



English Carpet Bowls Association

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the meeting of the English Carpet Bowls Association held on 13th April 2024 at the Brentwood Hotel, Rotherham

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

Neil Jolly (Acting Chairman), Pauline Charleton (Secretary), Paul Daniels (Treasurer), Rebecca Hearn (Child Protection Officer)

1. Apologies for absence

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

2. Minutes of last meeting

Read and agreed

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes

None

4. Correspondence

None

5. Chairman's Report

Thank you for all giving up your time to travel to and attend this meeting today.

Since our February online meeting, our ECBA Rinks competition took place, and thanks must go to all at Northumberland CBA for their efforts in organising a successful day. Whilst entry numbers were a little disappointing, all those that were there had an enjoyable day. The event culminated in a very close final, which was level at 6-6 all going into the last end. The deserved winners were Nathan McMann, Steven Wilson, Aiden Turnes and Wayne McMann, who just pipped Jaxon McKenna, Neal Ridley, Steven Cain and Neil Jolly to the title.

Also, since our last meeting, Potters have come back to us and confirmed the accommodation prices for our October Nationals. As hoped, the cost increase is not as great as last year. Potters have since issued their paperwork to the county contacts for completion and return.

Looking ahead, to be discussed today and to ensure that all arrangements are in place, we have:

The Festival of Bowls at Potters in a fortnight. The good news there is that we have an increased entry number on last year, which is pleasing.

The Champion of Champions event at Stanley over the weekend of 1st & 2nd June

And finally, the ECBA Triples on 1 September.

Thank you all for your continued support of the ECBA.

6. Secretary's Report

None

7. Treasurer's Report

None (see AGM).

8. Referee's Report

None (see AGM)

9. Child Protection Officer's Report

None (see AGM)

10. Competitions

- a) Festival of Bowls - 29th April to 3rd May at Potters. There has been an increase in the number of entrants this year, from just over 100 last year, to around 120, including a delegation of 12 players from Norway.
- b) Champion of Champions - 1st & 2nd June at Stanley. Sunderland have all the equipment arranged and will be setting up the hall on the Friday.
- c) Nationals - 25th to 28th October at Potters. The question as to whether Potters are allowing day visitors was asked, and it was thought the position was unchanged in that they still don't. However, enquiries will be made to confirm.
- d) ECBA Triples - Cambridgeshire hosting at Littleport on 1st September.
ECBA Rinks - Norfolk will be hosting at Littleport on 27th April 2025.

11. Any Other Business

- a) At the previous meeting, Mick Watkins had suggested that the Champion of Champions team trophy should be named after the late Colin Young. After a general discussion, this suggestion was agreed.
- b) There was a discussion on the Cambridgeshire proposal to amend the Champion of Champions Pairs format, to allow for 3 woods each, rather than the current 2 woods. On a vote of the member counties present, the decision was taken to retain the current format.
- c) Two proposals for an amendment for the rules for playing short at the Nationals were discussed. These were:
 - i) For up to 4 blocks per county to play as teams of 3 players, with no penalty, but bowling in a prescribed order, proposed by Hertfordshire.
 - ii) A variation on the current rule, allowing teams to play with 22 players without penalty, rather than down to 20. Below 22 players, the team would drop one rink and forfeit those points, proposed by Durham.

There was a long discussion, which included the suggestion that there should be some penalty for playing short, so that there is an incentive to field a full team. However, it was acknowledged that following the pandemic, every county has a smaller pool of players from which to choose from. Therefore, there is now a greater risk that some counties may feel they are not able to commit to entering a team at all, if there is a danger that they may fall below the number which would incur a penalty.

This rule amendment proposed by Hertfordshire has been utilized in both Eastern League and Northern League games in the past season.

As it stands, all eight counties, who will be at Potters for this year's Nationals, have at least 24 players available. So no county expects to be short, but there is no guarantee that circumstances won't alter between now and October. There was also a general consensus that we need to do all we can to ensure that the Nationals remains a rinks-based competition for as long as possible.

To conclude, a vote was taken, and it was decided that the Hertfordshire proposal should go forward to the AGM, with one addition, that the rinks which are going to be short should be first Rink A, second Rink D, third Rink B, and fourth Rink E. This would ensure that if more than one county was forced to make use of the rule, the short rinks would be matched against one another in the competition.

12. Date of Next Meeting

Saturday 14th September 2024 (11am start, via Zoom)

The meeting closed at 1.20pm.