

# **EASTERN COUNTIES CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION**

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting  
held at The Racing Centre, Newmarket, on Thursday 20th June 2024 7.30pm**

Present: Officers: G. Sutton - Chairman  
M. Giddens - Secretary & Treasurer

County Representatives:

J. Ellis - Bedfordshire, B. Giddens - Cambridgeshire, P. Orrin – Essex,  
P Cook - Hertfordshire, M Fisher - Norfolk and S. Goodrich - Suffolk

## **1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from P. Daniels - League & Tournament Secretary.

## **2. Minutes from Previous Annual General Meeting**

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 23rd June 2023 were agreed as a true record and signed.

## **3. Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## **4. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman gave the following report:

I would like to start by thanking Maureen and Paul for all their hard work over the last year and all the delegates of the counties who have attended the meetings.

Thanks to all counties who have run tournaments on behalf of the ECCBA.

Congratulations to all the winners in the ECCBA tournaments and also English competitions.

It was good to have Bedfordshire back playing in the ECCBA league 2023-24 season. With six teams it is much better with no teams missing a match each month.

The dress code was brought up at the ECCBA Champion of Champions which will be discussed later in the meeting.

## **5. Secretary & Treasurer's Report**

As Secretary there was nothing to report.

Treasurers Report:

The Statement of Account for the year ending 30th April 2024 was issued.

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**5. Secretary & Treasurer's Report - continued**

Along with the statement issued, the Treasurer referred to the analysis which showed the league fees covered hall hire costs and expenses and all events showed a profit. Noting, it was the was the right decision to increase the fees last year and to also retain part of the profit from the Teambowl.

The Treasurer recorded her thanks to Karyn Chivers for auditing the accounts.

Acceptance of the accounts as presented was proposed by Bedfordshire, seconded by Essex and agreed by all.

**6. League & Tournament Secretary's Report**

The League & Tournament Secretary forwarded the following report:

Apologies for not being able to be here tonight.

I don't have anything particular to report, but in case it hasn't already been mentioned, I will put into the record the winners of all the ECCBA events since the last AGM: 2023

October 2023 Team Bowl - Suffolk

2023/24 Inter County League - Suffolk

April 2024 Eastern Counties Championship - Suffolk

May 2024 Champion of Champions:

Singles - Colin Wicks (Cambridgeshire)

Pairs - Andy Pooley & David Ford (Suffolk)

Triples - David Clemmet, Angela Newling and Daniel Hayde (Cambridgeshire)

Fours - Jamie & Dawn Smith and Amy & Simon Missing (Cambridgeshire)

Team – Cambridgeshire

Finally, with regards to the Champion of Champions, it was pleasing to see that the new format which was introduced last year, working well again. Not only have we been able to incorporate 3 wood Pairs into the schedule, but we were able to save 5 minutes per session, giving us a much earlier finish.

**7. Election of Officers & Auditor**

The current Officers confirmed they were all willing to continue and with no further nominations were voted in block. Proposed by Norfolk, seconded by Suffolk and with all in agreement the following Officers were re-elected:

Chairman	Gerald Sutton
Secretary & Treasurer	Maureen Giddens
League & Tournament Secretary	Paul Daniels

Auditor - the Treasurer proposed current Auditor Karyn Chivers, who was willing to continue and all were in agreement.

**8. Fees**

In setting the fees the Treasurer had looked at the expected costs for next year and based on all counties entering all events, would expect to break-even.

With that in mind would suggest the fees remain the same but would need to be looked at next year if all counties don't fully support events.

The fees being £60.00 Annual Subscription  
£96.00 for events and per league match  
£40.00 per team for the Champion of Champions

The due dates for counties to inform their Treasurers are:  
Annual Subscription due by the end of July  
League Fees (for the five matches) payable in advance by the end of October  
Teambowl, Eastern Counties Championships and Champion of Champions – either payment on the day or in advance of the event.

It was proposed by Cambridgeshire, seconded by Bedfordshire for the fees to remain the same as suggested by the Treasurer. All were in agreement.

**9. Eastern Counties Rules re Dress Code**

A proposal to amend the dress code, as issued with the agenda, was put forward by the Officers of the Eastern Counties. This proposal was seconded by Cambridgeshire.

From discussion, the following were the main comments made:

Bedfordshire – would like to see the dress code being an advisory code.  
Essex – there needs to be a dress code to stop players abusing the rules and the proposed amendment would be a deterrent.  
Hertfordshire – if players are needed at the last minute, there is a risk of not being consistent with applying the rules.  
Norfolk – if left, the standard of dress code will get less and less.  
Suffolk – the type of clothing and material was commented upon that players wear, and what the rules will allow.

Bedfordshire enquired with other counties on their supply and funding of county tops, as it is difficult sometimes to have available the right size and to order replacements. From the response, each county operates differently in either fundraising for their team, or players paying part or all of the cost.

The proposal was voted upon and with 4 in favour, 2 against, this proposal was agreed.

**10. Events Diary Dates**

The diary dates for this next season were ran through, including two English open events that counties will be hosting.

1st September 2024	English Triples	Hosted by Cambridgeshire
6th October 2024	ECCBA Teambowl	Hosted by Norfolk

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**10. Events Diary Dates - continued**

13th April 2025	Eastern Counties Championships	Hosted by Hertfordshire
27th April 2025	English Rinks	Hosted by Norfolk
11th May 2025	ECCBA Champion of Champions	Hosted by Cambridgeshire

With the league matches for this next season, counties confirmed they have their venues booked, apart from one Suffolk home match where Needham Market is not available for their February home match. The venue for this match will be advised once arranged.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

Initially when the date for the next committee meeting was looked at, Bedfordshire commented they would like it to be a zoon meeting. Bearing in mind the travelling distance to the meetings, it was decided to hold the meeting immediately after the Teambowl.

The next Committee Meeting will therefore be held on Sunday 6th October 2024 upon completion of the Teambowl event.

The 2025 Annual General Meeting was arranged to be held on Thursday 19th June 2025 at The Racing Centre, Newmarket to commence at 7.30pm.

**12. Any Other Business**

- i. Bedfordshire proposed the scoring is changed if points are level to be shots difference instead of shots scored. In advance of the meeting, Paul had looked through the results over the past decade and apart from individual disciplines at the Champion of Champions, there would have been no change to the winners of events.  
  
This proposal will be put on the agenda for the next Committee Meeting.
- ii. Essex asked if there was any change in contacts for the counties. Apart from Bedfordshire who currently don't have a team captain, contacts for all other counties are the same. The Contact List will be updated and issued.
- iii. Cambridgeshire informed the counties that some of their county members will be playing for Hertfordshire from this next season, with one advising he will be playing at the Teambowl for Hertfordshire, but will finish this season for Cambridgeshire at the Nationals at Potters as that is an English run event.
- iv. The East Cambs Memorial Pairs open tournament is booked for 2nd March 2025 where all profit is donated to MAGPAS. This year numbers were down as it clashed with another open tournament which was not shown on any main calendar at the time the Memorial Pairs date was arranged. Paul Daniels has entered the 2025 date on the Eastern Counties calendar so everyone is aware of this date. To benefit all open tournaments, there needs to be a main site where counties can look to check dates, to avoid choosing the same date. Hopefully this can be the Eastern Counties calendar.

**12. Any Other Business - continued**

- v. Cambridgeshire will be resubmitting the proposal to the English at their next year's AGM for playing 3 wood pairs at the National Champion of Champions.

The reason for resubmitting being due to it not being correctly dealt with this year by the English. The proposal was sent through in February and overlooked when the agenda was issued, but then not added to the agenda. Also, their agenda was issued a week before the AGM not as the English Constitution states of 21 days. This proposal was then discussed at their Committee Meeting and not even taken to the AGM.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.00 pm.

In confirmation of the foregoing minutes.

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Chairman

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Date