

EASTERN COUNTIES CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday, 28th June 2001 at the New Astley Club, Newmarket.

There were no apologies for absence.

The minutes of the 2000 Annual General Meeting having previously been circulated were agreed to be a correct record and signed by the Chairman. There were no matters arising.

The minutes of the meeting held on October 21st 1999 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 her report - attached.

The Treasurer then gave her report, the accounts were accepted by the meeting and signed by the Chairman. The treasurer had experienced great difficulty receiving the claim form for league expenses from the counties. She stated that every year she spent hours chasing people for jobs that they should have done without prompting and quite frankly had had enough. She was willing to stand for a further term of office but warned that unless the situation improved she would not be willing to stand for office next year. It was decided that it would be prudent to take out a public liability insurance for the Association and the treasurer will take action.

The League Secretary then gave his report. After a very close run league Cambridgeshire had emerged as the eventual winners.

The Chairman and Secretary had put forward a proposal to alter the constitution to include the position of Tournament Organiser. After discussion it was decided to leave the constitution as it is but to appoint a tournament administrator. Mr Lawrence Pullar from Cambridgeshire is to be asked if he will take on this appointment.

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

Mrs J Carter of Norfolk was appointed as the auditor provided that she agrees.

Proposal from Essex.

That the host county has the option to play league matches on three carpets provided this is by mutual agreement with the visiting team.

Motion carried four votes to two.

However, the meeting recommended that counties wishing to play on three carpets must obtain agreement with the visitors before booking the venue.

Proposal from Suffolk to alter the scoring system of league games, changing the emphasis to match points. After much discussion a vote was taken - 5 were against and 1 abstained.

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Any other business

Following on from the treasurers report regarding our healthy financial situation it was decided that more expensive trophies would be purchased for the winners of the league, possibly glass rather than metal trophies/wooden shields.

A letter had been received from Colchester Mencap - copy attached.

A letter of complaint had been received from Essex regarding an incident which occurred during their match with Hertfordshire - copy attached. Hertfordshire apologised to Essex for the conduct of their player. The meeting felt all players must be reminded that in matters of dispute these must initially be brought discreetly to the attention of the skips playing at that time and not be aired publicly. If the situation is not resolved then the County Captains/Referees can be involved and their decision must be accepted finally and irrefutably.

Suffolk said they would like to see more encouragement for Junior players with possibly their inclusion in the Six Counties Championship with a small internal competition for them. Unfortunately most other counties did not operate a Juniors programme having very few Juniors playing in their clubs, therefore although the idea was good it would be not be viable.

Tournaments. All counties were asked to provide sufficient persons to referee and measure at the tournaments. It would be especially helpful if six markers could be provided for the singles at the Championship of Champions. It was also agreed to rotate the playing order every year so that different counties met at the beginning and end.

There being no further business the meeting was closed.

Next committee meeting will be on Thursday October 11th.

Personal note from treasurer. Under our constitution we should have set fees at the AGM for the forthcoming year. As we did not do so I suggest that we carry on with those set last year. The secretary apologises for not including this on the agenda.

Eastern Counties Carpet Bowls Association Chairmans Report 2001

Where do we go from here as an Association?. We have successfully set up a County League, with all our counties playing on the same Sunday and each knowing in advance the dates and whether home or away. The 6 Counties Championship has run very well for several years now and since 1997 we have also run a Teambowl and Champion of Champions. All of these competitions are run on the same rota system which means no one county has to do all the organizing every time and every other year they get a break. The question now must be can we continue to take the game forward, we are all getting older, are the young players coming forward, if they are how can we help them to feel involved in the future of our game. My own county, Suffolk, have discussed this. Can we find a way to support them? When we hold the 6 Counties Championship in September would it be possible to invite each county to send along a team of 4 Juniors and for them to participate in a mini league alongside the major competition. Please think about it, I know the Suffolk representative has his own ideas regarding the involvement of the younger bowlers.

Last November saw us at Seacroft for the National Championships and after two tension filled days of bowling the top three teams were seperated by only two points, with the winners Cambridgeshire on 66 points followed by Durham 65 and Suffolk 64. How close can a championship be?. January saw the Teambowl at Braintree and once more Cambridgeshire were the victors. Over the winter all counties held their closed championships and the first weekend in June saw the winners travel to Rotherham for the ECBA Champion of Champions, again two days intensive competition saw Cambridgeshire emerge as the winners in all events except the Rinks (which were won by Durham). Two weeks later it was time to try again, this time at Littleport, Cambridgeshire again won the Singles and Pairs as well as the Team Trophy but the Triples were won by Suffolk and the Rinks by Essex. Well done by all who took part, it is a pleasure to see the game played with such sportsmanship, good words were applauded by opponents and spectators alike.

Can I thank the Counties who have hosted our competitions this year, I hope those who ran the raffles at these events have found it easier purchasing all the prizes themselves instead of trusting to luck that you will not end up with a table full of bottles and not much else. My thanks go to Rob Washbrook, League Co-Ordinator, the league tables have been sent out promptly and I hope all the counties sent in the results as soon as possible after matches were played. Thank you Jill for your work again this year and thank you for picking up so quickly that the date for this meeting would have to be changed due to the local election date being put back a month.

Thank you for your attendance tonight, without you there would be no Association.

Chairman

Margaret Southgate