

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION HELD ON  
SATURDAY 12 JANUARY 2009**

Present: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Referee and representatives from Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, North Tyneside, Suffolk, Sunderland

1. **Apologies for absence**  
Margaret White, South Tyneside
2. **Minutes of last meeting**  
Minutes agreed and signed as a true record.
3. **Matters Arising from previous minutes**
  - (a) **Promotional Leaflet**  
No progress as yet. Hope for progress between now and March meeting.
  - (b) **ECBA Website**  
County E-mail contact for website to Mick Watkins.  
Any relevant information for website to him. He expenses on website as Mick Watkins, ECBA Committee Member.  
Reaction from Bedford. Possible Associate Member?  
Roll of Honour for Champion of Champions to be included on website.
  - (c) **Child Protection**  
Document from Andy Gilder for discussion circulated.  
Responsibility of ECBA to County has to be:
    - parents to not count as responsible adult for children attending tournaments.
    - Rules to be in place although ECBA not in attendance
    - ECBA events must be covered
    - ECBA to produce 'model' for counties to follow
    - North & South CRB for ECBA, Andy Gilder possible for South, possibly Kay & Tony Cuthbert in the North
    - Costs covered by ECBA
    - Policy for ECBA then down to through Officers in North & South.
    - Suffolk has possible format for use by ECBA.
    - If counties running competition and do not want under 18's, put on Entry Form.
  - (d) **Development of Carpet Bowls**  
The Chairman expressed concern for the future of ECBA Championships due to some counties maybe falling short of 24 players.  
Does this mean that we will lose counties who do not have enough players?  
Do we still allow them to play?  
Do we allow people to play twice (against a county)? Minimum 21 players, 3 playing twice?  
**Can counties bring ideas for discussion at the next meeting.**
  - (e) **Bowls Alliance**  
Bowls Alliance have received £756,750 from Sport England.  
They are looking for a Development Officer to look after all bowling disciplines.  
They are asking if we are still interested in becoming part of this Alliance.  
It was unanimously agreed that the reply to Bowls Alliance should be - We do understand what you want to achieve but we are still not interested.
4. **Correspondence**
  - E-mail From Jamie Smith**  
The Chairman received an e-mail from Jamie Smith indicating his discontent at alleged comments made at the Committee meeting held in September 2008 regarding clearing equipment and children involved in the presentation.  
Following considerable discussion it was agreed that any issue raised criticising other parties then the party initiating the complaint should attend the meeting. Clarification of issues raised at ECBA Committee Meetings should be in the first instance raised with the County Committee of the party initiating the complaint. Officers do their job to the best of their ability.
5. **Chairman's Report**  
Nothing to report.
6. **Secretary's Report**  
Nothing to report.

7. **Treasurer's Report**  
 Community Account - £1274.50  
 Business Premium Account - £1260.65 (for development of bowls)  
 Business Reserve Account - £13,014.93  
 Interest rates are 33% less than last year. To date, we have not received the supplement from the Norbreck Castle for the C of C 2008.
- New supplier required for trophies at the C of C. Suggested try Louise Liddell (Northumberland).
8. **Referee's Report**  
 The Referee indicated that he had not had the time to organise referee training courses.
9. **Review of National County Championships**  
**- DATE CHANGED BY HOTEL TO 13 - 16 NOVEMBER 2009**  
 (Hotel propose to lay new floor in Norcalympia)
- Competition went very well. Won by Cambridgeshire from Suffolk on shots.
  - Emphasis mobile phones to be switch off on 'silent'. Notice on door.
  - Thanks to Alex Russell and Peter Boyton for administration of the tournament.
  - Friendly pairs - to be better prepared and administered. Someone NOT involved in the administration or playing in the tournament.
  - Dress code
  - Lack of referees - to be sorted for next meeting.
  - Players playing twice on same mat - not allowed. If problem, speak to Team Captain of county concerned.
  - Some people not happy with diamond shaped Centres. Rule Book says A block (which may be circular, a spar, a diamond or similar).... If unhappy, go through AGM to change.
  - David Storey from Durham expressed his dismay at Olwen Gray playing for Sunderland when she has been banned from playing County Bowls in the Northern League for 3 years for a serious offence, and asking that the ECBA support this suspension in ECBA tournaments. Sunderland replied that they had not received any communication from Durham giving details of this offence; only that she had resigned from Durham. Whilst Sunderland agreed that she did not play in the Northern League for 3 years, this does not apply to ECBA tournaments. It was suggested that the Code of Conduct be changed to stop banned individuals from playing.
10. **Competitions**  
**Rinks 2009**  
 To be held at Braintree Leisure Centre in Essex on Easter Sunday, 12 April 2009  
**Triples 2009**  
 To be hosted by North Tyneside at the Memorial Hall, Wallsend on 13 September 2009.  
 Maximum entry: 40.
11. **Date of Next Meeting**  
 Saturday 28 March 2009.
12. **Any Other Business**  
 (a) *Resignation of Secretary*  
 The Chairman informed the meeting that he had received a letter from Eve Warren indicating her intention to resign from the position of Secretary at the AGM in June 2009. The Chairman thanked her for the work done on behalf of the Association over the last 2 years.
- (b) *Future meetings*  
 Room booked at Holiday Inn, Rotherham for future meetings, i.e.  
 22 August 2009  
 9 January, 2010  
 27 March 2010  
 (Note - Annual General Meeting at The Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool on Friday 12 June 2009)
- (c) Clarification requested by Hertfordshire regarding Norfolk's proposal to the last meeting regarding expenses for travel to ECBA meetings.  
 The Chairman re-iterated the answer given at the last meeting which was - he indicated that only reasonable expenses was claimed by the Officers which is proper and acceptable considering the work they do on behalf of the association.
- (d) **Champion of Champions**  
 Peter Boyton and Alex Russell to do the administration at the C of C in June 2009.


**The following was omitted from the minutes of 12 January 2009 under the following heading. Please attached to minutes.**

**9. Review of National County Championships**

- problem with meal times at Hotel because of the lateness in finishing. The Chairman put the following to the meeting for consideration and comments to the next meeting.

**Can we consider reducing the game from 11 ends to 10 ends. This will reduce the amount of playing time which will accommodate meal times and be beneficial to older players.**

South Tyneside asked if we could consider changing venue because the standard of the hotel is poor. The Chairman replied that it was not good for everyone but it is the only venue we are aware of that has all the facilities we need under one roof.

LGH.   
28/3/09