

EASTERN COUNTIES CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Racing Centre, Newmarket, on Thursday 18th June 2026 at 7.30pm

Present: Officers: G. Sutton - Chairman
T. Kidd – Vice-Chairman, from Agenda Item 7
M. Giddens - Secretary & Treasurer
P. Daniels - League & Tournament Secretary

Counties Represented:
Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for absence.

2. Minutes from Previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 19th June 2025 were agreed as a true record and signed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman gave the following report:

This is my 11th year as Chairman considering I said I would take it on for one year only.

I have enjoyed the job by having Maureen as Secretary & Treasure and Paul our League & Tournament Secretary.

We will be looking for a Chairman and Vice-Chairman at this meeting.

Thanks to Maureen and Paul for all their work over the last year, also to county delegates.

Thanks to all counties who have run tournaments on behalf of the Eastern Counties C.B.A.

Congratulations to all winners in both the E.C.B.A. and E.C.C.B.A. tournaments.

5. Secretary & Treasurer's Report

Contacts List – updated copy enclosed.

Treasurers Report:

The Statement of Account for the year ending 30th April 2026 was issued.

Continued

5. Secretary & Treasurer's Report - continued

From the total income and expense, the figures show a profit of £308.22 which includes £40.00 payment on account that relates to the 2026 Champion of Champions.

From the analysis of all events, the league showed a loss, which was forecasted. Apart from the league, all other events showed a good profit.

To note from the analysis regarding the Teambowl, thanks again to Peter Allen from Challenge Trophies who donated 50% of the cost of the trophies to the chosen charity.

I would like to record my thanks to Karyn Chivers for auditing the accounts.

6. League & Tournament Secretary's Report

The League & Tournament Secretary recorded the winners of each event:

League - Hertfordshire

Teambowl - Hertfordshire

Championships - Hertfordshire

Champion of Champions

Singles Pete Cook (Hertfordshire)

Pairs Neil Jolly and Tom Runnacles (Suffolk)

Triples Beryl Wicks, Paul Ellis and Colin Wicks (Cambridgeshire)

Fours Emma Thurley, Simon & Amy Missing and Matt Thurley (Hertfordshire)

Team Hertfordshire

7. Election of Officers & Auditor

The current Officers confirmed they were all willing to continue, with the Chairman advising he was willing to continue for one more year.

With no further nominations, they were voted in block as proposed by Cambridgeshire, seconded by Hertfordshire. With all in favour the following Officers were re-elected:

Chairman	Gerald Sutton
Secretary & Treasurer	Maureen Giddens
League & Tournament Secretary	Paul Daniels

The appointment of a Vice-Chairman was then discussed and the purpose of this role, which is to assist this year then take over as Chairman when the current Chairman stands down next year. Trevor Kidd volunteered for this role and was proposed by Essex, seconded by Norfolk.

With all in favour, Trevor Kidd was duly elected as Vice-Chairman. The signatories on the bank account will be updated to add Trevor as a signatory.

Auditor:

Karyn Chivers the current auditor advised she was willing to continue and all agreed to continue with the same auditor.

Continued

8. **Fees**

To set the fees for next year, the Treasurer had looked at all the events for this next season and commented as follows:

With the League, based on the expected hall hire costs for next season and taking into account price increases, it is expected the league will see a loss of around £200-£250 pounds. All other events are expected to make a profit although may not see as much profit as this year. An increase in the cost of insurance is expected but for it to be reasonable.

Based on that forecasted, for this next season the Treasurer could still see there being a small profit, so based on that and how the accounts currently stand, recommended that all fees remain the same.

The fees being £60.00 Annual Subscription, £96.00 for events and per league match, and £40.00 per team for the Champion of Champions

It was proposed by Essex, seconded by Bedfordshire and all were in agreement for the fees to remain the same.

All counties to inform their Treasurer of the payment due dates, these being:

Annual Subscription is due by the end of July.

League Fees payable in advance by the end of October.

Teambowl, Eastern Counties Championship and Champion of Champions – either payment on the day or in advance of the event.

9. **Eastern Counties Championship**

The proposal from Norfolk for the number of ends played in this event to be reduced from 9 ends to 7 ends, was seconded by Hertfordshire.

Hertfordshire advised they would prefer 9 ends with it being a high calibre competition but seconded the proposal for 7 ends due to it being a long day of play.

Cambridgeshire (D. Folkes) suggested the event could be played as Triples, with the teams of 24 divided into 8 Triples, playing 4 on, 4 off, so no teams would play two matches straight off. For timing, could start earlier.

Hertfordshire questioned on that format in what if a county had a player short as that is something that would need to be looked at.

Essex suggested if a county is a player short, the 2 players in that team would alternate playing the first two bowls, the lead would then play 2 bowls and the skip play the last two bowls.

Paul, the League & Tournament Secretary to look at how the programme would work with Triples as an alternative. The matches would need to be timed due to the number of sessions and to not run too much over the scheduled time.

From discussions, running this event as a Triples would be something different, especially as it follows the league matches which are played in teams of four.

All counties were happy to trial the Championship as a Triples for one year, with the format being: Played over 9 ends but played to the whistle. If a player short, that team would play in the format as suggested by Essex.

Continued

10. Events Diary Dates

The details for the events for this next season were run through and confirmed as follows:

4th October 2026	Teambowl	Hosted by Suffolk at the Littleport Leisure Centre
11th April 2027	Eastern Counties Championship	Hosted by Cambridgeshire at the Littleport Leisure Centre
9th May 2027	ECCBA Champion of Champions	Hosted by Suffolk at Needham Market

It was also noted the English event that falls within the Eastern Counties will be the Triples on the 13th September 2026 being held at the Littleport Leisure Centre.

11. Date of Next Meeting & A.G.M.

Meetings were arranged as follows:

Committee Meeting to be held on 11th April 2027 at the Littleport Leisure Centre upon completion of the Championship.

The 2027 Annual General Meeting was arranged to be held on Thursday 17th June 2027 at The Racing Centre, Newmarket to commence at 7.30pm.

12. Any Other Business

- i. Essex thanked Gerald for the work he has carried out over the past 11 years.
- ii. Bedfordshire advised there was a club at Wrestlingworth who had some mats and equipment available. The condition of the mats was not known, or the cost of them. With it being closer for Hertfordshire to look at them on behalf of the Eastern Counties, Pete Cook was happy to arrange this.
- iii. Bedfordshire queried what should happen in the instance of a late start when players don't arrive in time for the scheduled league match start time.

The general view was the teams could be changed around to enable the match to start on time, but it is left to the discretion of the counties involved to decide what they do.

There being no further business the Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 8.50 pm.

In confirmation of the foregoing minutes.

.....
Chairman

.....
Date