



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 12th January 2026 – 7:30pm

1. **Those Present:** Andy Gilder **AG** (Chairman), Neil Jolly **NJ** (Vice Chairman), Paul Daniels **PD** (Treasurer), Lauren De Banks (Secretary), Richard Sago **RS** (Match Secretary), Sally Goodrich **SG** (County Captain), Frank Wilkin **FW**, Sue Gilder **SCG**, Jane Sago **JS**, Adam Hubbard **AH**.
2. **Apologies for absence:** Andy Pooley **AP** (Media Secretary), Jim Goodrich **JG**
3. **Approval of previous minutes:**
The minutes of the meeting held on 3rd November 2025 were proposed by **FW**, seconded by **RS** and approved and signed by the Chair.
4. **Matters arising:**
No matters arising.
5. **Chairman's Report:**
AG: Welcome back everyone, I hope you all have had a good Christmas and New Year, ate plenty, drank lots and had some rest and relaxation.
We now have to start again and make 2026 another successful year.
The end of 2025 was difficult for our county team, with a narrow win over a determined Cambridgeshire team and a narrow loss to an up-and-coming Hertfordshire team. An unusual position for Suffolk but the league is still there to be won, which we will be fighting for tooth and nail. I'm sure Sally will be reporting more on this later.

A good showing for the Suffolk fours was won by a good Chelmondiston team. The Suffolk Triples was won by a good Belstead team. Many congratulations to the winners and well done to all that competed in the competitions to make them the success they were.

The Charity 4's was held yesterday (11th January) and I am sure that Richard and Jane had a great day and well done for the organising of the event, I hope the hospice will receive a marvellous cheque at the end.

We will be discussing later a great opportunity to hopefully encourage a few new members to our clubs. It is an opportunity we must discuss as we all know the importance of an influx of members.

Now let's get to it and make 2026 a great year for carpet bowls.
6. **Secretary's Report:**
LDB: Nothing to report
7. **Treasurer's Report:**
PD: Accounts to date -
We are currently showing a surplus of just under £2000, although adjusting for the money we've had in so far for the Charity Fours, brings that figure down to £1400. That doesn't mean we are going to end the year that way, most of our income for the financial year is already in, and most of that current surplus will be eaten up in the back half of the year by trophy and hall hire costs. With that said, the figures are exactly in line with where we were at the same time last year.

The Triples recorded an overall profit of £217.

Hall Hire

At the tail end of last year, we were advised by the Hall that the hiring fees would be going up at the start of 2026:

All day £250 to £280

Evening £100 to £104

Meeting £29.50 to £31

While the other increases are not too bad, the cost of hiring the hall all day will hit us the hardest, and will cost us at least an extra £250 per year, although since we're already halfway through our financial year, the impact won't be as great this year.

As usual, we have to acknowledge that the hall's central location, the fact that it's big enough to enable us to use up to 9 mats, and that they allow us to store our equipment here, means that moving to another venue does not seem like a viable option, so we will simply have to find a way to mitigate against the increased costs.

AG added that on the letter from Needham Market Community Hall, they request risk assessments, safeguarding and public liability insurance. **PD** confirmed that they may ask for them and that we have them in place if needed.

SG asked if we pay extra for the kitchen as it is in a bit of a state. **RS** said we don't and that he does feed back to the committee.

8. Match Secretary's Report:

RS:

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 a copy of result sheets to me, it's nice to see who is doing what on the night.

I think I have sorted a recent query regarding a late cancellation (11.00 in morning) last week, with a bad weather warning, a club with predominately older players called off and the hosts were querying their refreshment costs.

SCBA Fours 16th November

27 teams were involved and a good day was had by most, but in the Final, a bit of bad luck in the final end for Barking gave Chelmondiston a well-deserved 9 – 8 win.

<u>FOURS</u>	Chelmondiston Adam & Karen Hubbard, Frank Wilkin and Bruce Miller	Barking Tom, Pete & Rita Runnacles and Mick Watkins
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SCBA Triples 7th December

25 teams took part, the final was between Barking, who had won all their games during the day, and Belstead, who had lost a game in the group games against a Withersfield team. A good final took place and Belstead came out on top with a 11 – 4 win.

<u>TRIPLES</u>	Belstead Oscar Mew, Paul Daniels & Tony Stevenson	Barking Neil Jolly and Sue & Andy Gilder
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SCBA Pairs 8th February

20 entries have already been received.

Cup & Plate

Joe Rice Cup; the quarter finals are starting tomorrow.

Chairman's Plate; draw was done at the Triples and the Preliminary rounds are now underway.

CHARITY FOUR'S Yesterday 11th January

38 teams played yesterday in a very friendly atmosphere with players from 5 counties involved. People were very generous with donating draw prizes and then buying tickets and Jane's quiz sheets, £1 in Bag and Name the Bear, a good day was had by all.

3 teams finished the day with 4 wins and 8 points, so it was decided on shots.

Our winners were Mad Dogs (Barking) Andy & Sue Gilder, Karen Franks & Mick Watkins: 42 shots F - 12 shots A.

Runners up were Ellesmere, David Clemmet, Angela Newling, Ned Tervit & Sheila Bullock: 36 shots F - 22 shots A.

Third place was Shalford A, Vic Goodey, Judy Kent, Tony Bray & Phil Squibb 34 shots F - 17 shots A.

9. Captain's Report:

SG: I will start by wishing everyone a happy and prosperous new year.

Things can only get better, we have now played two county matches.

The first match of the new season saw a visit from Cambridgeshire, and a few new additions to the squad, with some more established members having stepped back.

Suffolk started strongly, and at the halfway point led 13-5, but Cambridgeshire were stronger in the second half as a few games slipped away from us by the odd shot. The match ended in a 21-15 win for Suffolk.

That game was followed by a visit to Hertfordshire, which was always going to be tough. Having started well, Suffolk lost all 3 games in the third session of the day, and never recovered. The match ended in a 21-15 loss, which, again, might have been quite different if not for another couple of games which went begging by just a single shot.

That leaves Suffolk fourth in the league, behind Essex, Cambridgeshire, and Hertfordshire. We will need to make the most of our trip to Bedfordshire on the 18th January.

We then play away again on the 15th February to Essex and our last match at Home to Norfolk on 15th March,

I believe the best is yet to come.

10. ECBA Report:

NJ: There have been no ECBA events or meetings since our last meeting.

The next ECBA meeting is online on Saturday 7th February, NJ to attend.

Upcoming ECBA events are the ECBA Rinks on Sunday 19th April at Hartlepool Indoor Bowls Club, an entry form will be available next month.

Then we have the Festival of Bowls at Potters in Hopton-on-Sea over the week of Monday 27th April to Friday 1st May. There is still availability to take part in this event and full details will be sent out again with these Minutes.

11. ECCBA Report

PD: Nothing to report

12. Media Secretary's Report:

AP: Nothing to report

13. Inter-code competition

AG: I was approached about an amalgamated competition between indoor bowler's and carpet bowlers. The idea being that we have a go at the indoor rink and they have a go on the carpets. The theory being that indoor bowlers are very keen bowlers and they may look to do something else between seasons or move on to something less strenuous if they are coming to the end of their indoor bowls career. We need to discuss as a committee as to whether we take it further or

not.

SG: Ally played some outdoor bowls and said to some players about carpet bowls and three players are now playing carpet bowls when they can't play outdoor.

SCG: Would it be socially or as a competition. **AG** felt it should begin socially. If it is agreed to go ahead then a discussion would be had about how to move forward.

SG also added about the need for equipment for indoor bowls.

AH said it was a good idea and worth a go.

PD agreed and said that them transitioning from indoor to carpet is easier.

NJ added that he could only see a gain from it and that bowlers would naturally would want to have a go. If it's agreed it's a good idea, we can take carpet bowls over to them and do both on one day; considering the format to make it work.

RS shared that they have a couple of outdoor bowlers that play for Burstall and that it works well. All other committee members agreed it was a good idea and worth a go.

AG confirmed that the next step is to contact the Chairperson of Rushmere Indoor Bowls club to make an appointment to discuss ideas with them. **AG** asked that in the meantime, committee members thought about and suggested any ideas they had.

14. Forthcoming events:

18th Jan – Suffolk Vs Bedfordshire (away)

8th Feb - Suffolk Pairs

15th Feb – Suffolk Vs Essex (away)

22nd Feb - Random Fours

11th March - Cup and Plate semi-finals

15th March – Suffolk Vs Norfolk (home)

16th March – SCBA Committee Meeting

15. Any Other Business:

AH said he had been asked by a player from Old Felixstowe if there were any spare score boards. There were some suggestions of clubs that may have them.

NJ said he had started to draft the 2028 calendar as dates for hall hire will open around March this year. If anyone has observations about any changes then to let him know.

RS: **RS** asked about SCBA paying for hall hire for the Charity event. **PD** added that with rising hall costs we need to be careful as these will need covering. **AG** suggested a donation from the SCBA instead. This was agreed and £125 would be paid by SCBA towards hall hire. **JS** had talked to a lady at St Elizabeth Hospice and they had suggested a get-together, which will be arranged.

SCG: With Cup and Plate finals and Winter league finals coming up, I will get the trophies for them all in one go. Prices haven't really risen so I will look and choose something suitable.

Meeting closed: 8.22pm

Next meeting: Monday 16th March 2026

Attachments to minutes:

2026 SCBA calendar

ECBA Festival flyer & entry form

Random Fours entry form

Suffolk Pairs entry form