

EASTERN COUNTIES CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at Exning on Thursday,
April 20th 1995.

All six counties were represented.

The minutes of the 1994 AGM were read, agreed to be a correct record and signed by the chairman. There were no matters arising except a report that the World of Bowls had ceased publication but plans were afoot for it to start again.

Chairman's report - App. 1.

Secretary /Treasurer's report - an unaudited set of accounts was presented to the meeting as monies were still owing for the October tournament. The treasurer was awaiting a final bill from Suffolk. The meeting accepted the accounts as presented and they were signed by the chairman.

The league Secretary then presented the meeting with final result of the 1994/5 league :- Cambridgeshire 136, Suffolk 121, Norfolk 87, Hertfordshire 76, Essex 69, Bedfordshire 51. He said several counties were very slow in sending in results, sometimes taking three weeks, hence league tables could not be issued during the season as up to date as they should have been.

A proposal from the Treasurer that the financial year end be moved to the end of April to co-incide with the end of the league season was accepted. The treasurer and chairman then proposed that the AGM be moved to the beginning of June, this was accepted by the meeting.

The following persons were then elected as officers for the following year,
Chairman - Ron Amor

Secretary/Treasurer - Jill Emms

League Secretary - David Schofield

The new chairman then took his place and thanked the out-going chairman, Mr Ray White for his work during the past three years. Mr Amor felt that the Eastern Counties Association seemed to be growing stronger, maybe even stronger than the English Association.

The October Championship was then discussed. It is to be at the Woodson Centre, Ware. As the hire of the centre is to be £600 it was agreed that despite having quite a lot of money in the bank it would still be necessary to levy a charge of £50 per team entry fee. Bedfordshire reported that they had booked the Putteridge Centre, Luton on Nov 3rd for the 1996 championship. The secretary is to liaise with Hertfordshire as to their responsibilities. The question of Eastern Counties triples/fours/pairs/singles championships was then discussed. Despite the fact that this matter had been raised at last year's AGM some counties had not discussed it with their county committees.

However Norfolk were willing to run the triples and the tournament organised for June 11th 1995 at the Norwich Sport Village was officially recognised as the Eastern Counties Championship. Suffolk offered to run the pairs and the first one would probably be in 1996. Cambridgeshire would probably be able to organise the fours. As Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire at this moment in time felt unable to offer their services Essex were asked if they could consider running the singles. The Association is to provide a perpetual trophy for each Championship - probably a cup- with each trophy costing £50-£60. Each organising county would be allowed to run these championship in aid of a charity, with 90% of the profit going to the charity and 10% going to Eastern Counties funds.

It was agreed that the team members of the League runners-up would each receive a small shield.

Discussion then ensued about the forthcoming league season. All counties were asked to give adequate notice of venues. Looking further ahead into the future it was agreed that it would be easier fixing matches if a pre-set plan could be agreed e.g. the second Sunday in November, January, February, March and April. This would help all counties with their planning of tournaments etc. The Chairman, Secretary and League Secretary are to look at the feasibility of this before the next AGM.

A.O.B. The league Secretary asked that all counties send him a fixture list as soon as possible.

Several counties already put out a diary of events within their own county, and it was felt it would be useful if all six counties knew what the others were doing. Notice of any events could be sent to David Schofield, likewise if anyone had entry forms for open tournaments he would be willing to distribute these within his own county. Essex asked for a contact list of county representatives - App 2.

There being no further business Exning were thanked for their hospitality and the meeting was closed.

The meeting was followed by a league fixture meeting.

R. Slingsby

6.6.96

EASTERN COUNTIES CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The 1994 Inter-County Fours Championship was organised by Suffolk. The format for the order of play appeared to work well and I hope everyone was happy with the arrangements.

The Championship was won by Cambridgeshire, with Suffolk runners-up.

The 1995 Inter-County Championship, which is being organised by Hertfordshire, is to be held at Ware on Sunday, 29th October. The 1996 Championship will be organised by Bedfordshire.

Cambridgeshire have proved themselves, once again, to be very worthy league champions. This meeting should congratulate Cambridgeshire on their consistent high standard of play throughout the season. Their average score was 27 points per match. Suffolk were runners-up in the league, who averaged 24 points per match.

As trophies are presented to winners and runners-up for the Fours Championship, maybe this meeting should consider awarding the runners-up of the League a trophy.

Last October, Cambridgeshire were runners-up to Durham in the National league play-off. However, they did redeem themselves during the following week-end, when they won the English County Championship, with Suffolk a close second.

This result, together with the outcome of the English Pairs, should prove where the strongest players come from.

When this Association was formed it was only anticipated that the Inter-County Championship would be played. We have now introduced the League Championship with the playing season up to the end of April. This has meant that the Treasurer has been unable to present a true set of accounts for the year end - which was originally set for 31st January. We will be proposing later in this meeting to change the year to the end of April.

No doubt internal County tournaments have been set for 1995-1996. However, I think there is merit in setting aside one day for the Eastern County League matches. For example, the first Sundays in October, November, December, February and March. These dates could be introduced into each County calendar for 1996-1997 to give Counties the opportunity to fix venues, and it would also help the League Secretary.

Can I thank Jill Emms for all her hard work and for keeping me on the "straight and narrow" over the last three years.

I am proud that I have been able to help in resurrecting the Eastern Counties Carpet Bowls Association, and from the look of the agenda, it appears that it is due to grow further.

My parting thoughts, as I leave the Association, will be the tremendous spirit in which all the Fours Championship and League matches have been played, and how we have been able to forge stronger links within the Eastern Counties.

I wish my successor the best of good fortune.

RAYMOND WHITE

20th April, 1995