

Minutes of the 7th Annual General Meeting of the English Carpet Bowls Association held on Friday 24 April 1998 in the Nelson Ballroom, Seacroft Holiday Village, Hemsby, Norfolk

Present:

All outgoing officials and representatives from all member counties except South Tyneside

1. Chairman's Welcoming Remarks

Chairman welcomed all to the 7th A G M and thanked the organisers of the English Pairs Championships for once again providing the venue.

2. Apologies for absence

South Tyneside.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Proposed and accepted by North Tyneside and seconded by Suffolk.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report

Attached.

6. Secretary's Report

MEMBERSHIP

The Association has 10 member counties:- Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, and Suffolk

I am very pleased to welcome Bedfordshire who joined the Association this year.

CHAMPIONSHIPS

Champion of Champions

The first of the above competition was held in The Dome at Doncaster on the weekend of 7/8 June 1997. Teams from Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, North Tyneside, Northumberland and Suffolk played in the Pairs, Triples and Rinks of Four, however Cambridgeshire were unable to send a Singles player.

Neil Jolley from Suffolk won the Singles; Brian and Winnie Hesp from Northumberland won the Pairs; Alex & Barbara Johnson and Mary Thirsk won the Triples and the Hearne family, won the Rinks of Four.

This year's Champion of Champions tournament will be held on Saturday/Sunday 6/7 June 1998 at The Dome in Doncaster. I am delighted to report that all 10 counties will be represented in all disciplines. In addition to awards for the best team in the individual disciplines, there will also be a trophy for the best overall team score.

ECBA Triples Championship

Whilst not the ideal playing venue for a competition and with only a entry of 32 teams, a thoroughly enjoyable weekend. An all Suffolk final, with Arvon Evans/Jean Evans/Paul Goulding being the eventual winners. Many thanks to Northumberland who administered the competition on behalf of the Association.

County Championship

Once again a very successful championship particularly for Cambridgeshire who won with Durham in second place. The event was played in the spirit intended, friendly rivalry with plenty of 'if only..' situations.

The new format worked well with the lead changing constantly until the final session on Sunday. My thanks to everyone who worked to make the weekend successful.

Although Pontins Seacroft is booked for 1998, we must look at venues for the future.

Future Championships

We have the County Championships, the Champion of Champions and the Triples Championship and hopefully, in the near future, Singles and Pairs and Rinks Championships. As the present Secretary I have the experience and am happy to administer these competitions, but this may not be so with future secretaries.

I think the committee should consider the option of 'sub-contracting' the championships., **I do believe, however, it must remain within the carpet bowling fraternity.** There are several options that may be considered:

- a working party set up by the ECBA committee using the option to co-op specialist knowledge
- County organisations may feel they have the expertise within their county to administer competitions
- use experienced competition organisers

ENGLISH BOWLS COUNCIL

Mr Bob Weaver, Vice Chairman of the English Bowls Council was invited to attend the last meeting of the ECBA Committee to talk about the event organised by the Council for the millennium. Summary of his talk is as follows:

Objective:- Celebration of our sport of bowling - 24 representatives from each member of the council to play each other members' game, e.g. carpet bowls will play short mat bowls, indoor bowls, outdoor bowls, etc. The date will probably be a weekend in April/May/June 2000 in Bournemouth, Friday - Monday. Further details as soon as available.

Mr Weaver asked if a team from the ECBA would be playing a friendly against short mat players.

Details were also given of various venues which may be suitable for carpet bowls events.

Many thanks to Margaret Southgate who took over the position of Acting Treasurer in addition to her busy year as Vice Chairman standing in for John at the Champion of Champions and the County Championships.

Thanks to Tony Webber who took on the daunting task of trying to develop the sport and ultimately the membership of the Association. He has travelled the country talking and demonstrating carpet bowls to the uninitiated. He is fully committed to this task and works tirelessly on behalf of the Association.

And finally, to our retiring Chairman, John Crawford who has served the Association well during his term of office. I understand and accept the reasons for his decision to leave and wish him every success in the future.

7. Treasurer's Report

The following report was written and presented by Mrs Margaret Southgate who was acting Treasurer last year.

A year ago I did not expect to be presenting this report or the balance sheet, a copy of which I hope you have before you. Last May I was asked to 'hold the fort' for 3-4 months, but by the end of February it became obvious that I would have to prepare the accounts for this meeting, even without having had access to the Association's Account Books. However, taking the combined bank balances from the 1996/97 accounts as my starting point I have produced the 1997/98 Accounts and you will see from the Income side we now have 10 members counties in the Association. The income from the County Championships held here at Hemsby last November together with the raffle money almost covered the cost of staging those Championships. We also received £25 more in interest from the bank this year.

On the expenditure side, our administration costs are down this year and you will see they include two items which actually refer to the previous year. A fresh item of expenditure was the Champion of Champions at Doncaster; this was a new event for us, funded entirely by the Association. In his report last year the Treasurer anticipated a cost of £1,500, however as you can see it was considerable less at just over £800.

There has been no fund-raising for 2 years and this is reflected in the current bank balances of a little of £8,000 as opposed to £10,000 at this time last year, in view of this I would consider it necessary to increase the Annual Subscription as well as giving serious thought to other ways of increasing our income, otherwise in 4-5 years time we will run out of money.

Finally, I wish to thank Henry Gowlett for auditing these accounts. I appreciate the fact that it was not as easy for him as it should have been due partly to my lack of experience and partly to the lack of previous records. He was kind enough to complete a layout for me in order that I could understand how they should have been laid out.

Copy of balance sheet attached

8. Development Officers Report

What's developing in Carpet Bowls

Since being elected as Development Officer for the ECBA at the last AGM, I have tried to broaden the base of the game. To do this I decided to contact all the people who help and advise Village Halls and Parish Councils in England. Village halls and Community Centres being are largest source of members. I was able to do this with the help of David Cobbold, a colleague on the Suffolk Carpet Bowls Committee, and member of Suffolk Acre (as our Community Council is called). I have written to the 31 Community Councils explaining what we are and the opportunities the game has to offer to Village Halls and Communities. I also sent copies of the "What is Carpet Bowls: leaflets which was commissioned a few years ago, and which has been sitting in various Sports Council offices since that time. I have had a positive response from any of the counties, asking for more details and requesting more leaflets., Articles have appeared in at least four county circulation's and I was asked to attend a Bowls Forum in Gloucestershire.

Since the Community Councils have become involved, I have had many requests from Village Halls about the game and the costs involved in getting started. On Wednesday 22 April I arranged and attended a demonstration at Boughton Village Hall in Nottinghamshire. Four villages were represented and all of them were very keen to get started. I also had a telephone call from another village on the day of the demonstration asking for information as they were unable to attend., There has also been a great deal of interest from Worcestershire, and I have received letters from ten villages ranging from Worcester across to Hereford and Ross on Wye. I intend to have a demonstration in this area as soon as I can arrange it. Another demonstration arranged in the Bristol and Bath area as there is also interest there. Two clubs have been formed, on in Gloucestershire after my visit there and one at the Lizard in Cornwall (If you go any further south you fall off the end!), following correspondence between myself and the Village Hall secretary.

The work I have done this year is, as I have said, aimed at bringing our sport to many more people. It will in the long term I am sure, strengthen the ECBA as these new counties become stronger and more active in the game. There is still a long way to go before we are a major sport, but I see no reason why it can't be achieved once the public know we exist.

Two other positive results this year are the decision by Bedfordshire to join the Association and the formation of the West Sussex Carpet Bowls Association. The clubs in West Sussex have been in existence for a few years now but have had no overall organisation to turn too. I attended a meeting in Selsey at the request of Mr & Mrs Burrows of the Selsey club to explain the advantages of forming an Association. The clubs in the area were well represented and after a lively discussion the decision was taken to go back to their committees sand recommend that an Association be formed. As yet West Sussex is not very strong but with help and encouragement as with all counties, it will grow.

9. Amendments to the Constitution

Proposal from Durham

'The enclosed Draft Constitution, which has been discussed and agreed by all counties, be adopted as the Constitution of the English Carpet Bowls Association.'

The above proposal was accepted unanimously with the following minor adjustments which were discussed and agreed with the Secretary of Durham before the meeting:

Item 4.2 - to include 'to receive and vote on recommendations made from Special General Meetings

- to replace 'any amendments/proposals' with
- any proposed amendments to the Constitution, and
- any proposed amendments to The Rules for Playing Carpet Bowls
(To clarify what may be amended at an AGM)

Item 4.4. - to replace "Any proposed amendments/proposals on matters that may properly be discussed....." with

- 'Any proposed amendments to the Constitution or amendments to the Rules for Playing Carpet Bowls which are matters that may properly be discussed.....'
- (To clarify what may be amended at an AGM)

Item 4.5. - to replace 21 days with 14 days.

(It was felt that the Secretary needed more time to distribute documentation)

Item 5.3. - replace whole item with 'The method of voting shall be as described for the Annual General Meeting at 4.7. above.'

Item 5.4. - replace whole item with 'Only the business for which the Special General Meeting is called will be discussed and voted on.'

(To further clarify the business and voting of a Special General Meeting).

The following clerical error was pointed out by the representative from Essex.

Item: 4.6 - Reference to 'clubs' should be 'counties'

10. Election of Officers

Chairman **Mr Raymond White** was proposed by Suffolk and seconded by Essex. There being no other nominees, Mr White was elected.

At this point Mr John Crawford, the outgoing Chairman presented a gavel to the Association which was received on behalf of the Association by Mr White.

Mr White took the Chair proposing a vote of thanks to Mr Crawford for all the work he had done on behalf of the Association.

Vice Chairman **Mr Tony Cuthbert** was proposed by Suffolk and seconded by North Tyneside. There being no other nominees, Mr Cuthbert was elected.

Secretary **Miss Eve Warren** was re-elected, there being no other nominees.

Treasurer Mr Gordon Thirsk was proposed by North Tyneside and seconded by South Tyneside. **Mrs Margaret Southgate** was proposed by Northumberland and seconded by Cambridgeshire. Mrs Southgate was elected by 8 votes to 2.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Thirsk for the work he had done on behalf of the Association.

Development Officer **Mr Tony Webber** was re-elected, there being no other nominees.

Referee **Mr Allan Howe** was re-elected, there being no other nominees.

Hon. Auditor **Mr Henry Gowlett** agreed to remain as auditor, there being no other nominees.

10. Amendment to the Rules

Current Rule 1.3 **Proposed by Essex, seconded by Cambridgeshire**

16 bowls, 8 of each colour, shall not exceed 4 in in diameter nor 1lb 10oz in weight nor be of a less bias than a No. 3. No bowls other than this matching set shall be used in a game. Stickers may be used to distinguish between the bowls.

Proposed amendment:

16 bowls, all made by the same manufacturer. Comprising of two sets of 8, each set to be of different colours, shall not exceed 4 in in diameter nor 1 lb 10 oz in weight, nor be of less bias than No. 3. Stickers may be used to distinguish between the bowls.

Following consideration discussion with advice from Bill Ramshaw, it was proposed by Norfolk and seconded that the current Rule be amended to "16 bowls, 8 of each colour, all made by the same manufacturer, shall not exceed....."

Essex withdrew their original proposal and the second amendment was accepted by 9 votes to 1.

Therefore, Rule 1.3. now reads: **16 bowls, 8 of each colour, all made by the same manufacturer, shall not exceed 4 in in diameter nor 1lb 10oz in weight nor be of a less bias than a No. 3. No bowls other than this matching set shall be used in a game. Stickers may be used to distinguish between the bowls.**

Current Rule 2.9 - Proposed by Northumberland, seconded by North Tyneside.

Should the jack be driven by a bowl in play wholly beyond the limits of the carpet, whether it be the end or side of the carpet, it shall be counted 'dead'. The opponents shall receive 2 shots and a new end begun by the opponents.

Proposed addition:

(a) As above.

(b) If during the course of the game the jack is driven to the end or the side of the carpet, then the two players in charge of that end (i.e. the third players in the rinks game) should agree that the jack has stopped moving. They should reach agreement within a reasonable time consistent with the time it would normally take to deliver the next bow. If after reaching the said agreement and subsequently the jack should fall off the carpet without any contact being made with the jack, then that end should be declared a dead end and replayed without penalty,. If this happened on the final end of a time gamed and the whistle to signal the end of the game went before the jack was placed, then you would not be allowed to replay the end.

The above amended was carried by 7 votes to 2.

Current Rule 3.2

The wood must be delivered from within the 18" delivery space which shall be demarcated by the white lines and the white blocks. The blocks shall be placed such that the height shall be 6" that the 4" side shall be along the edge of the carpet and the 2" side along the white lines. If during the delivery of a bowl either block is moved in any way then the wood shall be declared 'dead'. Delivery of a wood shall be considered as being from the point of presenting the wood, in the hand, to the carpet until it is released from the hand. But if the bowler was to put their wood down on the carpet, to either get a better grip or to go down and check the end, then this wood was not to be classed as a 'dead' wood.

Proposed amendment by Durham, seconded by Suffolk.

(1) Insertion of word 'through' in place of 'from within' on first line.

This amendment was carried by 6 votes to 4.

Proposed by Durham - There was no seconder for the following proposal.

(2) Change the positioning of the blocks so that the height is 4" and the 6" side is along the white lines.

11. Annual Membership Subscription

Proposal made by the Treasurer that subscriptions be increased to £100 per member.

A 2nd amendment was proposed that each member pay £1.50 per club affiliated to their Association. (Hertfordshire/Cambridgeshire)

A 3rd amendment was proposed that the subscriptions remain at £75. (North Tyneside/Durham)

The 3rd amendment was carried by 5 votes to 4.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 10.15 p.m.

SECRETARY'S REPORT - ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MEMBERSHIP

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Treasurers Report. AGM 1998

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Margaret Southgate
Vice Chairman (Acting Treasurer)
24th April 1998

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Balance Sheet -----Year to 31st March 1998

INCOME

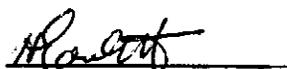
| | |
|---|-----------|
| Balance from 1997 -- brought forward | 10,432.01 |
| 10 x County Fees @ £75.00 | 750.00 |
| Cheque in respect of petty cash from G.Thirsk | 41.50 |
| County Championships | 2741.20 |
| Raffle | 505.60 |
| Bank Interest | 328.17 |

EXPENDITURE

| | |
|--|---------|
| <u>Administration</u> | |
| Officers Expenses, eg Postage, Telephone, Photocopying etc | 104.90 |
| Meeting Expenses, Venue, Travel, Accomodation | 1042.01 |
| Secretarial Expenses, S.Dicker, not claimed during 1996/97 | 281.00 |
| Balance of Travel Expenses for G.Thirsk 1996/97 | 72.91 |
| <u>Development/Promotion</u> | |
| Travel, Postage,Printing etc | 203.39 |
| Lottery Licence | 17.50 |
| English Bowls Council | 85.00 |
| <u>Champion of Champions</u> | |
| Hire of Dome---Doncaster | 400.00 |
| Deposit--Dome 1998 | 50.00 |
| Trophies | 160.55 |
| Officers Expenses | 132.33 |
| Equipment Transport | 130.95 |
| <u>ECBA Triples Championship</u> | |
| Trophies | 207.72 |
| <u>National County Championships</u> | |
| Administration--Programmes, score cards, Prizes etc | 87.49 |
| Travel subsidy | 3132.00 |
| Pairs competition | 162.00 |
| Equipment Transport | 20.00 |
| Trophies | 371.50 |
| Bank Charges | 3.79 |
| Combined Bank Balances, less cheque not presented | 8117.74 |
| Cash in Hand | 15.70 |

14,798.48

14,798.48



Auditor