

# *English Carpet Bowls Association*

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
Held on Friday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2004  
At The Metrodome Leisure Centre, Barnsley.**

Present: All Outgoing Officers with the exception of the Northern Development Officer Mr. B. Ramshaw.

Representatives from: Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire,  
Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Suffolk.

Seeking membership Sunderland City Metropolitan Borough  
Plus 36 other attendees.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the ECBA.

## **Apologies for Absence**

Northern Development Officer Mr. B. Ramshaw.

## **Minutes of last meeting.**

North Tyneside proposed and Durham seconded that the minutes of the last AGM be signed as a true record. With no objections this was so done by the chairman.

## **Matters Arising.**

No Matters Arising

## **Chairman's Report.**

The committee has met on 4 occasions since the last AGM. All meetings have taken place at Rotherham.

The chairman took the opportunity to communicate his personal observations and concerns.

The behaviour of some players at the County Championships is causing concern. It used to be the place to play. But over recent years we have had incidents of fighting between players, the infamous chip fight, and last year the use of foul language on the microphone when someone was allegedly singing. Surely we can't condone this sort of behaviour at an ECBA event. We are trying to promote this as a family game suitable for all ages. It seems that for some that weekend has now become a drinking competition, provided that can be done without offending others then that is a problem for themselves and their counties. But we must stop things like this now before the situation gets out of hand.

Another concern was the length of time a small minority of bowlers takes to play a game at the County Championships. One game last year took 1 hour 35 minutes to complete. The result of which has been a change to the meal times. The Chairman appealed to the players concerned to stop this, as by continuing they could be responsible for more changes to the format and possibly the venue.

The Chairman also showed concern over the proposal for Officers to have the right to vote. The Officers volunteer for their roles, and are there to carry out the wishes of the member counties. An Officer that is not happy to do so is free to stand down. With positions for 7 Officers and possibly 10 members it would take very little for the Officers to get a motion passed that the majority of our members disagreed with.

Thanks were given to all the Officers for their hard and all the time they give up, also Jason Ellis for running the web site.

### Secretary's Report.

Membership of the Association remained at 9 counties.

It is hoped that Sunderland will be accepted as members of the ECBA during this meeting, if so then they wish to attend the National County Championships at Hemsby this year.

The year started with the Champion of Champions. The winners were:

Singles – Tony Cuthbert – Northumberland

Pairs – Ian Clark and Brian Hesp – Northumberland

Triples – Brenda Liddle, Vince Millar and Mary Guy – Durham

Rinks – Sue and Andy Gilder, Roy Lonsborough and Mick Watkins – Suffolk

Team – Northumberland.

The ECBA Triples competition was hosted by Hertfordshire. The winners final were from Reepham in Norfolk.

The Inter County League match at Hemsby was between Northumberland and Cambridgeshire. The winners were Cambridgeshire.

The National County Championships winners were Cambridgeshire.

The ECBA Rinks were hosted by Suffolk. The winners coming from Hintlesham and Chattisham in Suffolk.

Potters was the venue for the most recent addition to our calendar a mid-week break encompassing three different competitions. Although originally this was not to be until 2005 the offer that came from Potters was too good to miss. The Association had nothing to lose, the Association could only gain, and I believe that is exactly what happened.

With entries coming from 9 different counties which included Bedfordshire.

The winners all coming from Suffolk were:

Singles – Stephen Cain, Pairs – Andy Gilder and Jeremy Brown, Rinks – Roy Lonsborough, Ally Goodrich, Neil Jolly and Stephen Cain.

As Mr. Ramshaw has stated that he wishes to stand down this year, however we do need someone that can oversee the development of our game in all parts of the country. Whilst some of the officers and delegates have attempted and are willing to continue to work for the development of the sport, it really does require someone to focus on that particular area.

Demonstrations continue to take place. Although unfortunately very rarely.

As a result of one very successful demonstration in Whatton, Nottinghamshire the Secretary has given some thought as to how we could offer clubs that are in counties which are not members of the ECBA Affiliated membership. This would give them access to our rules and our competitions. It would mean that as more clubs formed in those counties we could perhaps assist them in forming Associations that could become full members of the ECBA –

The Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Mrs. Cuthbert all attended a meeting with the EIBA at their headquarters in Melton Mowbray. This was an informal chat about the future and all disciplines of bowls. The intention is to have a single body, which will represent all disciplines of bowls. If we join this new body we will benefit by being recognised by Sport England, however without a connection to a single body for bowls we will lose that recognition and therefore it will become virtually impossible for anyone to obtain grants in the future.

Plans for the future development must be made, if not, then there is no purpose to our existence. Goals must be set, some of which may be easily met, others which will take time to achieve. Something that must come from counties sooner rather than later is information regarding the number of people that play carpet bowls in each of our Counties. So please be prepared for this request to come it is appreciated that it will take a little while for all this information to be collated but it should not be impossible.

**Treasurer's Report.**

Copies of the balance sheet were made available to all those present.

The accounts for the year closed on 31<sup>st</sup> March and show a decrease in our bank balance compared to last year. This was partly due to the increased travel subsidy paid for the County Championships.

The combined balances show the Association having a total of £11,506.78 in its bank accounts.

Thanks were passed to Mrs. June Laws who had audited the accounts on our behalf.

**Proposed Amendments to the Constitution.**

Suffolk proposed that Officers should have the right to a vote this would mean that article 2.4 require to read as follows:

Each Member County and the Officers of the Executive Committee will have a vote each and when votes cast are equal then the Chairperson has the casting vote.

Essex proposed an amendment to that proposal, that each member county should have 2 voting delegates at each committee meeting.

Neither the amendment from Essex nor the original proposal from Suffolk was seconded. Therefore article 2.4 remains unchanged.

The following proposals were put forward by the Executive committee.

**Amendment to Article 2.3:**

That the wording of this article should be amended to read as follows:

- 2.3 This committee shall meet as often as the business of the Association demands, but not less than three times per year.
- (a) 50% of members shall be a quorum providing all members have been notified of such a meeting in writing.
  - (b) It is expected that unless there are genuine extenuating circumstances a Member County will not miss more than two consecutive meetings of the Association providing all members have been notified of such a meeting in writing.
  - (c) An additional two representatives from each county will be entitled to attend the Executive Committee meetings but only the delegate is allowed to vote.

Cambridgeshire proposed that b) should include a penalty for a member that misses two consecutive meetings, and that should be an offending county should lose the right to vote until after the following AGM. Hertfordshire seconded this.

With 5 votes in favour the original proposal including the amendment from Cambridgeshire the motion was carried.

2.3 (b) will read as follows

It is expected that unless there are genuine extenuating circumstances a Member County missing two or more consecutive meetings of the Association will lose the right to vote till after the following AGM providing all members have been notified of such a meeting in writing.

**Amendment to Article 2.4:**

That the wording of this article should be amended, and read as follows:

- 2.4 Only member counties on the Executive Committee will be allowed to vote, but when votes cast are equal then the Chairperson has the casting vote. Any non-represented Member County/Metropolitan Borough may not vote by proxy at any meeting of the Executive Committee.

The motion was seconded by Essex and carried unanimously. Therefore article 2.4 will be amended.

**Amendment to Article 3:**

That the wording of this article should read as follows:

- 3.1 Applications for Membership to the Association shall be made to the Secretary of the Association and election shall be at the sole discretion of the Executive Committee. Membership will be at the agreement of a minimum of two thirds of those members that form the Executive Committee and shall be open to any properly constituted Carpet Bowls Association formed to represent a County or Metropolitan Borough.
- 3.2 New Applications for Membership shall forward a copy of their Constitution and Rules, which must be and remain consistent and compatible with the Constitution and Rules of the Association. Such Applicants shall give a list of the names and addresses of their Officers and such other information as may be required by the Executive Committee.
- 3.3 Should a County/Metropolitan Association wish to join the Association for the first time between AGM's then they will pay a rate as decided by the Executive Committee. Such new members will not be entitled to representation within the Executive Committee until after an Annual General Meeting has taken place and they have paid a full years Subscription fee.
- 3.4 An annual membership fee that will be agreed only at an AGM will become due for payment no later than 28 days following that AGM.
- 3.5 Any County or Metropolitan Borough that has not previously been a member of the ECBA may choose either of the following levels of membership.
  - a) Pay the full membership fee as agreed at the most recent AGM. This will entitle any such County/Metropolitan Borough to vote on any proposal at a meeting of the ECBA and take part in all competitions. However in the cases of the National County Championships and Champion of Champions entry will be subject to the venue that has been booked and amendments to the format being complete.
  - b) Opt for a maximum of the first two years of their membership to pay 50% of the full membership fee. This would entitle them to the following:
    - i) Have up to two representatives attend a meeting of the ECBA, at which they would be encouraged to take part in discussions and make proposals but they would not be entitled to vote.
    - ii) The members of clubs, which form such new members, may take part in any ECBA Open events.A County or Metropolitan Borough whilst choosing option (b) will not be invited to enter the Champion of Champions event or the National County Championships.

This was seconded by Northumberland and with 8 in favour the motion was carried.

**Amendment to Article 4.7:**

That the wording of this article should be amended, and read as follows:

Voting shall be by ballot card by the representative of each Member Association entitled to vote. But when votes cast are equal then the Chairperson has a casting and deciding vote. Members that do not have a representative present at an AGM may not vote by proxy.

This seconded by Essex and carried unanimously

**Election of Officer's.**

The Chairman, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Referee were all willing to stand for re-election and with no other nominations being put forward all were elected for a further term.

With Mr. Ramshaw standing down and with no nominations forthcoming for either Development Officer positions both will remain vacant.

**Membership of any New County/Metropolitan Borough.**

An application for membership has been received from Sunderland Carpet Bowls Association. The secretary stated that Sunderland had achieved all the criteria set down to them at last years AGM, and could see no reason why they should not be invited to become members of the ECBA.

Cambridgeshire proposed that membership of the ECBA is extended to include Sunderland, this was agreed unanimously.

**Annual Membership.**

The treasurer proposed that the annual membership fee for 2004/05 remains at £100.00 This was seconded by Durham and agreed unanimously.

The Treasurer reminded all members that their fees are due within the next 28 days

**Any Other Business**

Mr. Schofield, Chairman of Suffolk read a previously prepared statement conveying the thoughts and wishes of the Suffolk Committee. Points put forward were:

- The ECBA should work toward having an elected Committee to administer the sport.
- The ECBA should be the overall governance of the sport of carpet bowls, its projection to others and its growth; too much time is spent on matters that should properly be dealt with by Sub Committees.
- Suffolk considers that the present method of funding the game as a whole is wrong and should be replaced with a system where every bowler contributes to the administration of the game.
- The ECBA should be encouraging fledgling and prospective Member Associations by involving them in its activities and suggests that the way forward might be to create an Affiliate grade of Membership.

South Tyneside asked for clarification of whether they would be hosting the ECBA Rinks in March 2005. As they had already made a provisional booking of a venue. The Chairman stated that it had been agreed that the Rinks would be included in the competitions being held at Potters. But South Tyneside may be asked to host the Triples instead, providing Norfolk agreed.

With all matters concluded the meeting was declared closed at 9:50 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'L. J. ...', is written at the bottom of the page.

**ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2004**

**CHAIRMANS REPORT**

Welcome to the 13<sup>th</sup> AGM of the Association and the third one at this particular venue.

Since the last AGM we have had meetings at Rotherham in July and September 2003 and January and April 2004, if the system is working correctly you should all be aware of any issues raised during those meetings.

In the past, the Chairman's report and the Secretaries' report have covered most of the same issues, so I would like to break with tradition and just give a brief thank you to Hertfordshire and Suffolk for hosting the Triples and Rinks Competitions and a thank you to everyone that supported the events, our secretary will give a more in depth report on all of the competitions.

As this is the Chairman's report I thought I would take this opportunity to communicate my observations and concerns, I must stress that this is my personal view of things.

Most of you here will be able to remember when all of this started, the excitement of something new and very different to what we were used to, it gave us the opportunity to play bowls at a much higher level and to make new friends along the way. For the first few years although the competition was intense there was still an air of fun and friendliness.

The County Championships was the place to play carpet bowls, but slowly the decline started, we had incidents of fighting at Seacroft, full credit to the counties involved, the players in question were banned and duly served their punishment.

We had the infamous chip fight in the Victory Bar many perceived as harmless fun; unfortunately the people that had to clean up the next morning didn't see the funny side.

All of this was a build up to what I consider the totally unacceptable face of carpet bowls, as most of you know I am not a prude and I like a drink and a bit of fun as much as anyone and yes I do go to the Victory Bar until the early hours but last year I think the line was crossed by some people at the Karaoke, I witnessed one person come out with foul language on the microphone when he was allegedly singing and then I watched people get up and leave because of this, surely we can't condone this sort of behaviour at an E.C.B.A. event, we are trying to promote this as a family game suitable for all ages.

Sadly it now seems that for some the weekend has become a drinking competition and provided that they can do that without offending other people then that is a problem for themselves and their counties but I do think we need to nip things in the bud before the situation gets out of hand.

Another concern is the selfish attitude of a very small minority of carpet bowlers in the sense of how long it takes to play a game, one of the games at last years county championship took 1 hour and 35 minutes to complete, the upshot of this is the decision to change the times of the meals which effects everyone and basically saying take as long as you like to bowl we will change things to suit you, where will it end.

I think you will gather that I was not in favour of this but will support it as a very slight majority did vote in favour, however I would appeal to the players concerned to try and speed things up, carpet bowls is not rocket science, we are not trying to split the atom and any decision you make is unlikely to change the world as we know it but by continuing to play slowly you could be responsible for changing the format and the venue. For instance we play 9 sessions each day, if each session took 1 hour 30 minutes we would be playing from 0900am until 1030pm the engineers need at least 30 minutes to get things ready for the cabaret and that would be after the carpets were lifted and put away so we would be looking at the entertainment starting at around 1130pm by which time many people would be too tired to stay and watch. If this became the scenario would we then need to hold the Championships at this venue when any leisure centre central to everyone with enough accommodation locally would do the job?

These comments are not directed at any one county, as many as 7 counties are involved one way or the other.

I could stay quiet and not rock the boat but I do care very much about how the game of carpet bowls is represented and I would like to think the majority of carpet bowlers think the same way.

Another concern is that once again the issue of whether officers should have a vote will be coming up later, this again is my personal view, the officers volunteer for these roles and if they are voted on they are there to carry out the wishes of the member counties, any officer that is not happy with that is free to stand down we are not forced to do the job. We currently have 7 positions for officers and possibly after tonight 10 member counties, if the officers were given the vote and all agreed on a particular motion then it would take a very small swing of two votes to get that motion passed, thereby you could have a motion passed that the majority of member counties disagreed with, I think this would be a recipe for disaster and could undo the years of hard work that has got us where we are today.

I would like to finish this report by thanking our secretary Ann Hardy for yet another year of very hard work on your behalf and for her support to myself thanks also to our treasurer Margaret Southgate who does a tremendous job keeping the finances in order, handling other peoples money is one of the most demanding roles to have, especially at an AGM but I have the utmost confidence in Margaret to get the job done.

Thanks to our referee David Storey, this again is a role where a lot of work is done behind the scenes, the organising of laying the carpets and making sure everything is in place for the start of our major competitions is all down to David, also a referee must have the trust and respect of the players and this is something that is earned through time and commitment, there is no doubt in my mind that David fills all of this criteria and we are very lucky to have him as our referee.

Finally my thanks to Rob Washbrook our vice chairman, Jason Ellis for running our website all of the delegates from the member counties and to all of the bowlers that have supported our events.

Tony Cuthbert  
Chairman



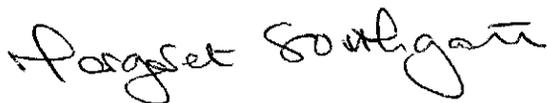
## Treasurers Report AGM 2004

The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2004 show a decrease in our bank balance over the past 12 months compared to an increase in the year 2002/03 but this will be explained as we go through the balance sheet.

If you look at the Income side first we received more income from development and promotion as we increased the sale of raffle tickets at both last years Champion of Champions and National Championships, we have held several courses to train more Referees, as well as continuing to sell both lapel badges and rule books . Commission from Seacroft was only slightly up this year mainly due to the way in which they wanted it calculated.

If we now move across to Expenditure the biggest increase was in administration but this was down to the purchase of a new computer and printer, other expenses were actually lower than the previous year. Development was down because we did not have a D Sport event this year. As in previous years the running costs of both Champion of Champions and National Championships were up, again due mainly to increases in the hire of the venue at Barnsley and transportation of carpets, plus the increase of the travel subsidy to Seacroft in November, this alone amounted to well over £600.00. The ECBA Rinks and Triples have once more made a profit for the Association, for which we must thank the counties which acted as our hosts.

You will also notice that I have listed our Assets at the bottom of the balance sheet , this was at the request of North Tyneside at a committee meeting during the year. In conclusion I wish to express my thanks to my Auditor June Laws for certifying that these accounts are correct.



Margaret Southgate  
Treasurer  
4th June 2004

# ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Balance Sheet-----Year to 31st March 2004

## INCOME

Balance brought forward from 2003	12,365.47
9 County Fees @£100.00	900.00
Entry Fees for Champion of Champions	450.00
<u>Development/Promotion</u>	
Raffles	814.00
Referee Courses,Sale of Rule Books and Lapel Badges	540.76
County Championships Seacroft commission and Pairs Competition	4,547.20
ECBA Rinks	870.00
ECBA Triples	874.00
Bank Interest	64.06

## EXPENDITURE

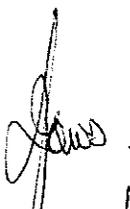
<u>Administration</u>	
Officers Expenses,eg Postage Telephone,Photocopying etc	1304.25
Meeting Expenses,Venue & Travel	813.63
<u>Development/Promotion</u>	
Printing of Rule Books, Travel, Meals etc	1622.74
Raffle Prizes & Raffle Books	143.75
<u>Champion of Champions</u>	
Hire of Barnsley Metrodome	750.00
Officers Expenses inc Administration	517.88
Trophies	120.00
Equipment Transport	184.61
<u>County Championships</u>	
Administration	209.20
Travel Subsidy	2,186.00
Pairs Competition	192.00
Equipment Transport	60.00
Trophies	357.50
ECBA Rinks	749.00
ECBA Triples	704.86
Petty Cash	3.29
Combined Bank Balances	11,506.78

21,425.49

21,425.49

ECBA Assets	
Computer	£750.00
Lapel Badges	£45.00
Rule Books	£150.00

HONORARY AUDITOR

  
 JUNE LAWS.

**ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004**

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**

**Membership:**

This remained constant at 9 during the past year.

The counties being, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Suffolk.

It is hoped that Sunderland will be accepted as members of the ECBA during this meeting, if so then they wish to attend the National County Championships at Hemsby this year.

The year started with the Champion of Champions. The winners of each discipline were:

Singles – Tony Cuthbert – Northumberland

Pairs – Ian Clark and Brian Hesp – Northumberland

Triples – Brenda Liddle, Vince Millar and Mary Guy – Durham

Rinks – Sue and Andy Gilder, Roy Lonsborough and Mick Watkins – Suffolk

Team – Northumberland.

The ECBA Triples competition was hosted by Hertfordshire.

The day was organised and run in an excellent manner, with an added bonus of some brilliant sunshine.

The winners of an excellent final were from Reepham in Norfolk.

The Inter County League match at Hemsby was between Northumberland and Cambridgeshire. The winners were Cambridgeshire.

The National County Championships proved very exciting with counties winning and losing points when least expected. This made the event very close and took things right down to the wire. However the eventual winners were Cambridgeshire.

The ECBA Rinks were hosted by Suffolk.

The day was organised and run in an excellent manner, and like the Triples also came with the added bonus of sunshine.

The winners of yet another excellent final came from Hintlesham and Chattisham in Suffolk.

Potters was the venue for the most recent addition to our calendar a mid week break encompassing three different competitions.



As skips habitually re-visit the head even though they have only just left it and they are the first of the skips to play,

Or, have long discussions with their number 3 with the end result being that shot not working as they hit the middle or go off the carpet.

We even have skips that permit others such as a number 2 to walk halfway up the carpet before they play.

All of the above actions waste time unnecessarily.

I can only suggest that County Captains speak to their teams and get this time wasting eradicated.

The committee has spent a lot of time discussing this subject at meetings over the past two years.

The end result was a change to the evening meal times.

Although this will not eradicate the habitual slow play and time wasting it will mean that everyone will have an equal chance to get their evening meals.

By doing this it has meant that we are not penalising the many because of the few, it has been recognised that this weekend is about carpet bowls being played by county teams to become National Champions.

But if this change is not successful this year then we will have no alternative but to impose other suggestions such as reducing the number of ends, introducing marshals or imposing timing of games.

Why did it take so long for a decision?

The insistence that suggestions were returned to the county committees to discuss before the committee could decide on the format for our competition.

I know many delegates feel that we take too long to make decisions but until member committees accept that at some point they have got to have faith in their delegate to make decisions that are beneficial to the ECBA and Carpet Bowls this will not change.

I am certain that in your own Associations you do not consult all your member clubs and their committees before making a decision.

The committees of your Associations make decisions on policy, the day to day business and the running and formats of your events.

That is why you have elected committees and Officers.

The ECBA committee must also start doing this sooner rather than later as counties will soon run out of people that are willing to attend meetings that appear to have no point.

At present a Member could wait for the minutes of a committee meeting to arrive and discuss any points that they wish. Then only send a delegate to a meeting when it is known that a decision is going to be made on a point that they wish to be part of, currently that could be once a year.

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Development of Carpet Bowls.

As Mr. Ramshaw has stated that he wishes to stand down this year, we do need someone that can oversee the development of our game in all parts of the country.

Whilst some of the officers and delegates have attempted and are willing to continue to work for the development of the sport, it really does require someone to focus on that particular area.

This need not just include arranging demonstrations, development can and does cover many things that are for the furtherance of the sport of carpet bowls.

Demonstrations continue to take place.

Although unfortunately very rarely.

On one occasion in Whatton in Nottinghamshire the enthusiasm shown for the game was something special in fact before we left we knew they would be a success.

I was asked if they could become members of the ECBA.

At that point I had to state that they could only become members if they were part of a county/met Borough association.

After which I did give some thought to how we could change this – one thought that did come to mind was perhaps with the backing of our members we could offer clubs that are in counties which are not members of the ECBA Affiliated membership. This would give them access to our rules, our competitions, although of course they would not be able to play in either the Champion of Champions or County Championships. But it would mean that as more clubs formed in a county we could perhaps assist them in forming Associations that could become full members of the ECBA –

I believe this can only be a benefit to the ECBA, as well as any clubs that accepted such membership. I do accept though that it must be thought through completely before we would be able to go down this avenue.

Our website – this is now available but is still in the development stages Jason Ellis from Cambridgeshire is looking after that for us. We are able to have e-mail links for each of our members should they so desire – it could be arranged so that people may use say secretary-suffolk it will automatically default to that persons own e-mail address

So if counties would like this arranged could they please contact Jason or myself with details of the default e-mail address.

Some pictures of the event at Potters are already available for viewing. Should your county have anything of interest to other bowlers they would like published then again please speak to either myself or Jason.

I was invited to attend an event at Kirkby in Ashfield – Nottinghamshire. When I asked the committee if they wished me to attend or if someone else wished to attend the delegates decided that as I had attended on three previous occasions we had given and shown sufficient support to a group that would never form further than they already had.

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The Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Mrs. Cuthbert all attended a meeting with the EIBA at their headquarters in Melton Mowbray. This was an informal chat about the future and all disciplines of bowls. The intention is to have a single body which will represent all disciplines of bowls

Sport England will only speak to that body and will not speak to individual governing bodies.

Governing bodies that choose not to be part of that single body will not be recognised by Sport England.

If we join this new body we will benefit by being recognised by Sport England, without a connection to a single body for bowls we will lose that recognition and therefore it will become virtually impossible for anyone to obtain grants in the future.

This is why I can only re-iterate something I said last year and Tony has already stated tonight.

We must have some plans for the direction in which we want our sport to develop

If not then there is no purpose to our existence.

This is why we need a development officer.

We must set out goals,

Some of which may be easily met

Others which will take time to achieve.

Something which is currently high on the agenda for other disciplines of bowls is coaching and having qualified coaches. That I feel really is in the future for Carpet Bowls,

The inclusion of youngsters is a subject that is high on the Sport England agenda,

Although we all know that getting youngsters to come along and play our game is not that easy

It is even harder to get them to stay with education, jobs and hormones all having a hand in them leaving our clubs

Something that must come from counties sooner rather than later is information regarding the number of people that play carpet bowls in each of our counties,

This information can only help the further development of our sport and may even be used to improve the facilities that are available to and used by our clubs.

When speaking to many organisations that is something they are interested in, it gives them an idea of how many people may benefit if they are willing to grant some sort of aid or service to us.

It will be useful to have details such as the number of disabled, the number of youngsters and even an insight to the numbers within certain age groups.

So please be prepared for this request to come I appreciate that it will take a little while for all this information to be collated but I cannot see that it should be impossible.

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May I conclude by *(firstly apologising for boring you and secondly by)* thanking my fellow officers for their help and support throughout the past year.

With special thanks to the Chairman Tony Cuthbert who has worked extremely hard trying to keep me on the straight and narrow.

Also on behalf of the association I would like to thank the long suffering partners of all the officers and delegates.

Because without the support of those people none of us can carry out our roles.