

# English Carpet Bowls Association

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Friday 14 April 2000  
in The Trafalgar Ballroom, Seacroft Holiday Village, Hemsby, Norfolk.**

**Present:** All outgoing Officers.  
Representatives from: Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex,  
Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, North Tyneside, Suffolk.  
Plus Approximately 55 other attendees.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 9th Annual General Meeting, and thanked the organisers for once again providing the venue.

1. **Apologies for Absence.**  
Mr. & Mrs. Thirsk (North Tyneside), Mr. R. Ord (South Tyneside).
2. **Minutes of last AGM.**  
These were approved and signed as a true record.
3. **Matters Arising.**  
There were no matters arising.
4. **Chairman's Report.**  
Copy attached.
5. **Secretary's Report.**  
MEMBERSHIP: This remains constant at 10 member counties. They are,  
Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk,  
North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Suffolk.

Over the past year we have had the English Rules for playing Carpet Bowls printed in pocket size form. The initial print went very quickly, being sold at just 50p per copy.

A closer rapport has now been built with the management of Seacroft Holiday village at Hemsby where the County Championships are held. This has helped us to understand each others needs and expectations. A similar relationship is being built with the management of Herringthorpe Leisure Centre at Rotherham, I would like to see this continued, and hopefully this will improve what we have already got going with the people of Rotherham.

#### CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS.

The results were as follows:

Singles - Three players were equal with 14 points, Northumberland 71 shots for, Durham 74 shots for. The winner was J. Goodrich from Suffolk with 81 shots for.

Pairs - Two pairs were equal with 14 points, Norfolk 75 shots for. The winners were P. and M. Boyton from Essex with 78 shots for.

Triples - Two triples again were equal with 14 points, Essex 87 shots for 45 shots against. The winners were B. Hesp, I. and R. Clark from Northumberland with again 87 shots for but 44 shots against.

Rinks - Two Rinks were equal in this discipline both with 13 points, Hertfordshire 64 shots for, 50 shots against. The winners were, D. Brennan, N. Shaw, G & S Savage from Bedfordshire, 64 shots for but just 46 shots against.

Team Trophy - With an overall total across all disciplines Suffolk amassed 46 points, the runners up were Durham with 42 points.

Congratulations to everyone that took part, but especially to the eventual winners.

**LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP.**

For the first time Norfolk represented the Eastern Counties League and won the League Championship from Durham who represented the Northern League on Friday 29th October 1999.

**COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS.**

Nine counties were represented (Bedfordshire were once again unable to attend). These championships took place on 29th October to 1st November 1999. For the third consecutive year Cambridgeshire won this championship.

This years Championships will take place on 3/6th November 2000 at Seacroft Holiday Village Hemsby Norfolk. All players must be resident on the site.

Thanks must be given to everyone that helped with the movement of equipment both in Rotherham and at Hemsby. Although unfortunately it always seems to be the same people, this Association is only small at present, and so it should be realised by all member counties, not just the delegates but the committees of all counties, that you each have to be willing to give up some of your time for the Association to be able to function.

With the two championship events now well established in the carpet bowls calendar, we as an association must decide what we do now, not only to improve what we have got, but also decide where we go from here. What is seen as the future for the Association? How do we promote and encourage more people, especially the young to start playing the sport, and encourage more counties to become members of the association. What more can we do for our present members? Should any of you or your friends have any ideas please pass them on to the committee so that they can be evaluated.

On closing I would like to thank all the officers and delegates for their help and support throughout the year.

**6. Treasurer's Report.**

The statement of accounts as put to the AGM showed a total bank balance of £7898.67 as funds available to the Association. The accounts had been audited and signed by Mr. Gowlett. Essex proposed that this statement of account be accepted, this was seconded by North Tyneside and agreed unanimously by those present.

A copy of Mrs. Southgate's report is attached.

**7. Development Officer's Report.**

A full copy is attached.

**8. Amendments to the Constitution.**

The following were proposed by the Executive Committee:

An amendment to point 4.7 with the addition of the following; 'But when votes cast are equal then the Honorary Chairman has a casting and deciding vote.'

Amendment to point 4.1. The wording to be changed to read as follows; 'An Annual General Meeting of the Association shall be held in every year, and there shall not be more than 15 months between one AGM and the next.

Amendment to point 3.1. delete 'on 1st of May each year.' Insert, 'within 28 days of an AGM'.

These were all accepted and agreed unanimously.

**9. Election of Officers.**

As all outgoing officers were willing to stand for a further term of office, and as there were no nominations forthcoming for any position, the officers are as last year. Chairman - Mr. Ray White, Vice Chairman - Mr. Tony Cuthbert, Secretary - Mrs. Ann Hardy, Treasurer - Mrs. Margaret Southgate, Development Officer - Mr. Tony Webber, Referee - Mr. David Storey.

It was proposed by Essex that Mr. Gowlett remain the Honorary Auditor, this was seconded by Suffolk and agreed unanimously.

**10. Amendments to The Rules for Playing Carpet Bowls.**

Amendment to rule 2.9. - That the following wording be deleted, '(i.e. the third players in the rink game).'

Amendment to rule 3.2. - That the description of the blocks (white blocks) be changed to just blocks. Bringing this rule in line with rules 1.1 and 1.2.

An amendment was put forward to include the description of the lines used to mark the delivery space on carpets, as they are not all white in colour. This amendment would therefore include an alteration to rule 1.1 which was accepted by Essex who had made the original proposal.

These amendments were unanimously agreed by those present. The amended rules shall now read as follows.

- 1.1 A carpet shall be a minimum of 6ft and a maximum of 6ft 6in wide and a minimum of 30ft and maximum of 33ft long. There shall be a delivery space at the centre of each end of the carpet which shall be 18in wide marked by two guidelines, along which shall be placed two blocks of wood of a contrasting colour to the carpet, being of size 6in x 4in (150mm x 100mm x 50mm metric equivalent). A lateral line shall be drawn across the carpet equidistant from each end.
- 2.9 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. 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 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 bowl. 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 timed game 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.
- 3.2 The wood must be delivered through the 18in delivery space which shall be demarcated by the guide lines and the blocks. The blocks shall be placed such that the height shall be 6in. that the 4in. side shall be along the edge of the carpet and the 2in side along the guide 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. If however, the bowler were to put their wood down on the carpet, to either get a better grip or to go and check the end, then that wood shall not be classed as a dead wood.

11. **Annual Membership Subscription.**

Bedfordshire proposed that the subscription fee should be applied pro-rata to a member county based on the number of affiliated clubs within that county. Following a vote with only 1 county voting in favour and 8 voting against this proposal was not accepted.

The Treasurer proposed that the subscription for the following year remain at £100.00 per County/Metropolitan Borough. This was agreed by 8 votes in favour and 1 against.

12. **Any Other Business.**

Norfolk suggested that the Association look into the possibility of having it's own 'Web Site', in order to promote the sport. Also make enquiries regarding the making of a promotional video. These will be looked into by the secretary and discussed at future meetings of the Executive committee.

With all matters concluded the meeting was declared closed at 21.00.

*R. White*  
*2/6/01.*

## ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Chairman's Report to the A.G.M. - 14th April, 2000

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the ninth A.G.M. of the Association.

Once again, our thanks should go to the organisers of this week-end, MELD Leisure, for allowing us the facilities to hold our annual meeting at Seacroft.

You may recall at last year's A.G.M. I reported that the Committee had agreed to hold meetings centrally. Whilst this is still the case, we have now moved the venue to Rotherham.

Since the last A.G.M., the Committee have met in June and August (both at Newark) and in February, 2000 at Rotherham.

There was a general view of the Committee that if we are making Rotherham our centre for our Champion of Champions, there is a certain logic in holding our Committee meetings in Rotherham. It has also to be said that a cost consideration also came into the equation.

As reported by me at last year's A.G.M., a sub committee had been set up to consider the possibility of sub contracting E.C.B.A. championship competitions. The change in the wording of the constitution agreed by the A.G.M. allowed us to proceed. The sub committee, consisting of the Secretary, Treasurer and Chairman, met with MELD to discuss a number of points raised by your Committee. I have to say, from my point of view, it was a very productive meeting and I did not consider that the two sides were too far apart.

The Committee meetings held in June and August fully discussed the package offered by MELD. Representatives from nine out of the ten counties were present in June (South Tyneside was absent) and nine of the ten counties attended the August meeting (Hertfordshire was absent). It was agreed unanimously at the August Committee meeting that the E.C.B.A. should continue to organise and administer both the Champion of Champions and the National County Championship.

The Champion of Champions was held at the Herringthorpe Leisure Centre, Rotherham. To say that all games were keenly contested would be an understatement. Congratulations to all the eventual winners and commiserations to those who only missed out by the odd shot.

This year's Champion of Champions will again be held at Herringthorpe. For next year it is possible that we will be using another leisure centre - still at Rotherham - which will be used exclusively for Carpet Bowls. There will be no other activities in progress.

The County Championship was held at Seacroft. The North v South clash on the Friday evening was deservedly won by Norfolk who defeated County Durham to become the League Champions.

The Championship which was fought out over the Saturday/Sunday was won by Cambridgeshire for the third consecutive year. County Durham were runners-up. A special word of praise should go to the Cambridgeshire players who know when to raise their performance at the right time.

The 2000 County Championship will be held here, at Seacroft, on the week-end 3rd - 6th November.

During the year your Committee agreed that the Association should withdraw membership from the English Bowls Council. A number of other Associations had withdrawn from the Council in recent years (viz. E.B.A., E.I.B.A., E.B.U.A.). It was considered that it had just become a 'talking-shop' and it had lost a lot of its former power and impetus.

In closing my Report, I would like to thank my Officers and Committee for all their hard work during the last year. I have to say that we do not always agree in Committee, but we do survive, and continue to fight on for the continuance of Carpet Bowls.

I would especially like to record my thanks to Ann Hardy who has worked very hard in her first year as Secretary.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable time on this special week-end. GOOD BOWLING.

RAYMOND WHITE

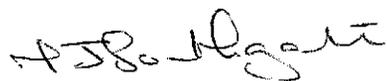
## Treasurers Report AGM 2000

The accounts for the financial year 1999/2000 are now available and I hope you have all seen a copy. It gives me pleasure to inform you that we are at present in a better position financially than a year ago. For the last two years I have had to tell you we had less money in the bank than at the previous AGM but tonight I can say we have nearly £1400.00 extra in our account.

If you look at the Income side of your Balance sheet the County Fees increased by £250.00 due to the increase in the subscription of £25.00 agreed at last years AGM. We held three raffles during the year and these brought in an extra £740.00. Meld Leisure have again given the Association the opportunity to run the raffle this weekend, so please give us the same sort of support which you gave last year. The County Championships did not produce as much income last November as the previous year and this was due to the way our commission is calculated by Seacroft, in the past we have received this inclusive of Vat but it is now paid exclusive of Vat and this has made a big difference, amounting to nearly £500.00. We still have a few Lapel badges which we continue to sell at 50p each and we are now also encouraging you to purchase a copy of the Rule book, (again at 50p each) as you can see we have almost covered the initial outlay for their printing. Bank Interest has continued to fall again this year and we received £120.00 less than in 1998/1999.

Moving across to the Expenditure side the Committee meeting expenses have continued to fall, none of our meetings involved overnight stays and office administration has stayed much the same. Travel costs for Development were down this year, with fewer enquiries from possible new clubs. We have taken the opportunity to print the rules in pocket book form and after the initial outlay for setting up the layout we will be able to re-order and hopefully make a little profit on them. The Champion of Champions cost just under £400.00 less in 1999 due to the generosity of the management of the Herringthorpe Leisure Centre (owing to the fact that they were hoping that we would continue to use them). The expenditure on County Championships at Seacroft was down by £1500.00 mainly due to the reduced travel subsidy paid to the participating counties, no subsidy was paid for the first 200 miles which meant that only one of the southern counties made a claim.

If you have any questions I will be happy to try and answer them, and I will end this report by thanking Henry Gowlett, for once again acting as our Auditor for these accounts.



Margaret Southgate  
Treasurer  
14th April 2000

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Balance Sheet-----Year to 31st March 2000

INCOME

Balance from 1999 brought forward	6,504.94
10 County Fees @£100.00	1,000.00
Raffles etc	
English Pairs	828.00
Champion of Champions	235.50
County Championships	611.00
County Championships (Seacroft commission and Pairs competition)	3340.59
Lapel Badges	29.00
Rule Books	168 50
Bank Interest	149.07

EXPENDITURE

<u>Administration</u>	
Officers Expenses eg Postage, Telephone, Photocopying etc	259.85
Meeting Expenses, Venue & Travel	521.92
<u>Development/Promotion</u>	
Travel, Meals, Postage etc	294.77
Printing of Rule Books	203.00
English Bowls Council	100.00
Raffle at English Pairs	322.61
<u>Champion of Champions</u>	
Hire of Herringthorpe Leisure Centre, Rotherham	264.33
Trophies	60.00
Officers Expenses inc. Admin	397.08
Equipment Transport	111.90
<u>County Championships</u>	
Administration	175.29
Travel Subsidy	1523.00
Pairs Competition	168.00
Equipment Transport	95.00
Trophies	471.18
Combined Bank Balances	7898.67

12866.60

12866.60

  
Auditor

## DEVELOPMENT REPORT 1991 – 2000

I would first of all like to remind everyone, that this year as well as being the millennium year and the tenth anniversary of the English Pairs Championships, it is also the tenth year for The English Carpet Bowls Association.

As most of us know, prior to 1991 there were a lot of people playing the game throughout the country, but using different rules albeit based on the Thomas Taylor format. This gave rise to our game being called a Mickey Mouse game by other forms of bowls.

In 1991 this was to change, when a group of bowlers from Suffolk led by David Schofield decided to attempt to run a National tournament at Pontins in Hemsby. It was also decided to contact as many Counties as possible that were playing Carpet Bowls at the time with a view to forming a governing body to organise and oversee the sport.

That first weekend was a terrific success. One hell of a worry for the organisers, as nothing like this had been tried before, but a great weekend all the same.

We are here today as an association because of the foresight of that weekend and are now accepted as a Bona – Fide bowls organisation alongside the other disciplines in Bowls and have a place on the National Bowls Council.

The various members of the Committee and the County representatives have put in a great deal of work over the past 10 years to bring us to our present position, but there is still a lot to be done if we are to become stronger and expand our association in the years ahead.

It is for this reason, that in my time as development officer I have put a lot of effort into pushing Carpet Bowls into more Counties.

My latest contact is with bowlers in Yorkshire. I have been aware for a long time that the game is being played there, it's just that I have not had the contacts to enable me to go there. This recently changed when Moira Gowland from Durham came up with two names in the York area.

I have written to both people and had replies and meaningful conversations on the telephone. I have also been to visit the "Vale of York League" and presented their annual awards. This also gave me the opportunity to talk to them about the English Association and to try to get them to form an association with the view to bringing them in with us. The response I had was a positive one and the possibility of forming a North Yorkshire Association will be raised at their Annual General Meeting. At present they are not playing to our rules, but using a variation of the Thomas Taylor ones. The difficulty may be getting the players to change, as they have been playing in this fashion for over twenty years. I shall also be writing to all the clubs in the "Vale of Mowbray League" to let them know about us, and to inform them about my visit to the other league. If necessary I will organise a meeting with them and their committee as a follow up to my letters. I have also been given a contact in the Bridlington area where they are playing at the moment, and I am hoping to get an address from Middlesborough. All these are new contacts and I will be following them up shortly.

I have also written to about twenty parish councils in West Sussex telling them about our game and organisation. As yet I have not had a reply,

but it's early day's as these councils don't meet very often. When I do hear, I will arrange something with the Selsey bowlers to enable anyone who may be interested in the game to have a demonstration.

Recently I have been in contact with Village Halls in Surrey and have sent them some of our leaflets along with the playing rules, equipment costs and sources of funding. As yet I have not had a request for a demonstration but I intend to contact them again once they have had the opportunity to discuss the possibilities.

I have also continued with the visits to Kirkby in Ashfield District Council in Nottinghamshire and about eight small clubs have been set up and are playing regularly. They have a different approach to Carpet Bowls there and are able to get referrals from the local G.Ps for people to go to the Community Centres to play the game. This gets elderly couples and people living alone, who might not otherwise mix very well, out into the community and participating in some form of exercise.

There are now two clubs playing in Hereford and they are looking to expand by showing the game to other villages in the area.

I have also managed to get a club going in the Isle of Wight. They are very keen and have so far got twenty members. I know of a second club playing a form of Carpet Bowls on the island and I will try to get them together.

As I stated at the beginning of my report, a lot of work has been done to establish our Association. What we need now is some form of plan for the coming years. This would give us a sense of direction and all members would know what we are trying to achieve in the game of Carpet Bowls.