



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 29th June 2026 – 7:30pm

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

1. Apologies for absence: Andy Pooley **AP** (Media Secretary)

2. Approval of previous minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 18th May 2026 were proposed by **FW**, seconded by **RS** and approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising:

No matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report:

AG: Good evening to you all, here we are again, all looking fresh and ready for another year.

I would like to start by repeating my comments from the AGM, from the bottom of my heart, I thank each and every one of you for your time, patience, hard work and dedication in making the SCBA executive committee what it is. For your continued support for myself as Chair and putting up with my failings.

It was a very subdued AGM this year, not many attendees at all, so all went smoothly and in record time, result! All I can say is that it down to you all that everyone out there is as happy as we can get them at the moment.

A report on the bowls challenge yesterday will come later in the meeting.

5. Treasurer's Report:

PD: Accounts to date -

This year's insurance renewal invitations have just been sent out, with a handful of clubs having already responded within the first week. The deadline for payments is the end of July.

6. Match Secretary's Report:

RS: Nothing to report since AGM report.

7. Captain's Report:

SG: I attended the ECCBA AGM meeting with Jim's help and the report on this will be covered in the ECCBA section. The next ECCBA AGM is 17th June 2027, 7.30pm start, everyone is welcome to attend.

Suffolk will host the Team Bowl on 4th October 2026 so help from players will be needed. Also, close to this date will be Suffolk Trials, where I hope to see lots of new faces having a go, you never know unless you try, would be lovely to feel we have many extras.

A discussion was held about ways to encourage players to attend the trials.

8. ECBA Report:

NJ: The ECBA Champion of Champions event took place over the weekend of 6th and 7th June at the new venue of Hartlepool Indoor Bowls Club. Nine counties were there, including new member county Lancashire, with only Bedfordshire missing.

Saturday proved to be a difficult day for all of the Suffolk representatives, with wins hard to come by. For the most part, Sunday played out better and more wins on the board improved most overall finishing positions.

The four from Chelmondiston of Frank Wilkin, Bruce Miller, Karen & Adam Hubbard secured only one win on the Saturday but went unbeaten on the Sunday with three wins to finish in a respectable fifth position.

The triple of Tony Stevenson, Andrew English & Paul Daniels, despite some close games could only gain single wins on both days to finish in eighth position.

In the pairs, Neil Jolly and Tom Runnacles (Barking) were involved in some tight games on the Saturday and were a touch unfortunate to only come out with one draw. Sunday was better though, three wins from three saw them climb to a fifth place finish overall.

Rita Runnacles (Barking) in the singles competition was the best performer over the weekend, in a high quality event. Three hard earned wins was only good enough for eighth place, but that was only one point off fourth.

The next ECBA meeting is online on Saturday 19th September, NJ to attend. Before then is the ECBA Triples on Sunday 13 September at Littleport Leisure Centre hosted by Essex CBA.

Looking further ahead to the National County Competition, Potters have provided Suffolk with their invoice. Those attending will be advised shortly of their respective costs, with these to be paid to the SCBA by the end of August.

9. ECCBA Report

PD:

The ECCBA held it's AGM on 18th June. Chairman, Gerald Sutton had already let it be known that after 11 years as Chairman, he would be standing down from the position. However, he did say that he would stay on for a further year if a Vice Chairman could be found. Trevor Kidd (Essex) has volunteered for that job, he will shadow Gerald for one year with the intention that he will take over as Chairman at the next AGM.

Six Counties

There was a proposal from Norfolk to reduce the Six Counties event down from 9 ends to 7 ends on the basis that some of their players were finding it difficult to play back-to-back games as demanded by the schedule. However, David Folkes (Cambridgeshire) came up with the idea of changing the event to Triples from Fours. This would mean that each county would have a team of 8 triples rather than 6 fours, and using 12 mats, as before, each team would have one game on and one game off. The games will continue to be played over 9 ends and will be timed at 40 minutes, which should reduce the overall length of the day by half an hour. A rule was agreed to allow teams to continue play short, which will be subject to review.

10. Media Secretary's Report:

AP: No report

11. Election of officers: Captain (2 Yr period) Sally Goodrich.

Selectors: **Currently Ally Hobbs, Karen Hubbard and Colin Fellingham**

Committee members: can increase by 2 if required.

SG I am unsure whether to continue as I am not sure I still should. If anyone wants to come forward and take over the role then I am happy to stand aside.

AG added that **SG** has done a very difficult job, very well for the last two years.

NJ also added that **SG** should use the people she has with her. They are good people that know bowls and know bowlers. SG can look at those and use their skillsets.

SG explained that picking for the Nationals was proving difficult, given they wanted to take a reserve as well as the team of twenty four.

NJ explained £25 SCBA and £10 paid by ECBA making £35 subsidies toward Nationals was only for the team of twenty four. **PD** proposed that Suffolk funds could cover for a twenty fifth player. It was agreed, unanimously, that Suffolk funds could make up subsidies for a reserve player giving a squad of 25.

All agreed **SG** will continue as Captain.

All agreed, Ally, Karen and Colin will continue as selectors.

12. Matters arising from AGM held on 15th June 2026

No matters arising

13. Inter Code Competition Report

AG: The 28th June saw carpet bowlers of Suffolk demonstrate our skills against the indoor bowlers of Rushmere Indoor Bowls Club.

It was a great morning from the start. We were greeted in a friendly warm manner by the members of the club and quickly set up 2 carpets on rink four. Rinks three and five were to be used for the understanding and learning of the indoor game.

Unfortunately, the Indoor Bowls members had let their side down and only nine members were available to play, but in true bowls fashion we sorted out four teams to play against us for the event. Our thanks to David Mittell, Steven Cain and their colleague, who guided our bowlers on how to bowl on the big greens.

The 2 one-hour sessions went well, with all bowlers enjoying their respective challenges. At the end of the sessions, everyone was talking about their experiences and wanted to know about doing it again.

Banter was good between the bowlers with lots of laughter and frivolity during the morning.

I believe it was a successful event for all that participated.

Special thanks go to Adam and Karen Hubbard and their crew who brought the carpet bowls equipment, and to Chelmondiston for the loan of the equipment in the first place.

NJ: Thanks to **AG** for all the work he had put in to help the day go ahead and added that we shouldn't rule out doing it again.

AG: The busy period is from September so it would need to be before the end of August or we could look at the end of May.

NJ: More of their players would hopefully attend if it was at a time when they were already playing, not in their off-season time. Therefore, it may not be that productive to repeat it so quickly.

AG agreed to discuss the feedback with the indoor bowls group and go from there.

14. Forthcoming events:

18th and 19th July – English Open Fours and Pairs

2nd September – Summer League Finals

15. Any Other Business:

JG: Costings from Potters for the Nationals had initially been difficult to calculate. Also, repeat bookings of specified rooms or bungalows now incur a £12 additional charge.

AG: Thanks to **JG** on behalf of the squad for sorting it all out.

NJ: SG - please pass trials information so that it could be advertised and emailed out by the end of August.

Meeting closed: 8.23pm

Next meeting: Monday 7th September 2026 – Needham Market