



English Carpet Bowls Association

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the AGM of the English Carpet Bowls Association held at Brentwood Hotel, Rotherham, on 14th April 2024

Present: Representatives from Cambridgeshire, Durham, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, Suffolk and Sunderland

1. Apologies for absence

Mick Watkins (National Referee), Cliff Richardson (Essex), Jill Ellis (Bedfordshire)

2. Minutes of 2023 AGM

The minutes of the 2023 AGM were read and agreed and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes

None

4. Chairman's Report

This time last year, I did not expect to be delivering the acting Chairman's Report at this AGM. The death in October of our Chairman Colin Young saddened us all. Colin was so passionate about carpet bowls and all that played the game, and he continues to be missed by the Carpet Bowls community.

As Colin would have done, I want to thank my fellow Officers for their support, particularly in the last six months, in what has been a difficult time. The work they do, mostly unseen behind the scenes, keeps the ECBA and our events running smoothly.

Thank you also to all of the county delegates for their efforts and input at our meetings. Although it is disappointing that even though this AGM date was set a while ago, Bedfordshire and Essex were unable to find anyone to attend.

My thanks must also go to everyone who has played a part in the organisation and running of our events in the last year. The ECBA Rinks, Triples, Festival of Bowls, Champion of Champions and Nationals events have all run efficiently, and the work put in to ensure that is greatly appreciated. It is also pleasing to see that those events have had a variety of winners, and congratulations to all that have gone away with trophies.

Whilst this AGM is always the time to look back on what went well and learn from what didn't, it's more important to look forward.

Generally, as I'm sure all of the member counties are, we need to keep a close eye on our finances. We will hear from Paul later on this, where our profits and losses were last year and what we need to focus on during the next year.

Also as a group, I don't feel we do enough to share ideas and what we do within our counties that work well, that could possibly benefit others. There have to be opportunities to learn from each other, together with efforts we can make to get more people playing the game that we all enjoy. None of us have a magic wand, but I'm sure there is more that can be done.

5. Secretary's Report

The Secretary echoed the Chairman's thoughts.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported a profit on the year of £700 (£1000 loss in 2022/23).

Much of this is down to having paid out very little for trophies this year, thanks to Colin Young's effort, as well as the fundraising he was responsible for at the Champion of Champions and Festival. We will need to make sure we do our best to keep the fundraising going.

In addition, we have seen a very welcome increase in the numbers at the upcoming 2024 Festival of Bowls at Potters, which has helped to bolster the Association's revenue.

7. Referee's Report

Firstly, allow me to mention the passing of Colin. We did work closely on some matters, and I will miss his phone calls, and chats.

The only activity that has needed my attention has been on the website. Several enquiries, regarding rule clarification, have been dealt with.

There has been no demand for upgrading, or refreshing, of National Referees. Maybe something for delegates to take up? I am open to suggestions.

8. Child Protection Officer's Report

Rebecca reported that she continues to attend the monthly meetings of the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA). There remains no pressure from the BDA for us to do anything more, but we never know if we might need their support and assistance in the future.

9. Election of Officers

Following the sad passing of Colin Young, Neil Jolly, the Vice Chairman, stood in his place until the AGM. The only nomination for the position of Chairman was for Neil, nominated by Suffolk and seconded by Hertfordshire, leaving the position of Vice Chairman vacant. The remaining officers all agreed to stand for a further year and were voted in en-bloc.

No nomination had been received prior to the meeting for the position of Vice Chairman, but a proposal was made for Peter Cook (Hertfordshire) and was passed.

Chairman : Neil Jolly
Vice Chairman : Peter Cook
Secretary : Pauline Charleton
Treasurer : Paul Daniels
Child Protection : Rebecca Hearn
Referee: Mick Watkins

10. Annual Membership Fee

The annual membership fee of £100 (£20 for associate members) was agreed.

11. Any other business

- a) Hertfordshire's proposal regarding the rules for playing short at the Nationals, having been discussed at the meeting preceding the AGM, was voted on, and passed, as follows:
Teams must have a minimum of 20 players. Up to 4 blocks will be allowed to play short, i.e. as teams of 3 players, rather than 4. As a block, the 3 players will bowl 8 woods, with no penalty, in the following order: No.1 plays their woods as normal, No.2 plays their woods as normal, No. 1 and No.2 then share the woods normally player by the No. 3, i.e. No.1 bowling the first one, No.2 bowling the second. The Skip will then bowl their 2 woods as normal.

Finally, the short Block(s) must be designated in the following order: Block A (if one player short),

then Block D (if 2 players short), then Black B (if 3 players short), and then Block E (if 4 players short).

Team sheets from all counties must be submitted prior to the commencement of play on Saturday.

- b) Michael Laydon (Sunderland) reported that he has been in touch with indoor bowls clubs from Hartlepool, Darlington, Carlisle and Lincoln who had expressed an interest in experiencing carpet bowls, and with the hope that it would also provide an opportunity for carpet bowlers to try the indoor game. He is in the process of discussing and hopefully arranging exhibition matches, where Carpet Bowls and Indoor Bowls would be played simultaneously.

Michael was given the wholehearted support of the committee, and was asked to report back on any progress he makes.

- c) On the subject of each individual county, how many member clubs do they have, what leagues and competitions do they run and with what format, etc - Neil said that in the past there has been very little information shared between counties, which comes down to the fact that all member counties are autonomous, and the ECBA has never been a governing body. However, it is likely that every county does things differently, and that there may be something to be gained from sharing such details. To this end, he will be looking to issue a small questionnaire shortly, for all counties to respond to and once the information has been collated and shared, there will be something for everyone to learn.

12. Date of Next AGM

Saturday 12 April 2025 (to be confirmed)

Meeting closed at 2.30pm.