

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION HELD ON SATURDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2013

Present: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Child Protection Officer, and representatives from Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk, Northumberland, Suffolk & Sunderland

1. Apologies for absence

Rebecca Hearn (Hertfordshire), Kay Cuthbert (Northumberland), David Storey (Referee/Durham) & representatives of South Tyneside.

The Chairman regretted the postponement of the 19th January meeting, but weather conditions had made it unavoidable.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes

Champion of Champions: It was reported that enquiries with the Norbreck regarding non-residents participating had proved to be inconclusive. It was agreed to include a note in the next programme to the effect that residence at the hotel was a condition of entry to the competition.

Development of Carpet Bowls: It was reported that a demonstration had been held at Staveley, near Manchester, and enquiries were in hand from Oxford and Cheshire.

Website: There had been a number of enquiries regarding rules and equipment. Information on surplus equipment would be particularly useful in helping new clubs get started.

4 Correspondence

There had been no correspondence.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that there were entries for 38 rinks, 72 pairs and 74 singles for the Festival.

Discussions were in progress with Potters for provision of 10th anniversary mementos.

The Chairman then announced his intention of not seeking re-election at the Annual General Meeting.

6. Secretary's Report

The Secretary had nothing to report that was not covered by the agenda.

7. Treasurer's Report

Community Account - £992.08

Business Saving Account 1 - £322.40 (for development of bowls)

Business Saving Account 2 - £18,550.10 . The total balances were £19,864.58

A donation of £3200 had been received from Potters in respect of the National Championships.

The date of the next meeting had been changed to 6th April to avoid the Easter weekend. It was agreed that the Treasurer book the following three meetings on 17th August 2013, 18th January 2014 and 29th March 2014.

8. Referee's Report

Colin Young reported that eight referees had been appointed in the north. The Chairman reported a poor response in Northumberland.

9. Child Protection Officer's Report

Andy Gilder that CRB clearance was now only needed for persons involved in continuous contact with young people, such as coaching, ,

10. Updated County Rota

An updated County rota was circulated and was adopted for the time being, although it was pointed out that South Tyneside may have to be deleted, as the county committee had disbanded.

11. Review of National County Championships 2012

There was a shortage of some items of equipment at the start of the Championships, but this had been corrected. The obtrusive air conditioning of 2011 had been improved. The raffle worked well in the changed position. Considerable complaints had been made to Potters regarding the service in the restaurant and the lack of a children's menu. Undertakings had been received regarding the future, and those particularly affected had been compensated.

It was agreed that the presentations in 2013 be held immediately following the close of play to encourage a better attendance. It was reported that single bowlers were unable to book hotel rooms, but it was pointed out that only two single hotel rooms existed.

12. Champion of Champions 7/9 June 2013

Application forms were distributed, and counties were asked to confirm at the March meeting if they would be able to take part. The Secretary explained the changed commission arrangements with the Norbreck Hotel aimed at avoiding the deduction of VAT and asked, where possible, that booking forms be sent to him with cheques made payable to ECBA.

13. Champion of Champions from 2014

A proposal had been received from the Norbreck Hotel for 2014 but, after some discussion, it was agreed by 6 votes to nil, with one abstention, that alternative arrangements be made for the competition from 2014. It was reported that the 2014 Champion of Champions could be held at Soham, Cambridgeshire, with a view to future events alternating between venues in the north and south. The Secretary was asked to consult Durham about the possibility of holding the 2015 event in Wolsingham.

14. National County Championships 2013

Booking forms and a letter from Potters detailing booking dates and prices were circulated.

15. National County Championships 2014

No proposal had yet been received from Potters. It was hoped that this would be available for the next meeting.

16. Competitions

Rinks, 21st April 2013. It was reported by Norfolk that only nine entries had been received so far. It was agreed that if 24 entries had not been received by the closing date of 24 March, the event should be cancelled.

Triples, 22nd September 2013. It was reported by Northumberland that the event would be held at Ashington at an entry fee of £6 per team.

17. Promotional DVD

A report submitted by Rebecca Hearn stated that some changes had been made to the DVD in the light of comments received – notably the voice-over had been re-recorded with a female voice, and club material was being added. No costs would be incurred outside the original estimate.

It was felt that material should be included establishing the link between club and county, and that both male and female voices be used.

18. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting would take place on 6th April, 2013.

19. Any Other Business

Colin Young enquired about insurance arrangements used by other counties, and the service provided by Endsleigh Insurance Services was explained.

Essex asked that players representing counties at the National Championships and Champion of Champions should be members of the county association they represent. Assurances were received that players selected by a county team held membership of that county association, but it was pointed out that would not necessarily apply to players drawn from the reserve pool.