

EASTERN COUNTIES CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at The Racing Centre, Newmarket, on Thursday 19th June 2025 at 7.30pm

Present: Officers: G. Sutton - Chairman
M. Giddens - Secretary & Treasurer
Counties Represented:
Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from P. Daniels - League & Tournament Secretary and Pete Cook – Hertfordshire.

2. Minutes from Previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 24th June 2024 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:

I would like to thank Maureen and Paul for all their hard work over the last season.

To Maureen, for stepping in at the tournaments which I missed after my operation, and to all the county delegates.

Thanks to all counties who have run tournaments on behalf of the ECCBA.

Congratulations to all the winners of ECCBA tournaments and also English competitions.

Once again the dress code at the Champion of Champions came up and the rules were put into place as was voted on at the last years AGM but will again be discussed later in this meeting.

Also the venue at a county match which had no parking will be discussed later on.

5. Secretary & Treasurer's Report

Contacts List – It was confirmed there was no changes in contacts but a correction was needed to a mobile number on the existing list. An updated Contact List will be issued.

Continued

5. Secretary & Treasurer's Report - continued

Treasurers Report:

The Statement of Account for the year ending 30th April 2025 was issued.

The actual profit for the year was £525.47 which was more than forecasted but mainly due to the cost of insurance. Alternative brokers were looked at due to such a high increase from Endsleigh and thankfully was able to find Abbeystone who offered better cover at a lot lower price.

All events made a profit as shown on the analysis sheet. To note from the analysis regarding the Teambowl, our thanks to Peter Allen from Challenge Trophies who in support of the East Anglian Air Ambulance, requested that 50% of the cost of the trophies was donated to them.

It also makes a difference when all six counties are able to participate in all events, with a mention to Jill for all her efforts in seeing that Bedfordshire have attended all the events.

The Treasurer recorded her thanks to Karyn Chivers for auditing the accounts.

Acceptance of the accounts as presented was proposed by Essex, seconded by Cambridgeshire and agreed by all.

6. League & Tournament Secretary's Report

The League & Tournament Secretary forwarded the following report.

Suffolk won the league for the 12th consecutive time but Hertfordshire were closer than ever, having had only 2 home games to Suffolk's 3.

The Teambowl went to Suffolk with Hertfordshire in second place for the first time.

The Championships also went to Suffolk, also ahead of Hertfordshire.

At the Champion of Champions, Hertfordshire won the Singles, Pairs and Fours, while Suffolk took the Triples and Team trophy, full details being:

Singles – Pete Cook (Hertfordshire)

Pairs – Jason Ellis & Jack Smalley (Hertfordshire)

Triples – Sam Runnacles, Andy Pooley & David Ford (Suffolk)

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

Team – Suffolk

The results for all the disciplines in the Champion of Champions were ran through regarding the difference it made by applying the penalty. The penalty points deduction did not affect the placings for the overall winners.

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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. The Auditor had also confirmed she was willing to continue.

With no further nominations, all were voted in block as proposed by Hertfordshire, seconded by Essex and with all in agreement the following Officers and Auditor were re-elected:

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

8. Fees

The Treasurer had looked at events for this next season and based on all six counties taking part, the league matches overall may see a small loss but for all other events would forecast a profit.

With the accounts as they stand, would recommend 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

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 Championships and Champion of Champions – either payment on the day or in advance of the event.

All were in agreement to remain the same as recommended by the Treasurer.

9. Eastern Counties Rules

i. Dress Code

A proposal was received from Hertfordshire, as circulated with the agenda, to amend the dress code to be broadly in line with the English dress code.

From discussion the counties gave their views on the dress code relating to the Champion of Champions, the main points being:

- In hindsight we got the ruling wrong last year and need to avoid what happened this year.
- Without specifying a colour, with casual trousers, a player could arrive in any colour.
- We need to encourage teams to play in their club colours but it was pointed out that some clubs don't have a uniform.
- When playing in a team discipline, the players should all wear matching colours.

Continued

9. Eastern Counties Rules - continued

- The majority of counties don't like to see the wearing of jeans.
- The players at the Champion of Champions are club players and may not be county bowlers.

The proposal also states to add: the onus is on the county delegates to make their bowlers aware of the dress code before the event. It was questioned why that did not happen this year but as pointed out, it is for the players to read the programme.

Following discussions, it was suggested to just delete the specified colour 'black' from the current rules.

The number of penalty points deducted was agreed to be too harsh but to exclude a player from the Champion of Champions would not work.

The Tournament Secretary had put forward a suggestion to deduct the penalty from the overall team score. This was in agreement with the majority to reserve the right to deduct a one point penalty from the overall score when the dress code is not adhered to.

The proposal from Hertfordshire was not voted upon but it was agreed to amend the existing rules for the Dress Code to read:

Top – team colours as specified by your own county for county team events, matching team colours or county team colours for the Champion of Champions.

Co-ordinated with smart/casual trousers or skirt, or tailored shorts.

What will not be allowed are:

T-shirts

Blue jeans or skirt/trousers made of similar material or style

Track or jogging suits of any type

At county team events, the Officers of the Eastern Counties CBA reserve the right to exclude any player wearing clothing that is considered as being outside the prescribed dress code.

At the Champion of Champions, unless there are exceptional circumstances given, the Officers reserve the right to apply a penalty. The penalty being a one point deduction for each and every player who does not conform to the Dress Code, which will be deducted from overall team score only. The score for the individual disciplines will not be affected.

The above amendment to the current Dress Code was proposed by Bedfordshire, seconded by Hertfordshire. Agreement was unanimous.

ii. League Match Postponement

A proposal was received from Hertfordshire, as circulated with the agenda, which was put forward following a venue chosen for a home league match.

This proposal was withdrawn following discussion of the choice of a venue and car parking facilities at a venue and who should make a decision regarding the postponement.

The current ruling will remain in place.

Continued

10. **Hosting Events**

A proposal was received from Bedfordshire, as circulated with the agenda, regarding the payment method from counties when contributing to the raffle. The proposal was seconded by Hertfordshire.

The Treasurer advised she would prefer to remain as it is by keeping the raffle contribution separate from the entry fee. Should a host county wish to receive this in advance by bank payment, this to be advised to each county.

With 2 counties in favour, 4 against, the current method will remain the same.

The raffle cash income from players on the day was then commented upon. There was a suggestion for using a card machine but decided this would not be an option as the admin costs would not make it feasible.

When sending out the programme, it will be reminded there will be a raffle so players bring some cash.

11. **Events Diary Dates**

The diary dates for this next season were ran through, noting the hosts for the main events, these being:

5th October 2025	Teambowl	Hosted by Essex
12th April 2026	Eastern Counties Championships	Hosted by Bedfordshire
10th May 2026	ECCBA Champion of Champions	Hosted by Norfolk

The Secretary confirmed Littleport Leisure Centre has been booked for all of the above as Norfolk also requested booking Littleport for the Champion of Champions.

A list of dates up to 2029 had previously been issued showing which county are hosts, this will be reissued to all counties.

The full details for league matches up to this next season have previously been issued by the League Secretary. The fixtures list is to be updated for future seasons and will be issued to counties to enable future hall bookings.

12. **Any Other Business**

Pete Cook had forwarded an email earlier in the day enquiring if the names of the previous winners in the early days of the Champion of Champions could be established to record the individual names instead of the club only.

In the first instance, the Secretary said to leave it with her to look through the files that have been stored where the names have been recorded either in the minutes or on a separate document. Where unable to find full details, to then go to the counties to assist.

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13. **Date of Next Meeting**

Meetings were arranged as follows:

Committee Meeting to be held on 5th October 2025 at the Littleport Leisure Centre upon completion of the Teambowl.

The 2026 Annual General Meeting was arranged to be held on Thursday 18th June 2026 at The Racing Centre, Newmarket to commence at 7.30pm.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.10 pm.

In confirmation of the foregoing minutes.

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Chairman

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Date