



English Carpet Bowls Association

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the AGM of the English Carpet Bowls Association
held at Brentwood Hotel, Rotherham on 18th April 2026

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

1. **Apologies for absence**

Michael Laydon (Sunderland)

2. **Minutes of 2025 AGM**

The minutes were read and agreed as a true record, proposed by Durham and seconded by Cambridgeshire.

3. **Matters arising from previous minutes**

None

4. **Chairman's Report**

Thank you all for travelling to the AGM today.

I'm not sure where the last year has gone, but it's an opportunity for us to look back on what's gone well, what's gone not so well and progress made.

On a positive note, entry numbers for last year's Festival of Bowls at Potters were sustained from the previous year. As always, an enjoyable week of bowls that went off without a hitch. It was great to see one of the Norwegian bowlers getting to the Singles final. Come the end the titles were shared between bowlers from Sunderland (Singles and Pairs) and Suffolk (Rinks).

Soon after that we had the competitive Champion of Champions event, which turned out to be a very successful weekend for two counties in particular. Congratulations to bowlers from Hertfordshire, winning the Singles & Rinks, & Durham winning the Pairs, Triples & Team event.

At the Nationals in October, it was great to see Bedfordshire taking part again, getting the entry back up to the then full complement of nine counties. The Friday night match between Sunderland and Suffolk ended in the first ever (in thirty plus years) drawn match. That has necessitated us having to come up with a rule to cover that scenario, which we will discuss later. The main event again went late into Sunday, with Suffolk's eleven point winning margin over runners up Hertfordshire not reflective of how close it really was. Of course, we had the disciplinary matter to work through afterwards, but that unsavoury incident should not detract from what was a weekend enjoyed by all who attended.

On a slightly disappointing note, entry numbers for last year's ECBA Rinks & Triples events were lower than hoped for. Well done to the respective winners but some more work to be done there to see what if anything we can do to increase attendees.

Outside of our events, we've had the exciting development of the formation of Lancashire Carpet Bowls Association, who are represented here today. Well done to Ian Gill, his committee and bowling membership for all their hard work in getting them to where they are, in such a short space of time. I also want to recognise the efforts of Michael Laydon and the Sunderland bowlers, who have given up their time to assist and support Lancashire.

Staying on the development theme, both Michael Laydon and Steven Roe have put a lot of work in over the past year and their efforts are appreciated. We now also have an ECBA Facebook page, together with continued live streaming & recording of carpet bowls for our Youtube site, with thanks to both Pete Cook and Paul Daniels for their work. These are all things that we can look to build on next year and beyond.

I must put on record my thanks to the ECBA Officers for their work over the past year and the support they've provided. There is a constant flow of communications that go on behind the scenes, which keeps the ECBA and our events running efficiently. My thanks also to the county delegates for their work related to our events & input at our meetings.

The last twelve months have been productive & our focus must remain on increasing the publicity and promotion of our events and carpet bowls generally.

5. Secretary's Report

None

6. Treasurer's Report

This year saw us record a surplus of £1975.

This was thanks to the Festival which once again returned a profit of £2000 and reduced losses on the Nationals, down to just over £1000 thanks to increased numbers. It was also helped by a one-off £500 earned from the sale of equipment recovered from Braintree Leisure Centre last year.

7. Child Protection Officer's Report

None

8. Election of Officers

All existing officers had indicated their willingness to stand for election again this year, and with no other nominations forthcoming they were unanimously voted in en bloc.

Chairman: Neil Jolly

Vice Chairman: Pete Cook

Secretary: Pauline Charleton

Treasurer: Paul Daniels

Child Protection: Rebecca Hearn

Development Officer (South): Steve Roe

Development Office (North): Michael Laydon

9. Annual fee

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

10. Lancashire CBA membership application

To enable Lancashire CBA to enter teams into the ECBA Rinks the day after the AGM, their membership application had in principle been agreed by the Officers and County Delegates. A formal vote was carried out and the membership application unanimously approved. Lancashire CBA were formally welcomed as ECBA members.

11. Inter League Match – rule amendment

At the conclusion of the 2025 Inter League match on the Nationals Friday night, Suffolk and Sunderland were level on points (six each) and shots scored. Absent a rule at the time, the two teams agreed for it to be a drawn match and the trophy shared. At the February 2026 meeting, it was agreed that a rule should be introduced to cover this scenario and find a winner. The Chairman put forward a proposed rule wording and left the county delegates to refer this back for agreement in principle or an alternative rule. Absent the latter, the following wording was unanimously agreed and the match rules to be updated:

Each county to nominate one of their existing rinks to compete in a single end play-off. That end to be played on a mat randomly drawn, a mat having not been played on by either team involved. In the event of a tied/ dead end(s), a further end(s) to be played.

12. Date of Next AGM

Saturday in mid/ late April 2027 (to be confirmed). Meeting closed at 2.20pm