

EASTERN COUNTIES CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 1998 Annual General Meeting held at the New Astley Club, Newmarket on Thursday, 4th June at 7.30pm.

There were no apologies for absence.

The minutes of the 1997 Annual General Meeting, the meeting held in September 1997 and the meeting held in March 1998, having previously been circulated were agreed to be a correct record and signed by the chairman.

There were no matters arising.

The chairman then gave his report (App 1)

Mr Tony Webber from Suffolk, on behalf of the whole meeting, then expressed the feeling of regret on the chairmans departure from office and thanked him for all his support and ideas in the past few years.

The secretary reported that a letter of thanks had been received from Mr Gilbert Mann, and that it was hoped he could be persuaded to make another box, this time for the September Championship trophy, as the 'angel' in the middle was rather delicate and needed protection.

The treasurer then presented the audited accounts, which were accepted to be correct record of our financial position. Although our balance had drastically been reduced from the previous year there had been several 'one-off' purchases. However several counties are now experiencing difficulty in hiring reasonably priced venues for league matches, therefore it was decided to increase the playing fees to £2.50 per player, per match. It was also agreed to re-instate the £50 entry fee for the September Championships.

The League Secretary then gave his report. County Captains were thanked for sending in their results so promptly. He congratulated Cambridgeshire on being this seasons Champions. He then expressed a personal opinion that he felt the scoring system was still unfair, especially in the light of the past season, when Norfolk had won all their matches but had still not won the league. The chairman accepted this comment but as no proposal had been put before the meeting to change the present system, he felt that perhaps this was something that the new chairman might like to take on board.

The following officers were then elected
Chairman - Mrs Margaret Southgate
Secretary/Treasurer - Mrs Jill Emms
League Secretary - Mr Rob Washbrook

Team Bowl 1999 is to take place at Littleport Leisure Centre. Entry fee £2.50 per player. Cambridgeshire were reminded that this is their opportunity to raise money for their specified charity and they hope to be able to offer Target Bowls and possibly an 'entry on the day' Pairs tournament. All counties to provide raffle prizes to the value of

£10. It was decided that as from the year 2000 the Team Bowl will be on the last Sunday in January.

Individual Championships in June at Needham Market. All counties were reminded to return the perpetual trophies. Entry fee £2.50 per player.

Six Counties Tournament 1998. This is to take place at Lyng, Norfolk, where the carpets will be placed on an indoor bowling surface. This means that all players must wear proper bowling shoes, socks, or moccasins/slippers with flat bottoms with no heel or tread. Shoe covers will be available for anyone wishing to wear trainers or outdoor shoes. Essex said they did not agree with the restrictions put on players regarding footwear and felt that Lyng was not the correct place to hold a Championship. Norfolk replied that this was where all their tournaments were held and they had never had a complaint from within their own county or from visiting players from other counties. After much discussion a vote was taken on playing at Lyng. Five were in favour and one was against. After the vote Norfolk offered to try to find an alternative venue despite the lack of facilities within the county but the majority of the meeting felt that the vote had been taken and that the decision would stand.

A.O.B.

The secretary proposed to buy a book in which to record a Roll of Honour. Meeting agreed. Recordings in this book will be retrospective so that the whole history of the Association will be preserved for posterity.

On February 21st 1999 the English Rinks are being held at Blackpool which clashes with a designated league Sunday. Norfolk v Herts will stand but Essex v Cambs, and Beds v Suffolk will move their matches.

In view of this problem it was decided to send a copy of our designated Sundays to the English Association asking for it to be passed onto all organising counties.

The meeting was closed at 9.05pm.

The next meeting will be on September 3rd in the New Astley Centre at 8pm.

Eastern Counties Carpet Bowls Association

CHAIRMANS REPORT FOR EASTERN COUNTIES 97/98

As Chairman for the Eastern Counties for the past three years, and now having decided to relinquish this position, with some feeling of sadness I might say, I have reflected on the happenings over this time.

It really does seem an age ago when we had discussions for the first time to try and bring about internal County matches & Eastern County matches. All to be played on the same day in each County throughout the year.

It seemed a monumental task but thanks to the willingness and commitment by the individual County representatives, fulling realising that unifying the Counties into such a system would be to the benefit of all. It was quickly sorted and became the norm.

An inter-County team bowl was talked about at the second meeting, and Hertfordshire promptly volunteered to stage this event and another Inter-County Competition was born. It is an excellent tournament involving different disciplines linked to playing as a team, relying on each others results to achieve the final outcome.

The second year we decided to play a Champion of Champions, with every champion from each County, and each discipline taking part. At this time some Counties did not play a Triples competition, the second Sunday in December was decided to produce the Triples champions, and the Championship was held the following June hosted by Essex, followed this year in Suffolk with some changes to the selection of the Competitors, in that each discipline must be played with different players. It is a competition in its early learning curve and I look forward to the day when it becomes a very prestigious tournament to take part in and win!

Thank you Cambridgeshire and Bedfordshire for Six County Championship and the Team Bowl this season and Essex for the Champion of Champions. I enjoyed all three competitions very much, and realise how much effort behind the scenes goes into running these tournaments.

It is with great sadness I learned of the tragic death of Cambridgeshire's two young players, my heartfelt sympathy goes out to Roley and Glynis, and the parents of the other young boy and to their relatives and friends. I am sure I speak on behalf of all the six Counties. It is said life must go on, and as a parent I do not really know how one can ever come to terms with such a tragedy.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support, and more than that, thank you for wanting to build a good platform on which the Six Counties can be justly pleased in forming a united Carpet Bowls Association, which will go forward to the future.

A special thanks must go to Jill, who has now been secretary for as long as I can remember, and has put in a lot of work and ideas into this Association. Thanks also to Rob, who has done an excellent job of putting all the results together, in a very colourful manner and getting them to us quickly.

continued.....

I would like to take this opportunity to wish my successor, the friendship and continued support of the committee, enabling future growth of our sport to go forward into the next Millenium.

Thank you all again

Ron Amor
Chairman