

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION HELD ON SATURDAY
23 JANUARY 2010**

Present: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and representatives from Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk, Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Suffolk & Sunderland

The meeting started with a tribute from the Chairman to the Vice-Chairman, Peter Boyton, who had died suddenly on 20th January. A minute's silence was observed.

1. Apologies for absence

Durham, Hertfordshire and the Referee.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes

Development of Carpet Bowls – It was reported that Peter Boyton & Alex Russell had conducted a successful demonstration in central London. Dirk Vettewinkel had offered to assist Alex Russell with further demonstrations.

Website - Enquiries had been received through the website from Oxford, Lancashire, Malvern & Wiltshire, which were being dealt with. An approach had been received from Age Concern with a request to exhibit at future ECBA events. The Secretary was instructed to enquire about the nature of the exhibit before a decision could be taken.

Response to the website, with nearly 3,000 hits per month, was very pleasing.

4 Child Protection Policy

Evender Harran, Safeguarding Manager for NSPCC Safe Network, gave a presentation on the current state of legislation on child protection.

He advised that having a policy and clear procedures for dealing with child protection issues, while not a legal requirement for voluntary organisations, was "best practice" and would be a valuable asset if issues or incidents arose in the future. He also strongly advised members to undertake at least one of the four training modules offered by Safe Network, and to hold the certificate awarded on completion.

He went on to advise that the necessity for CRB checks would arise if members were in regular and frequent contact with children under the age of 18. The activities of a carpet bowls club, meeting weekly, would be considered "regular & frequent" and would, under the present requirements, necessitate checks on all club members. Further consideration was, however, currently being given to the situation of voluntary organisations.

Andy Gilder reported that he had undertaken a day's training with the NSPCC and was willing to attend the two-day course. He had been appointed by Suffolk to be the Child Protection Officer, and advised that other counties should make similar arrangements.

He circulated a revised draft Child Protection Policy, based on the one adopted by Suffolk, and it was agreed that counties should study this and report back to the March meeting.

5. Correspondence

A letter received notifying the death of Dave Baker, Associate Member from Bedfordshire. It was noted that none of the Bedfordshire subscriptions were up to date, and a reminder would be issued after the AGM.

6. Chairman's Report

Nothing to report.

7. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

8. Treasurer's Report

Community Account - £1006.06

Business Premium Account - £856.36 (for development of bowls)

Business Reserve Account - £15,024.00 . The total balances were £16,886.44

£10 supplement was due to be paid by bowlers who had booked direct on the internet, otherwise counties would be asked to pay the supplement. The refund had not yet been received from the Norbreck.

It was agreed to make a donation of £100 in memory of Peter Boyton.

9. Referee's Report

There was no report

10. Review of National County Championships 2009

The Chairman thanked Suffolk for conducting the raffle, which had produced £682, a record result.

It was agreed that the floor was still unsatisfactory, but might be improved by relocating mats through 90° and it was agreed to ask Durham to try this at their English Fours in February. It was also suggested that one representative of each county attend on Friday afternoon to assist in placing carpets.

It was commented that the format of the competition was unduly onerous for some bowlers, and that **counties be asked to consider a reduction from 11 to 9 ends and report back to the March meeting.**

Other comments included:

Need to update scores more quickly;

Difficulty in keeping track of oversize squads;

Rainwater leaks in Norcalympia roof;

Buildup of litter in the hall – more better sited litter bins were needed;

Entries to be made on the ECBA form, otherwise a risk of having to pay for Norcalympia;

Northumberland may be disposing of some equipment, and other arrangements may therefore need to be made in the future;

Refusal by players to shake hands – it was felt that this was disappointing and not in the spirit of the game;

Bringing food into the hall – it was agreed that no action was needed;

Differing qualification policies – it was agreed that this was a matter for the county concerned.

A discussion followed on substitutes. Norfolk expressed appreciation of the help given by pool players. There was a complaint about a prior arrangement being made with a substitute, but it was agreed that this was acceptable. It was noted that the demand for pool players was greater than expected and they were not available at some of the times when they were needed. It was agreed that further consideration be given to the pool players scheme at a future meeting.

The Chairman reported that the Norbreck had offered an extension to the existing contract for 2011 and 2012 on broadly similar terms, and that a proposal had been received from Potters to host the County Championships from 2011 onwards. Another alternative would be to hire a centrally located leisure centre, leaving members to make their own accommodation arrangements. He felt that Potters was an attractive proposal, but that all counties would have to agree.

It was agreed that counties be asked to consider these alternatives and report back to the March meeting.

It was pointed out that the County Championship trophy was inscribed "The Pontins Trophy". It was suggested that it be re-named.

It was agreed to ask counties for views and report back to the March meeting.

11. Competitions

Rinks 2010 - to be held at Sunderland on 11th April.

Triples 2010 – to be held in Suffolk on 12th September.

13. Dates of Next Meetings

It was agreed to book Committee Meetings on 21st August 2010, 15th January & 26th March 2012.

14. Any Other Business

(a) Vice-Chairmanship

It was agreed to leave this vacant until the AGM.

(b) Meld Trophy

Mick Watkins reported that he had received an approach from David Schofield regarding the Meld "English Pairs" trophy. It was agreed that there would be no objection to a tournament being held for this trophy.

(c) Space behind Carpets

Jamie Smith enquired if there was any rule regarding the space available for delivery at the end of carpets. It was agreed that this must be a matter for local arrangements, but that opponents should be notified if difficulties could arise for disabled bowlers.

