

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of meeting of the English Carpet Bowls Association held on 23rd September 2017
at the Holiday Inn, Rotherham

Present: Chairman, Treasurer, and representatives from Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Northumberland, Suffolk and Sunderland

1. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Norfolk.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes

None

Development of Carpet Bowls

There has been a follow-up demonstration at Inkpen and enquiries from North Allerton, Manchester and Darlington as well as one from the Basque Region in Spain.

Bedfordshire reported that 2 clubs have recently started up in their county, one of whom has joined the league this season, while the other is expected to join next season.

Website

We continue to receive regular enquiries through the website.

4. Correspondence

None

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman had nothing to report in addition to his reports under other items on the agenda.

6. Secretary's Report

None

7. Treasurer's Report

This year's Festival showed a profit in excess of £3500, £1400 up on 2016 thanks to increased numbers.

Although the Triples and Rinks events this year have seen much reduced entries, the events were still able to show a profit thanks to the efforts of the organisers.

8. Referee's Report

Mick asked that all the counties provide him with a list of their qualified referees and their playing schedules to enable him to draw up a proper Rota.

It was also emphasised that the players at the mat are expected to do their own measuring and only to call upon a referee in the event of difficulty or dispute.

9. Child Protection Officer's Report

None

10. Competitions

ECBA Triples

Although 21 teams had originally entered the event 5 of those teams dropped out at the last minute.

Nevertheless the event was still well contested and despite the low entry still managed to return a profit.

ECBA Rinks

Northumberland will be hosting the next event on 22nd April 2018.

International

New Zealand have confirmed that they will be sending 23 people to the Festival, 16 of whom will be bowling.

There is some doubt about the participation of Denmark, although they are still being chased. Neil Jolly has agreed to act as the England captain and to select the squad of 8 players to compete at Potters over the week of the Festival against New Zealand, Norway, Sweden and hopefully Denmark.

a) Rules

Sets of rules for the National Championships, the Inter-County Championship, the ECBA Rinks, ECBA Triples and the ECBA Champion of Champions have been drawn up, to put in writing the current rules as understood by everyone.

These were all agreed with the exception of the Champion of Champions where there was discussion about the current ruling that prohibits substitutions once the event has begun. It was agreed that further thought be given to a possible rule change with any proposals to be discussed at the next meeting.

11. Date of Next Meeting

13 January 2018

Subsequent meetings will be held as follows: - 14th April 22nd September

12. Any Other Business

a) Special Olympics

The Chairman reported on the success of the event which was run by the ECBA on behalf of Special Olympics UK in Sheffield in August. Not only did all those involved from the Association agree that it was a great experience but the feedback from the coaches of the teams involved praised the organisation of the event as being the best Carpet Bowls event they had participated in.

As far as those involved were concerned the only downside was that there were not enough volunteers which meant that there were few opportunities for breaks in a packed schedule. The Chairman urged anyone who is able to do so to get involved in the next event in 2021, along with all those who had done so this year and who all expressed their hope that they would be able to make a return.

b) Potters

Colin Young noted that although it was pleasing to see that Potters had devoted some space to Carpet Bowls in their brochure that it would be nice to see more, including photographs of our players. Colin was assured that we would continue to work with Potters to help raise the profile of the sport but that it was a long process and that what we had already achieved was a considerable improvement on where we were only a few years ago.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 1.20 PM