



English Carpet Bowls Association

**Minutes of a Meeting held on Saturday 5th March 2005
At The Courtyard Hotel, Rotherham.**

Present: Chairman Mr. Tony Cuthbert, Vice Chairman Mr. Rob Washbrook
Secretary Mrs. Ann Hardy, Treasurer Mrs. Margaret Southgate,
Representatives from: Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire,
Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Suffolk, Sunderland.

Apologies for Absence

Norfolk, and ECBA Referee Mr. D. Storey

Carpet Bowls and the Future.

It was agreed unanimously that the ECBA would not seek any active involvement with the Unification of the Flat Green bodies, which will be known as "Bowls England Ltd."
With regard to the Facilities Strategy, it was accepted that the ECBA may not be financially able to be part of this project, although there are no actual costings available at present.

Following a very lengthy discussion, Cambridgeshire proposed that the ECBA should continue to attend meetings of the Bowls Alliance for the next 12 months or until we have sufficient information to be able to decide if the ECBA becomes a member of that body. This was seconded by Essex.

Before a vote was taken the Chairman asked the committee to consider that the Association should not expect anyone to continue to attend these meetings giving up paid work time without pay. As this directly affected the Secretary she temporarily left the meeting whilst this discussion took place.

When the Secretary was called back into the meeting she was informed that it had been agreed that whoever attended meetings of the Bowls Alliance on behalf of the ECBA would be able to claim £30 to partially recompense for loss of pay, plus any travel expenses. The Chairman gave instruction that no indication is to be given that we are fully committed to becoming part of the Bowls Alliance.

Venue for National County Championships 2006 onwards.

The dates that had previously been offered by the Norbreck Hotel for the County Championships to be held in April had been rejected and the Norbreck had been informed. The Norbreck had been asked for and had supplied dates at the end of November from 2006 onwards. The dates concerned are; 24th to 27th November 2006, 30th November to 3rd December 2007, 28th November to 1st December 2008, 27th to 30th November 2009 and 26th to 29th November 2010.

Suffolk asked if there would be any problems with the timings of meals fitting in with the format of the championships. It was stated that if any such problems existed they could be resolved.

North Tyneside asked if the security problems at the Norbreck had been resolved. It was stated that as far as it could be ascertained all old security problems had been resolved. Both Hertfordshire and Essex were concerned about the ECBA committing to a 5 year contract.

Suffolk asked if the ECBA would continue to pay travel subsidies to those counties attending the Championships.

The Chairman could not see any reason why a subsidy would not be paid at least to the Eastern Counties. It was also stated that Northumberland and South Tyneside would not expect to receive a subsidy if the Championships were relocated to the Norbreck.

Following a vote with 5 in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention it was agreed that from 2006 on the dates previously mentioned the National County Championships will be played at the Norbreck hotel Blackpool.

Further discussions with the hotel regarding, single occupancy supplement, entertainment, use of the ballroom in the evenings, refreshments being supplied in the Norcalympia and an agreement that providing a years notice is given that the ECBA can cancel the agreement without any financial penalty being incurred by the ECBA. These discussions are to take place before contracts are signed.

The secretary to arrange a meeting which both she and the Chairman will attend at the Norbreck.

The Chairman stated that we may wish to consider purchasing and storing carpets at the Norbreck. This to be on the agenda for the next meeting.

Date of next meeting.

The next meeting of the ECBA will take place on Saturday the 2nd April at the Courtyard hotel Rotherham, commencing at 1:00pm.

With all business concluded the meeting was closed at 3:45pm.

Note:

The Norbreck have now amended the date for the weekend available to us in 2007 – this is due to the fact that they will be having a Christmas party weekend break on the first weekend in December. So the revised date is 9th to 12th November.