfordshire, but winning one of the three games minimised the loss.

At the end of the first day, we found ourselves with a 9-point lead over both Herts and Sunderland, with Durham one point further back. That was a much stronger position than we had been in for several years, but somehow the pressure now seemed that much greater. Now it really was a case of not making any silly mistakes, and even when it looked like it was getting tricky, we dug deep.

As Sunday progressed, we maintained that overnight lead, while still knowing that it could be gone in an instant. The matches against Sunderland could have been a turning point, but some great bowls saw us grab 2 out of the 3 games, which meant that when it came to the penultimate session against Hertfordshire, we would only need 2 points to take the title. And while two of the games were lost, the other one was won, and that was enough to take the overall win with a session still to spare.

That final session saw us add another 6 points, which meant that we finished 11 points ahead of both Herts and Sunderland, which may look comfortable on paper, but felt far from that at the time.

It was Suffolk's 11th straight title and our 16th overall, which meant that we had finally overhauled Cambridgeshire's record of wins.

My thanks go to the whole team, all of whom made crucial contributions when things were looking tough, and to everyone who came along to Potters to support us.

AG shared his thanks to Sally as captain and the selectors.

9. ECBA Report:

NJ attended the ECBA (online) meeting held on 20 September 2025.

NJ: The ECBA Triples had been held on 14 September, hosted by Durham CBA and disappointingly the entry numbers were very low. Discussions were held around date, venue and ensuring promotion of ECBA events generally.

The then upcoming National County Championships were also discussed to ensure all preparations were in place.

That event took place last weekend and from an ECBA perspective the competition ran very smoothly and without incident. The outcome and Suffolk's success will no doubt be covered in the Suffolk Captain's report.

During the weekend & outside of the bowls competition, there were some reported incidents of unacceptable behaviour. One particular incident has resulted in Potters banning a non-playing individual from both of their resorts. The ECBA has issued a communication to all county delegates for them to share with their attending bowlers and supporters, whilst at the same time, acknowledging that the reported incidents did not involve the vast majority of the ECBA group. *I need to discuss this communication at the end of my report.

From a Suffolk CBA perspective, I am confident that none of the incidents involved anyone in the Suffolk group.

Looking ahead, next year the ECBA Rinks (19 April 2026) & Champion of Champions (6-7 June 2026) will move from Stanley Indoor Bowls Club to Hartlepool Indoor Bowls Club.

Advance notice of other ECBA event dates are Festival of Bowls (at Potters, 27 April – 1 May 2026), ECBA Triples (at Littleport, Sunday 13 September 2026) and National County Championships (at Potters, 6-9 November 2026).

The next ECBA meeting (online) is on Saturday 7 February 2026.

***NJ** read a letter from the ECBA that will be forwarded to all of the bowlers that attended the weekend at Potters, with the addition of the acknowledgment they are confident that no Suffolk members were involved. This was fully endorsed by the rest of the committee.

10. ECCBA Report

PD: Nothing to report

11. Media Secretary's Report:

AP: Following increased by 13 over Nationals weekend and over the last 4 weeks we've had 45,333 views with 10,000 of those being on the Sunday of the Nationals. That is an increase of 85% from the previous 4 weeks.

To put this into context, our usual amount of views for a typical event would be in the 2000-3000 range, although we did get 8000 for the birthday tournament.

Engagement over the same period was 4.1k which is 105% up and over Nationals weekend we had over 200 reactions to posts.

It's good to see other counties and the ECBA following our lead. It's a good instant way to get news out and can reach so many people.

12. Forthcoming events:

16th November Suffolk 4's – Needham Market
23rd November – Suffolk v Cambridgeshire – Needham Market
7th December – Suffolk Triples – Needham Market
14th December – Suffolk v Hertfordshire – Hertfordshire
11th January – Suffolk Charity 4's – Needham Market

13. Any Other Business:

RS raised that we haven't yet selected a charity for the Charity 4's in January. The Butterfly Appeal had been suggested but **RS** is looking into a similar charity in Bury St Edmunds to split the money across. **RS** asked if there were any other suggestions. **PD** suggested we pick one that hasn't been done before. **AG** shared that unless anyone had any additional ideas, then he was happy to let **RS** decide. This was agreed.

NJ advised about bookings. The Burton room has been booked for the AGMs. In 2027 we host the ECBA rinks which has been booked for April 2027 and also the Champion of Champions has been booked for May 2027.

RS shared how the Air Ambulance did us proud and that it was a good day.

Meeting closed: 8.19pm