



English Carpet Bowls Association

Present: Chairman Mr. Tony Cuthbert, Secretary & Essex delegate Mrs. Ann Hardy,
Treasurer Mrs. Margaret Southgate,
Representatives from: Cambridgeshire, ~~Durham~~, ~~Norfolk~~
Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Suffolk. ~~Sunderland~~.

The Chairman welcomed new faces to the committee from Suffolk and South Tyneside.

Apologies for Absence

Hertfordshire, Durham Mr. J. Ellis (Vice Chairman) and Mr. D. Storey (Referee).

Minutes of last meeting.

Following an amendment to add the Suffolk delegate as an attendee the minutes of the last meeting were agreed and signed as a true record.

Matters Arising.

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the last meeting.

Correspondence.

None received.

Chairman's Report.

The Chairman congratulated the winners of the Champion of Champions. This event went finishing ahead of time. This year is to our last at Barnsley from next year to 2010 we are committed to the Norbreck Hotel at Blackpool.

Secretary's Report.

The leaflet that was produced some years ago is now looking very tired and should be re-printed if we wish to continue to use that as an easy way to describe "What is Carpet Bowls". During the past few years it has certainly proved to be a very useful tool. Should we choose to do the re-print then we would not require to print as many as we had last time. A quote has been given for 5,000 copies of £385 plus £70 for set up charges. On top of that would be any charges for a photographer, we should use a professional for this. Some of this could be covered by selling some advertising space, Meld Leisure have been approached, and have replied that they would possibly be interested, but that has to be confirmed. The space for future contact should be left blank so that a printed label can be placed in that spot rather than having out of date information which has to be covered over.

It was agreed unanimously that we should pursue this.

Following the rule changes that were agreed at the AGM it would be very hard to produce a slip that could be handed out to be included within the current rules. It is suggested that we sell some advertising space to companies so that we could have a re-print that would cost the ECBA nothing at all. One supplier is Shot Bowl based near Peterborough, who is interested in having the inside back cover. Potters have also said that they would be interested in having the outside back cover, which would mean we would have to move our contact information to the inside front cover.

It was agreed unanimously that we should do this and people that have the 2003 edition may exchange those for a copy of the new booklet. A copy would also be given to member counties for each club within their membership.

Treasurer's Report.

The membership fees for 2005/06 have been received from all counties except Suffolk and Cambridgeshire. Could those delegates please speak to their respective treasurers. The balances showing for each of the associations bank accounts are as follows: Current account £1061.95, Premium account £127.18, High Interest account £14,390.84, giving a total of £15,559.97.

The bank is replacing the Business Premium account with a "Step Account". This will mean that the interest paid for money being kept in that account will vary according to the balance.

Referee's Report.

No report had been received from Mr. Storey for this meeting.

Review of AGM.

The proposed changes to the Constitution and the Rules were all accepted. Which was probably a direct result of counties have had time to discuss them in full prior to the meeting.

No discussion had taken place to increase fees, it was correct though for the Treasurer to show concern as the balance sheet does not always show everything.

The Secretary asked "When do Rule changes that are agreed at the AGM come into effect?" As the Champion of Champions takes place the day after the AGM and players taking part in that event probably have no idea that any rule changes have been proposed let alone been agreed.

It was agreed that any rule changes agreed at the AGM would come into force with immediate effect. This would mean that players would have to be informed before they start play in the Champion of Champions. The ECBA referee would also have to direct any trainers and accredited referees that attend that event, so that their decisions are consistent.

It was disappointing that no-one came forward to take on either of the Development roles or the position of Referee.

It is critical that someone comes forward to take on the role of Referee during the next year, Mr. Storey would like to have preferably one of the trainers or one of the accredited referees come forward. Should anyone be interested then they should contact Mr. Storey as soon as possible so that they can work alongside him during the next few months.

ECBA Competitions.

County Championships. All current members will be sending teams. Equipment will be supplied by Essex and Suffolk. The 9 sets from Suffolk will go into the Trafalgar and the Table Tennis rooms, Essex's 8 sets will be used in the Nelson. Meld Leisure will loan all 17 scoreboards. Cambridgeshire will sell the raffle tickets.

All counties to donate £25.00 worth of raffle prizes.

Norfolk delegate to check the boards are still at Seacroft and are still suitable for the purpose

The travel subsidy for this year will be paid at the same rate as last year.

Triples 2003. South Tyneside have to date only received 27 entries for this event.

Delegates are asked to urge teams to send their entries in as soon as possible. The closing date is the 9th August. The hire of the venue will cost £400, South Tyneside have applied for a grant which if this is given would cover this cost.

Rinks 2005. It was agreed that this event will along with the Triples alternate North and South as it had in previous years.

The rota for events had been revised, but with Sunderland stating that they felt that they would like another year or two before hosting an event, Northumberland are to investigate available dates for end March beginning of April and inform secretary, if they not able to secure a date then Cambridgeshire to investigate possibly hosting the event at Soham. The secretary to again revise the rota ready for circulation at the next meeting.

The chairman stated that we must look at setting firm dates for the open competitions. Easter may be a consideration for the Open Rinks. Although that is a moveable date it is annual.

All counties were asked to supply dates to the secretary as soon as possible so that available dates can be recognised, although it is impossible to avoid everything.

Potters Mid Week Break. There are currently 118 people booked, a further 21 bookings to be confirmed. Delegates asked to remind those wishing to play at Potters to send their entries to Tony Cuthbert.

If numbers increase significantly at Potters then the format will have to be reviewed.

It was agreed that perpetual trophies should be purchased for all three competitions that form the Festival of Carpet at Potters. The names of the winners for the past two years to be engraved on them.

The secretary gave thanks to Tony for all the work he puts into the Potters break.

Champion of Champions. Congratulations were extended to all players and of course to the winners of the competitions.

The secretary stated that although this years event very well there are a couple of things that could improve the event.

All sessions to start on the sound of a whistle. This would ensure that all carpets were starting at the same time.

As the event is moving to the Norbreck next year and some people will be booked in for full board we will need to include a set lunch break. This can be easily done as we can extend play to suit ourselves.

Both these suggestions were agreed by those present.

Update from the Norbreck Hotel.

- a) As stated in the document circulated after the last meeting with the Norbreck there are revised dates. 2006 - 24th to 27th November, 2007 - 9th to 12th November, 2008 - 14th to 17th November, 2009 - 13th to 16th November, 2010 - 12th to 15th November. These revised dates mean that we will be at the Norbreck on the last weekend of the lights, at a price that we were originally told would not be possible for that weekend.
- b) It was agreed that prices for accommodation for both the Champion of Champions and the County Championships will include £10.00 per adult that will be paid by the Norbreck to the ECBA. This will cover the cost of trophies, the payment of travel subsidies and all other expenses related to these competitions.
- c) Storage - We are still waiting for confirmation that storage facilities are available. When confirmation is received if counties have or know of carpets that would be suitable then they should contact Mr. Storey. The off loading of old poor quality carpets will not be accepted.

Date of Next Meeting.

The dates for the next committee meeting 24th September 2005.

Any Other Business

North Tyneside - Insurance - had the secretary done anything regarding this as this county is having a problem securing suitable insurance at present.

The secretary stated that at present she had not had sufficient time to make arrangements for members of the ECBA to secure insurance through a single body.

Mr. Cuthbert - Child Protection - To have a criminal record check done there are two levels - standard at £29 per person and enhanced at £34 per person. This is providing you use an umbrella body. It is suggested that a club with youngsters should have written permission from parents/guardians.

Further information is available on www.disclosure.gov.uk

With all matters concluded the meeting was declared closed at 3:50 p.m.