



Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association

www.carpetbowls.org/suffolk

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Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting of the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Association held at Needham Market Community Centre on Monday 18th May 2026 – 7:30pm

Those Present: Andy Gilder **AG** (Chairman), Neil Jolly **NJ** (Vice Chairman), 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**

1. Apologies for absence: Paul Daniels **PD** (Treasurer), Lauren De Banks **LDB** (Secretary), Adam Hubbard **AH**

2. Approval of previous minutes:

The minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2026 were proposed by **FW**, seconded by **AP** and approved and signed by the Chair.

3. Matters arising:

No matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report:

AG

Good evening to you all, it is always nice to see such happy faces at our meetings.

This evening must go slowly, as our secretary has a previous appointment and cannot be with us, so the minutes will be done the old-fashioned way, between NJ and myself, so slowly please.

Since our last meeting in March there has been a few things happen, I will touch on them briefly to not ruin the reports of others. The finals of the Joe Rice Cup and Chairmans Plate have been played, a good night was had by all and some great bowling, well done to RS for the organisation, once again it went smooth as silk. The Suffolk Singles was played on the 22nd with a familiar face coming out victorious once again, well done NJ. The county team had their final match on 12 April, the Six Counties at Littleport. They finished a creditable third but our opponents have certainly improved over the past few years, and it did show. On 19th April the ECBA rinks was held in Hartlepool where a rink from Durham were crowned winners.

On the 6 May the annual East V West was held at Needham Market; I am looking forward to hearing the report from AH and FW on the result. On the 10 May our county champions travelled to Littleport for the ECCBA Champions of Champions event, I am sure we did our best and brought some silverware back, congratulations to all attendees and well done to the champions. 13 May saw our annual Suffolk League V Bury League match, for non-county players, played at Needham Market again I am looking forward to reading the report on the results. Yesterday 17 May the Marions Fab 4's competition was held by the county players at Needham Market, at the time of writing I have no clue on results. A busy month, hopefully enjoyed by all competitors.

June is not quite so busy. The Indoor challenge at the end of the month should be interesting, the Champions of Champions in Hartlepool will be a great weekend, I wish all competitors all the best for this event.

The biggest thing for June is on the 15 June, when we hold our AGM at Needham. I don't believe there is anything controversial to be raised we will find out later, but now is the time for any readers to put in writing, anything they wish to be raised at the AGM, and for anyone to replace any committee member or officer of the Executive Committee, all

of which must be proposed and seconded. Please see the AGM invite recently circulated to all clubs.

I will close my report by giving all my colleagues a huge vote of thanks for all the hard work, dedication and time given freely to ensure the smooth running of the committee, the leagues and the competitions. Without all of you, my job would be impossible. Thank you. I truly hope we will all stand together for another year, please.

5. Secretary's Report:

LDB: Nothing to report.

6. Treasurer's Report:

PD: Accounts to date -

I'm pleased to say that we've had another year where we've kept our head above water, having been able to once again keep our expenditure under control, ending the year with a surplus of £612.

The Championships ended up showing a profit of £879, which is a little down on last year thanks to the increase in hall rent and a lower entry for the Singles.

We also have to thank our sponsors Oak Employment whose increased support is reflected in the surplus we've achieved.

The books are currently being audited by Keith Jolly, and I'd like to express my thanks for his help.

7. Match Secretary's Report:

RS:

Joe Rice Cup 18th March

Claydon beat Withersfield 6 – 4 (33 – 29) in a good game.

Chairman's Plate 18th March

Stanningfield beat Belstead 8 – 2 (44 – 20) another good game

SCBA Singles 22nd March

40 entries took part in this event, the semifinals were between (A) Oscar Mew and Adam Wells and (B) Rita Runnacles against Neil Jolly. In the final Neil beat Oscar.

As with all our tournaments full results are on the website.

Winter League final results

Div 1 (East): Barking win beating Claydon by 3 points. Needham Market and Belstead are relegated to the 2nd Division.

Div 2: Clapgate Lane and Bentley are promoted to Div 1, Kesgrave and Whatfield drop to Div 3

Div 3: Harkstead and Old Felixstowe are promoted to Div 2.

Div 1 (West): Withersfield are the winners by 18 points.

Well done to all going up, commiserations to those going down.

Winter League, Finals night 8th April

Barking (59) 10 – 0 (19) Withersfield

Division 2 v Division 3 Challenge,

Clapgate Lane (25) 2 – 8 (46) Harkstead, a good friendly game enjoyed by all.

Summer League 2026: This year we welcomed Lawshall as a new entry into our group in the West giving us 27 teams again this year, unfortunately they have had to withdraw (14th May) through lack of players. Most fixture lists have been received.

ECCBA Champion of Champions (10th May)

A win in the pairs for Neil Jolly and Tom Runnacles, full report on the website

Suffolk v Bury League (13th May)

After a win last year Suffolk just missed out this time, not good with the first games, as we only managed 1 win and 1 draw, we pulled back in the second half winning 4 games but with Bury winning 2 games we just lost out with a score to them of 13 - 11 although we took the shots at 98 - 91. Well done to all involved and thanks to the following teams for playing: - Bentley, Chelmondiston, Clapgate Lane, Elmsett, Harkstead and Old Felixstowe.

ECBA Champion of Champions (6 and 7th June) at Hartlepool

Our Suffolk Champions will all be attending, Rita Runnacles will be playing in the singles as a replacement for Neil Jolly who will be playing in the pairs. Andrew English will be playing in the triples in place of Oscar Mew who is unable to attend.

8. Captain's Report:

SG: Six Counties

The day ran to form, finishing very much in line with the League. Suffolk came through to snatch third place from Norfolk in the final session but finished behind both Hertfordshire and Essex, just as they had in the league. However, the margin to the top was only 7 points, and Suffolk ran Hertfordshire closer than any other county on the day.

With Suffolk not quite at full strength, it was by no means a bad performance given the way the league had played out. However, we will need to look to strengthen the squad and regroup for next season.

9. ECBA Report:

NJ: Since our last meeting, the ECBA have held two competitions.

Firstly, the ECBA Rinks, held at the new venue of Hartlepool Indoor Bowls Club on Sunday 19 April. Fifteen teams took part, with most of the bowlers from the Northern counties. After a competitive day's bowling, it was an all Durham four who were runners-up with a Durham/ Sunderland four as the winners.

There was then the Festival of Bowls over the week of Monday 27 April to Friday 1 May at Potters in Hopton-on-Sea. Despite the Norwegian party being unable to make it, entry numbers increased again to 130 bowlers from both the eastern & northern counties. There were some good showings from bowlers from Suffolk clubs including: Sue Parrish, Rob Myall, Lisa Edmead & Stuart McNeill (Withersfield), Val Game, Shirley & Chris Tillbrook & Paul Daniels (Knodishall/ Kelsale) & Sue & Paul Cousins (Elmsett & bowling with two Cambridgeshire bowlers) getting to the semi-finals of the fours.

Sue Parrish & Rob Myall, worthy runners-up in the pairs

Sue Parrish, capping off an excellent week for her, also runner-up in the singles final.

The flyer & entry form for the 2027 Festival of Bowls will be included with these Minutes.

The ECBA also had an in-person meeting & AGM on Saturday 18 April. Lancashire Carpet Bowls Association had their membership application approved & became the tenth member county. Development work continues, particularly in the north & in Lincolnshire in an effort to try & establish further counties. Further work will also be done around social media, live-streaming & promotion of the game.

Further to the drawn Inter-League match between Suffolk & Sunderland at last year's Nationals, the following rule was agreed to cover such a scenario:

Each county to nominate one of their existing rinks to compete in a single end play-off. That end to be played on a mat randomly drawn, a mat having not been played on by either team involved. In the event of a tied/ dead end(s), a further end(s) to be played.

Looking ahead, the upcoming ECBA events are:

Champion of Champions, at Hartlepool over the weekend of 6 & 7 June.

ECBA Triples on Sunday 13 September, hosted by Essex CBA at Littleport (entry form included with these Minutes).

National County Championship at Potters, Friday 6 to Monday 9 November.

Finally, advanced notice that the SCBA are hosting the ECBA Rinks on Sunday 18 April 2027 & Needham Market has been booked.

10. ECCBA Report

PD: There was a short committee meeting following the Six Counties competition. There wasn't much to discuss, but Gerald Sutton did announce that he would be stepping down as Chairman at the AGM, having held the post for several years, although he did then go on to say that the only condition under which he might stand again would be if someone else stood as Vice Chairman, so we will be looking for a volunteer for one or the other post at the AGM in June.

11. Media Secretary's Report:

AP: There was nothing to report.

12. Inter Code Competition Report

AG: Following some dialogue with Rushmere Indoor Bowls Club, the date of Sunday 28 June was settled on. As the first trial event, invitations have been issued to the county squad and a number of positive responses have been received already. The proposed format is two games of carpet bowls & two games of indoor bowls together on adjacent rinks, with a one hour time length. AG to finalize the details in due course.

13. Forthcoming events:

6th and 7th June: ECBA Champion of Champions – Hartlepool

Monday 15th June: SCBA AGM – Needham Market

Sunday 28th June: Indoor bowls challenge – Rushmere Indoor Bowls Club

14. Any Other Business:

AG: Ahead of the SCBA AGM, the Chairman asked all in attendance if they would be willing to stand again for Committee and all at the meeting confirmed they would be.

JG: Following some incidents at the Marions Fab Fours, there was some discussion around mat 1 (closest to the door) and people coming in and out, disrupting the bowlers on that carpet. There were also instances of people sitting on the chairs adjacent to that mat moving around as games were going on. It was agreed that we would look to reduce the chairs in that area and put a sign on the outside of the door, for people to be conscious of the game before they enter the hall.

RS: Queried why bowlers invited to represent the respective teams in the Suffolk League v Bury League match are always asked to pay a sum, to cover the cost of the hall hire. It was generally agreed that this was an anomaly and that RS should speak with the Bury League to see whether both organisations should cover the hall hire cost, when it was their year to host the event. Holding a raffle on the night, would reduce the net cost.

RS: He had by chance located the old SCBA Second Division trophy in a village hall cabinet, whilst bowling at that venue. That raised the question of whether there were any other old SCBA trophies out there that we are not aware of. It was agreed to minute this and ask the question:

**** Please can all clubs check their cabinet, to see if they have any old SCBA trophies & if you do, return them to an SCBA Committee member. Thank you.**

SCG: Confirmed that she had purchased and delivered some additional trophies, requested by Clapgate Lane club following their league success.

Meeting closed: 8.32pm

Next meeting: Monday 29th June 2026 – Needham Market