



Suffolk **Carpet Bowls** *Association*

SCBA Website is www.carpetbowls.org/suffolk

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association

Held at Needham Market Community Centre, on Monday 15th June 2026

The Meeting commenced at 7.30pm

Representatives attended from the following clubs:

Barking, Bramford, Old Felixstowe, Offton and Willisham, Chelmondiston, Claydon, Brockley, Hintlesham and Chattisham

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanked all for making the effort to attend the AGM.

1. Apologies for absence

Bentley, Richard and Jane Sago

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Monday 9th June 2025 were confirmed as a true record.

Proposed by Frank Wilkin (Hintlesham and Chattisham), seconded by Neil Jolly (Barking) and duly signed by the Chairman.

3. Matters Arising

An error in the attendees of last year's AGM where Barking were recorded twice.

4. Chairman's Report

A very warm welcome to you all, thank you for your time this evening.

My report begins by looking back to our 40th birthday party, 7th September last year.

It was a very successful day, which was enjoyed by all that attended. The competition was played along the same lines as the Random Triples, held in February, with the bowlers being drawn out to play as a team, but with changes to the scoring for different rounds. It sounds complicated but was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone.

We had visits from several bowls' celebrities during the day, people who have not been seen in the bowls environment for several years. It was nice to see the memories coming back as they spoke to some old friends. The event was won by

Pauline Dibbin (Hintlesham and Chattisham), congratulations to her. The East Anglian Air Ambulance charity, which was chosen by the competitors themselves on the day, benefited from monies raised on the day to the sum of £700. This was handed over to the EAAA in Norwich by a contingency from the executive committee. A full report of this is available on the SCBA website.

The Suffolk squad this year did not fare as well as it has in the past. The other competing counties have greatly improved, and Suffolk did not play as well as they can. There are many reasons why this was the case, suffice to say, they will be fighting hard this coming season to regain their supremacy. Suffolk ended up 3rd in the Eastern Counties league behind Essex and a very good Hertfordshire team.

As with previous years, clubs are still losing players, mainly through old age and illness, and are encountering difficulties in replacing members. The committee are always looking at trying to encourage more players. One such area we are exploring is by showcasing carpet bowls to other bowls disciplines, to demonstrate the skills used and encourage the playing of both disciplines. Hopefully we can gain new members for our clubs. If it is a success we will try to do something similar in other parts of the county.

My report closes with a sincere thank you, for all members and their clubs for their continued support of the executive committee, the competitions that we run and for their understanding of the decisions we must make.

Finally, a big thank you to all my current committee members, who work tirelessly and voluntarily to make my job as chairman easier.

5. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

6. Treasurer's Report

Finance report shared.

I am pleased to say, we have kept our head above water with a surplus of £612, most of which is down to the championships, so thank you to Richard and those that support those. Profit on those is a little down on last year due to hall rent going up. Thank you also to our sponsors who have increased their support this year. Thank you also to Keith Jolly for auditing the accounts.

The chairman reiterated his thanks to the auditor and asked for a proposer and seconder to keep the current auditor – Keith Jolly
Proposed by Sue Gilder and seconded by Andy Pooley

There were no further comments.

7. Match Secretary's Report

A good winter season was had by most and was fully reported on for the May

committee meeting and included in the minutes for that meeting.

We had 31 teams in the Winter league again this year and going back to the original format as pre Covid with 3 Divisions in the East. I think this worked very well, it seemed to be acceptable to all clubs.

Our Charity event this January was in aid of St Elizabeth Hospice and 38 teams played and raised a grand figure of £1365.00

We have 26 teams playing in the Summer league this year, results are now coming in.

The Championship events were supported quite well although I would like to see some new names entering, there are many other good players in our clubs who could/should play.

2026 Champion of Champions took place at Hartlepool last weekend. It's a pity that it looks as though Suffolk are perhaps the only county running tournaments to get our appropriate champions to play in this event. It certainly looks as though some of our competitors names were straight out of their county's squad. We finished 5th out of 9 counties, well done to all our players over a very tough weekend, I hope you enjoyed yourselves any way.

All our results and reports are on our website, thanks to Paul Daniels for his help.

Thanks to all players and colleagues for your help in getting equipment set up here for all our Championship, Charity and County games.

8. Election of Officers

All the current Officers were prepared to stand again and all those clubs present were happy that they should all remain.

The current elected Officers therefore remain as:

President – David Schofield (Offton and Willisham)
Chairman – Andy Gilder (Barking)
Vice Chairman – Neil Jolly (Brockley)
Honorary Secretary – Lauren De Banks (Hintlesham and Chattisham)
Honorary Treasurer – Paul Daniels (Belstead/Kelsale)
Match Secretary – Richard Sago (Burstall)
Child Protection Officer – Andy Gilder (Barking)

Proposed by Mick Watkins (Barking), Seconded by David Tennant (Old Felixstowe).

9. Election of Committee (Max. 10)

The current Committee were all prepared₃ to stand again, and the Chairman asked

the meeting if there were any further nominations for Committee members. None were forthcoming, so it was proposed that all the current members of the Committee should be re-elected en-bloc.

The Committee members remain as follows:

Sally Goodrich (Claydon) and County
Captain
Sue Gilder (Barking)
Jim Goodrich (Claydon)
Adam Hubbard (Chelmondiston)
Andy Pooley (Claydon)
Jane Sago (Burstall)
Frank Wilkin (Hintlesham)

The Chairman said that if anybody knew of anyone who might be interested in joining the Committee, they could contact any Committee member, as there was space for an additional three.

10. Any Other Business

Peter Castle (Bramford) Why do we play fours and twos in the Summer but Fours and Threes in the Winter. It leads to clubs having to leave a number of players out through the Summer

The Chair replied that we have to bare in mind that there are clubs that have fewer members and struggle with numbers. During the Summer, there are also a number of bowlers that play outdoors so that leads to clubs having fewer numbers again. He also suggested you could have an A and B team.

Peter Freeman (Chelmondiston) Raised a fairer way to deal with clubs that turn up with a short team. This was raised last year and discussed. The chair pointed out that it was taken to the first committee meeting after the AGM last year and it was discussed and agreed that it was the fairest way to do things as it was a random selection.

Neil Jolly added that if a lead is pulled out that could be a bigger benefit so it isn't necessarily right that drawing a skip out is an advantage to a club.

Peter replied that at a home match it is an advantage.

Neil responded that there isn't always a correlation between the two and it could be an advantage or disadvantage.

The chair added that hopefully getting more members into clubs, this could help the situation.

Mick Watkins (Barking) offered a vote of thanks to the committee for their continued hard work.

There was no other business from the floor.

There being no other business to discuss, the meeting closed at 7:52pm

Date of next AGM: 14th June 2027 (7.30pm) – Needham Market Community Centre.

Date of next SCBA Committee meeting: 29th June (7.30pm) - Needham Market.