

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION HELD ON
SATURDAY 18 AUGUST 2007**

Present: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and representatives from Durham, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Suffolk, Sunderland

1. **Apologies for absence**
Peter Boynton, Essex ; Jason Ellis, Cambs and Davide Russo (Referee)

2. **Minutes of last meeting**
Agreed and signed as a true record, North Tyneside/Hertfordshire.

3. **Matters arising**
On reading the last minutes (31/3/07) the Vice Chairman expressed his surprise and disappointment at the delegates decision not to pursue an English Pairs tournament. The Chairman re-iterated that Seacroft are not interested because T & D Bowls are organising bowling events at this venue.

Festival of Bowls - The date does not allow Cambridgeshire to participate in these events. Can we pursue something for a weekend?

ECBA Rinks - Present timing for this event is difficult. Following discussion it was agreed depending upon entries to leave the date to the County holding the event .

World Pairs - Potters - Do you endorse this tournament? It was agreed by vote (7 for, 3 abstentions) that we do not endorse this tournament.

Pairs - The Secretary agreed with the Vice Chairman on the proposed demise of the English Pairs and volunteered to pursue the matter further.

4. **Chairman's Report**
Nothing to report

5. **Secretary's Report**
Nothing to report

6. **Treasurer's Report**
Community Account - £948.75
Business Premium Account - £1238.89
Business Reserve Account - £15,032.56
In Total - all accounts - £17,220.20

The raffle at the Champion of Champions raised £224.10

The Treasurer asked if she could purchase a gift for the Auditor. Unanimously agreed.

7. **Referees Report**
I wish to report that the Champion of Champions went very well with the exception of the following comments:-
Timings - I see from the agenda that this will be discussed later on in full and you have my proposed new layout.
Walking up and down the mat when not playing. 2 complaints here.

1. Some county bowlers and spectators are walking and stopping to talk alongside the mats whilst games are taking pace to the dismay of those playing on those mats. On a number of occasions I witnessed the participants complain or I have had to ask these people to move on. remind your county members that it is common courtesy not to walk down the mats whilst players are bowling and that if they do have to move, do so at change of ends.

2. Hotel staff. On many occasions hotel staff were ferrying food alongside mats 1 and 7. Once again I requested this to stop and ask that they either wait or walk through the annex at the far end but to no avail. We are hiring the venue and therefore it should be made clear to the hotel staff that we do not want them shuttling up and down mats during games.

There were also some unofficial complaints of possible coaching from the sidelines. I am sure this was not the case and on both occasions I spoke to the counties concerned but once again this is not permitted. Players should be reminded to stand by their mats during games and not wander over to the spectators, however innocent it may be and similarly, spectators should afford more space around the mats and not stand over the bowlers shoulders.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all the participants with their general conduct and sportsmanship throughout the weekend.

8. Review of Champion of Champions - June 2007

(a) Incidents during the weekend

Hotel staff walking alongside mats whilst games in progress

The Chairman informed the meeting that as we do not pay for the hire of the Hall, we cannot stop the staff walking past the mats when bring the refreshments into the Hall. He suggested that as there is no time limit, the mats concerned should stop playing for the short time it takes for the trolleys to pass. This was unanimously agreed.

Comments regarding the unofficial complaints of possible coaching from the sidelines and players talking to spectators away from the mat, have been noted. Counties should be aware and if appropriate act accordingly. It was mentioned, however, that it may be non-county players concerned who do not necessarily know of the etiquette involved at county level.

People drinking near the mat and comments made by players after the games were dealt with at the event and later by the County(s) concerned.

(b) Timing of games

The timing for this event was re-examined and the following unanimously agreed:

Sunday games to commence at 9.30 am

Singles and Pairs - 30 minutes allowed, although games not timed.

Triples and Rinks - 65 minutes allowed, although games not timed.

Thanks to Suffolk for running the raffle and the Treasurer for purchasing the prizes.

The Secretary to circulate dates for the forthcoming National County Championship and the Champion of Champions events at The Norbreck Castle.

9. National County Championship - 9/12 November 2007

- (i) Counties to make their own arrangements for booking into the Hotel on arrival. (This was unanimously agreed by the delegates present.)
- (ii) Northumberland to provide the equipment.

It was agreed at this point that for the foreseeable future Northumberland will provide the equipment for the National County Championship and Durham for the Champion of Champions.

(iii) Raffle - Hertfordshire

Each county to provide raffle prize(s) to the value of £25.

- (iv) Administration - Computer scoring will be kept by Mrs June Sneddon from Northumberland and the manual scoring will be kept by Mrs Dawn Smith from Cambridgeshire.

The Secretary to produce all necessary paperwork for the weekend.

- (v) Their will be a friendly pairs run during the weekend. This will be administered by the competition table.

10. ECBA Triples

The Secretary informed the meeting that to date only 49 entries had been received for the Triples. All arrangements were in hand.

11. Bowls Alliance

The Chairman referred to the correspondence circulated on this subject from Mr Stephen Rodwell. It was proposed that Mr Rodwell be invited to the next meeting of the ECBA to answer the question "how much does it cost". If he is not able to answer this question, then there is no reason for him to attend. The Chairman will speak to Mr Rodwell and put forward our question and invite him to the meeting if he is able to respond to our question.

Vote: 6 for and 3 against.

12. Correspondence

(a) Short Mat Magazine

The Secretary referred to the letter received from Mr Bob Weafer regarding expanding his magazine to include articles on mat bowls. It was suggested that Mr Weafer be invited to our next meeting to discuss his suggestion in more detail.

Vote: 7 For, 2 abstentions.

(b) Bowls on Books Website

The Secretary informed the meeting of a request from Mr Geoff Barnett for a copy of the Rules for Playing mat Bowls to be included on the above website administered by himself together with contact details, cost of booklet and date of first booklet. This was unanimously agreed by all delegates who thought as good advertising for mat bowls.

The Secretary to contact Mr Barnett indicating that the ECBA Secretary should be the contact (name and e-mail address), that booklets were free of charge and the first booklet was produced in 2005. 2000 LATEST EDITION 2005

13. Date and Time of Next Meeting

Saturday 12 January 2008

14. Any Other Business

(a) Referee Course

This item to be included in the next meeting when the Referee will be in attendance.

(b) ECBA Website

To be discussed at next meeting when Jason Ellis will be in attendance. In the meanwhile Mick Watkins to pursue through Paul Daniels from Suffolk who maintains their website.

(b) Mick Watkins informed the meeting of an Bowls Information Day held in Suffolk recently. Very successful, 3 clubs and 2 Sports Centre interested. Information available from Suffolk on request.

(c) Mrs Thirsk informed the meeting that their equipment insurance payment had increased from £2.50 to £52.50 and asked if it possible to insure through the ECBA. She was informed that although initially the object of the ECBA insurance was to cover all counties, it was no cheaper for the majority of counties.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 2.20 pm

