



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 16th March 2026 – 7:30pm

Those Present: Andy Gilder **AG** (Chairman), Lauren De Banks (Secretary), Richard Sago **RS** (Match Secretary), Sally Goodrich **SG** (County Captain), Andy Pooley **AP** (Media Secretary), Jim Goodrich **JG**, Frank Wilkin **FW**, Sue Gilder **SCG**, Jane Sago **JS**, Adam Hubbard **AH**

1. Apologies for absence: Neil Jolly **NJ** (Vice Chairman), Paul Daniels **PD** (Treasurer)

2. Approval of previous minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th January 2026 were proposed by **FW**, seconded by **JS** and approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising:

No matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report:

AG: Good evening my friends, welcome to tonight's meeting.

We have had a busy few weeks. Starting with our county trip to Bedfordshire which was a good win for us but left a lot of work for the team to do regarding the league. Following that game, we travelled to Essex where we met a very resilient team, we were not on song for the day and it ended with a resounding win for our opposition. I will not go further as I am sure our captain will cover it in her report.

We held the Suffolk Pairs which was a great day, fantastic bowling, which saw the Barking Pair running out winners on the day. Many congratulations to everyone who entered the competition to make it an enjoyable event.

The Random 4's was another successful event raising funds for the squad to subsidise their travels to the Nationals. It was a pity the entrant numbers did not allow the competition to be a 4's, but was successful as the normal triples form.

The Cup and Plate semi-finals were played on Wednesday, with some great bowling. At the time of writing I have no idea of results, but I am sure our Match secretary will let us know in his report.

Yesterday saw our final league match for the county played at home against a tough Norfolk side, I do hope we came away with a convincing victory.

Time to start our business of the meeting...

5. Secretary's Report:

LDB: Nothing to report

6. Correspondence – Elmsett/Woolpit:

AG: We received sad news from Bealings Carpet Bowls club to inform us that club chairman John Brace had died at the age of 90.

AG: We also received a letter from a player at Woolpit Carpet Bowls Club expressing a concern about bowls being stored on the floor during matches and not in trays/boxes as some other clubs do. The player felt this was a health and safety issue and could be the cause of accidents.

There are no stipulations in the rule book to say how the woods should be stored but they should be in visible play at all times. It was felt that as there had been no injuries reported and that the rules don't state that boxes are compulsory we can only ask clubs to consider using boxes/trays but also remembering that the woods must be visible to the players.

AG: Finally, we have received an email from Elmsett Carpet Bowls Club suggesting that the

Summer League is changed to match winter format of fours and threes. A discussion was had by the committee and it was agreed by all that many clubs aren't in a position to have enough players for this and that it will remain in existing format.

7. Treasurer's Report:

PD: Accounts to date -

We are currently showing a surplus of £795 and although we still have some expenses left to pay out before the year end, mostly for the hall hires for the end of season Cup and League play-offs, we are still on course to more than break even.

The Pairs event showed a profit of £348, which brings the total for the 3 events so far to £943, although the Singles may not quite be able to break even because of the reduced entry this year, the events will still show a healthy profit.

8. Match Secretary's Report:

RS:

Winter League 25 – 26

It's been a good season with clubs sending in results fairly quickly, a few surprise results from some clubs and most games played in good spirit.

League winners are almost decided, it's tight in Division 1 where Barking lead with 2 away games to play and Claydon have 3 games (2 away and 1 home), it's quite tight.

Possible for the drop are Needham Market and Belstead

In Division 2, Clapgate Lane are promoted and they should be joined by Bentley or Stutton. For the drop, it looks fairly certain Whatfield are down with Kesgrave or Hintlesham & Chattisham - too close to call.

In Division 3, Harkstead are up and Bramford, now 2nd on 82 points, have to wait for 5th place Old Felixstowe to play their last 2 games, they are now on 69 points.

In Division 1 West, each with 2 games to play, Withersfield have an 8 shot advantage over Stanningfield who they should be playing on the 17th March.

SCBA Pairs 8th February

Kelsale (Oscar Mew & Paul Daniels) v Barking A (Tom Runnacles & Neil Jolly)

After a good start by Barking and a bit of a comeback by Kelsale, the result went Barking's way with a score of 12 – 5, well done all.

Cup & Plate Semi-finals - 11th March

Joe Rice Cup: A good evening for some, Withersfield beat Barking 8 – 2 (44 – 35 shots), Claydon beat Chelmondiston on shots 6 – 4 (32 – 26).

Chairman's Plate: On form Stanningfield overhauled Old Felixstowe 10 – 0 (58 – 28 shots), Belstead beat Bentley 8 – 2 (47 – 26 shots).

The final is this Wednesday, 18th March

Summer League

Entry forms due to go out shortly.

9. Captain's Report:

SG:

Bedfordshire v Suffolk

Suffolk went to Bedfordshire knowing that nothing less than a big win was going to keep them in the running for the title.

The game started well enough, as Suffolk picked up 4 points in each of the first 3 sessions to lead 18-6 at the halfway mark, but a post-lunch slump had been the mark of the two previous games. However, that wasn't the case this time as Suffolk went on to win all the remaining games to take the match 30-6.

That was enough to bring us up to 3rd in the league, just 4 points behind leaders Hertfordshire and

3 behind Essex, who would be our hosts for the next game.

Essex V Suffolk

Suffolk visited Essex knowing that another win was essential to keep any hope of retaining the title alive.

It started very well, as we took 5 points in the first session, but that lead didn't last long.

However, at the halfway point, the match score stood at 9-9, and a good result was still very possible.

Unfortunately, Essex were very much the better team in the second half, and we were only able to take two wins, both of which had to be snatched on the last end.

The final result was 23-13 loss and although the result wasn't that much worse than the one against Herts, this felt more clear-cut, with several games ending in heavy defeats.

That left Suffolk in third place in the league, well behind Essex and Hertfordshire, and with Cambridgeshire not that far behind.

Suffolk V Norfolk

The last game of the season was a visit from Norfolk.

The day began with Suffolk winning two of the three games in the first session, although it looked at one stage as if they might all be lost. The second session saw one win and two losses, to tie the match at 6 all.

That was the pattern for the whole day, Suffolk would edge slightly ahead, only for Norfolk to draw level again and ended in an 18-18 draw.

It was a disappointing result for Suffolk, but one which Norfolk deserved.

The result left Suffolk in third place, well behind the top two teams, with Hertfordshire securing a well-deserved first league title.

10. ECBA Report:

NJ (sent prior to the meeting):

The ECBA had an online meeting on 7th February, chaired by NJ.

The National County Championships, held at Potters in October, was reviewed. This included the matter of the tied Inter-League match between Suffolk and Sunderland, where both points and shots were level. This was the first time this had happened in the thirty plus years of this match, so there was a need to introduce a rule to decide what to do should it happen again. The suggested solution put forward was that each county should nominate one of their rinks to compete in a single end play-off, on a mat, to be decided at random, on a mat not played on by either rink involved, thus providing a suitable climax to the match. There were no other suggestions, but the representatives were asked to take this idea to their respective counties, to see if there were any other ideas. A new rule will be decided upon at the ECBA AGM on Saturday 18th April.

The committee felt this was a good suggestion and had no further suggestions for the new rule.

Ongoing work around development was also discussed. Since the meeting, the ECBA have received a membership application from the newly formed Lancashire Carpet Bowls Association. This has been approved in principle but will be formally voted on at the ECBA AGM.

The next ECBA event is the ECBA Rinks, being held at Hartlepool Indoor Bowls Club on Sunday 19th April. The entry form is out and there is still room for more teams should any bowlers from Suffolk want a weekend away.

11. ECCBA Report

SG: Next meeting is after the Six Counties in April.

12. Media Secretary's Report:

AP: Following is up to 373 which is the highest it has ever been. In the last 28 days we have had over 15000 views. A notable landmark was reached over the weekend when we published our thousandth post. As always, I will do my best to keep our followers up to date in real time.

13. Inter Code Competition Report

AG: This was discussed at the last meeting. I have now been in touch with the chairman of Rushmere Indoor Bowls Club and they have said they would like a meeting. This will take place on 26th March, I have asked NJ, RS and PD to come as well. Richard is away so cannot attend. I would like to put to the committee, how do we choose the people to go into the competition should it go ahead.

JG suggested that we would ask for volunteers first and go from there.

SG said it depended on the format that was agreed at the meeting to see how many players were needed.

More would need to be discussed and decided after the meeting in March.

14. Forthcoming events:

18th March – Joe Rice Cup and Plate Finals

22nd March – Suffolk Singles

8th April – Winter League Finals

12th April – ECCBA Six Counties @ Littleport

19th April - ECBA Rinks @ Hartlepool

6th May – East V West @ Needham

10th May ECCBA Champion of Champions @ Littleport

13th May Suffolk League V Bury League @ Needham

17th May – Marion's Fab 4's @ Needham

15. Any Other Business:

AG: East Vs West captains – Adam and Frank to captain East and Stuart and Colin to captain West.

Suffolk League Vs Bury League – Richard will organise Suffolk and has spoken to Steve Mayhew who will organise Bury.

NJ (sent prior to the meeting): I've recently submitted the SCBA's 2028 date requests to the Needham Market Centre manager. When I have a response & finalised all 2028 bookings, I'll report back.

JG: I have received an enquiry as to whether there is anything in the rules to say about when we have to play home and away games and if there should be an even spread or if it was ok to play all home games first followed by all away games?

It was confirmed that the aim should be to play half of your games each side of the Christmas break.

JG: I have also been spoken to about people standing on the mats. The rule is that you can't walk on the mat. Should there be a difference if people are wearing bowling shoes?

A discussion was had about this and it was raised that it can disturb the woods and people shouldn't be stood on mats as per the rules.

The committee would like to remind clubs that the rule is that you shouldn't walk/stand on the mats.

AP: Enquired as to how Winter League finals would look now. It was agreed it would be the winners of all 4 divisions.

Attachments: Entry forms for: Summer League, Marions Fab Fours, ECBA Rinks.

Meeting closed: 9:06pm

Next meeting: Monday 18th May 2026