

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION HELD ON SATURDAY
26 MARCH 2011**

Present: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Referee, Child Protection Officer, and representatives from Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Northumberland, North Tyneside & Suffolk.

1. Apologies for absence

Hertfordshire, Norfolk, South Tyneside & Sunderland.

The Secretary reported that Mick Hearn, of Hertfordshire, was in hospital suffering from cancer.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes 11 and 12 were corrected, and were then signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes

Promotional DVD The Secretary read an email forwarded by Rebecca Gammage from Squelen Productions giving an outline of DVD production services available. It was agreed to ask Rebecca to pursue the matter further with the company on the basis of preparing two DVDs – a promotional film covering the whole range of activity, including the County Championships, and including young and disabled bowlers; and a brief feature, suitable for internet use, as an introduction to the sport, with emphasis on club level.

It was agreed to ask counties to contribute ideas for consideration at a special committee meeting to be held prior to the AGM on 10th June.

Development of Carpet Bowls – Continuing contact was maintained with the group in France, and two approaches had been received from groups in Northamptonshire. It was reported that Jason Ellis had secured funding for school groups and was seeking second hand equipment. Mick Watkins referred to an item about to be on the website regarding two complete sets of equipment from the former Coggeshall club in Essex.

Website – It was reported that Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire all now had their own pages on the ECBA website. Other counties were urged to take up this opportunity, or create their own websites that could be linked to the ECBA site.

4. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that entries had been received for the Festival for 59 rinks, 116 pairs and 147 singles. £2400 had been received for entries, and a further £856 for the free places – a total of £3256 profit.

6. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

7. Treasurer's Report

Community Account - £680.65

Business Saving Account 1 - £856.80 (for development of bowls)

Business Saving Account 2 - £19,033.08 . The total balances were £20,570.53

The outstanding supplement had been received from the Norbreck. The insurance premium had been renewed at an increase of only £4 over last year. The next three meetings had been booked at the Holiday Inn for 20th August 2011, 21st January 2012 and 31st March 2012 on the same terms.

The accounts would be closed on 30th April, and expenses claims would be needed before that date.

8. Referee's Report

The referee had nothing to report.

A complaint was received from Suffolk regarding a number of incidents of bad measuring practice by Essex referees and it was noted that the current series of Essex referee training courses were not being conducted in accordance with the rules regarding training. Mike Walker reported that the Eastern Counties Association had considered the unsatisfactory situation of referee training and wished to undertake their own training programme. It was, however, pointed out that this could not be recognised by the ECBA.

After a full discussion it was agreed that:

- a) The Referee would appoint a maximum of two Trainer Referees per county by June 2011.
- b) We would endeavour to have a maximum of six referees per county trained and approved by the time of the National Championships in November 2011.
- c) In view of the difficulty of failing candidates that do not reach the required standard, future training courses would not require a fee to be paid by candidates, and results would not be announced on the day, but would be conveyed to candidates later.
- d) After the completion of this process, any existing referees whose status had not been renewed would not be qualified to officiate at any events that involved players from outside their home counties.

The possibility was also discussed of a different level of training for anyone in excess of the maximum of six, conducted by trainers for their own counties so that they could referee at a local level. It was also agreed that no amendments to the rule book were needed at this time.

9. Child Protection Officer's Report

The Government had produced a paper with a number of recommendations regarding the I.S.A. (Independent Safeguarding Authority) and C.R.B. (Criminal Records Bureau). The intention was to amalgamate the two functions. It was recommended that the requirements for those working permanently with children & vulnerable adults should remain as at present, but recommendations are made for easing the requirements for voluntary organisations and these are awaiting confirmation. The benefits for carpet bowls are if we do not use or offer coaching sessions, and the child/VA just plays club, league or county bowls, then a responsible person does not need a CRB check. If, however, there is constant contact via coaching sessions and the like, then a CRB check would be required. Another benefit is that it is proposed that CRB checks be transferable.

The report is currently only a proposal and requires government approval. Once this is confirmed, the Child Protection Officer will contact all counties and lay out proposals for us to move forward.

10. Annual General Meeting

As all Officers were willing to seek re-election, it was agreed that they be nominated.

11. Competitions Rota

It was agreed to revise the competitions rota to accommodate Bedfordshire as the eleventh county and to recognise that Northumberland were no longer in a position to provide carpets for the National Championships. Northumberland therefore agreed to replace Durham for raffle administration at the 2012 championships, and Bedfordshire replaced North Tyneside for the raffle in 2014.

12. National County Championships

a) Entries

It was confirmed that all eleven counties would take part in the 2011 Championships at Potters. The Chairman circulated an order of play which involved 18 carpets, and 22 sessions, two of which would take place on Friday evening, with the North v South Final being deferred to the Saturday evening. These arrangements and the draft order of play were approved.

b) Accommodation

There were still some applications to be completed, and it was pointed out that the allocations would be held only until 11th April. Various queries were raised regarding availability and it was agreed that in case of difficulty, contact should be made with Nathan Moore at Potters, either by telephone, email or covering letter. Other queries were raised regarding the payment of the balances in September, and the Secretary agreed to discuss these with Potters.

It was agreed that the 2011 travel subsidies should be paid in advance of the Championships, and counties were asked to notify the Treasurer if they wished subsidy cheques to be payable to a third party.

It was also agreed that, if Potters was selected for the 2012 Championships, improvements in the booking procedure should be sought in the light of the 2011 experience.

13. Champion of Champions, Blackpool, 10-12 June 2011

It was confirmed that Bedfordshire would not be entering, and that therefore there would be an entry of ten counties.

14. Champion of Champions, 8-10 June 2012

Two proposals had been received – from the Norbreck, and from Cambridgeshire regarding the Ross Peers Sports Centre at Soham. After considering the implications for future events, it was agreed by 4 votes to 1 that, on this occasion, the proposal from the Norbreck would be accepted.

15. ECBA Competitions

a) Rinks 2011 (Hertfordshire 15th May 2011)

It was reported that 30 entries had been received for the 50 spaces available. Hertfordshire would be grateful for more entries.

b) Triples 2011 (Durham 11th September 2011)

The Secretary undertook to draft an application form for Durham's approval.

16. Date of next meeting

The AGM would take place at the Norbreck Hotel, Blackpool, on Friday, 10th June 2011, and the next committee meeting would be at Rotherham on Saturday, 20th August.

17. Any other business

There being no other business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed.

