

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the 17th Annual General Meeting Held on Friday 13th June 2008 At The Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool

Present: T Cuthbert, J Smith, E Warren, M Southgate
Representatives from: Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk,
Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Suffolk, Sunderland.
Plus approximately 25 other attendees.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 17th Annual General Meeting of the ECBA.

Apologies for Absence

No apologies for absence.

Minutes of last meeting

It was agreed that the minutes of the 16th AGM be signed by the Chairman as a true record. Proposed by Suffolk and seconded by Hertfordshire.

Matters Arising

No Matters Arising.

Chairman's Report.

Copy attached.

Secretary's Report.

Results of Competitions over the past 12 months

Champion of Champions 2007

Single - Craig Hearn

Pairs - T Haram/K Hutchinson (Durham)

Triples - J Smith/D Smith/I Blunsten (Cambridgeshire)

Rinks - D Storey/D Morgan/C Pearson/C Morton (Durham)

Overall County Team - Durham

Open Triples - M Laydon/M Simpson/M Campbell (Sunderland/Durham)

Inter County League 2007 (North -v- South) - Durham

National County Championships 2007 - Winner: Cambridgeshire, Runner Up: Suffolk

Open Rinks 2008

Durham - M Guy/D Storey/C Morton/T Grylls

Festival of Carpet Bowls - Potters May 2008

Singles - Neil Jolly (Suffolk)

Pairs - Nigel Mason/Marjorie Smith (South Tyneside)

Rinks - J & J Gibbs and M & D Humble (North Tyneside)

The Secretary congratulated the Chairman on his exemplary organisation of this festival.

Congratulations to all our winners and many thanks to those that have hosted or contributed in any way to the organisation of any of our competitions.

ECBA Contract with Norbreck Castle

Prices for 2011 and 2012 Champion of Champions and National County Championship have been agreed with The Norbreck Castle Hotel. Our present contract is rolling and after 2 years of competitions at this venue it seemed appropriate to discuss the next 2 years.

The price for 2011 will remain the same as 2010 but we will not receive free places (1 for every 41 booked). At present the free places are taken by the officials who pay their money into the ECBA.

English Carpet Bowls Association AGM 2007 minutes

Prices for 2010 and 2011 for half board (B & B and dinner)

C of C £78.00 p.p. for 2 nights (£88.00 p.p. with ECBA supplement)

National's £107 p.p. for 3 nights (£117.00 p.p. with ECBA supplement)

Prices for 2012 for half board (B & B and dinner)

C of C £80.00 p.p. for 2 nights (£90 p.p. with ECBA supplement)

National's £109.00 p.p. for 3 nights (£119 p.p. with ECBA supplement)

Child Protection Policy for Safeguarding Young People in Carpet Bowls

Matters are in hand to produce a policy for safeguarding children involved in carpet bowling

Books on Bowls Website

This is a website which gives details of publications on all types of bowling including carpet. Anyone requiring the rules for playing carpet bowls visiting this site will find my e-mail address.

To date I have received about 30 requests for a copy of the Rules which include Canada, Australia, Devon, Lincolnshire, Scotland.

Finally, my best wishes to Jamie Smith and Davide Russo for the future.

Treasurer's Report.

Copies of the balance sheet were made available to all those present. Copy of Balance Sheet and Treasurers Report attached.

Election of Officers

The current Vice Chairman and current Referee resigned from their positions.

Nominations have been received in writing for the following that are willing to stand for the positions indicated:-

Chairman	Tony Cuthbert
Vice Chairman	Peter Boyton
Secretary	Eve Warren
Treasurer	Margaret Southgate
Referee	David Storey

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected being present incumbents.

Mr Peter Boyton and Mr David Storey were elected to the positions of Vice Chairman and Referee respectively. This was unanimous.

The Chairman asked if anyone would be interested in the position of Development Officers, North and South. There was no interest.

Annual Membership

The Treasurer proposed that the annual membership fee for 2008/09 remains at £100 for Members and £20 for Associate Members. This was seconded by Hertfordshire and agreed unanimously by those present.

The Treasurer reminded all members that their fees are due within the next 30 days

Any Other Business

The representative from Cambridgeshire (Jamie Smith) intimated that members were not happy with this venue (The Norbreck Castle Hotel) and asked if the contracts for 2011 and 2012 were binding. The Chairman replied that they were not. Mr Smith asked if another venue could be used somewhere in a county on the eastern side of the country.

The Chairman replied that this would be included on the Agenda for the next ECBA meeting.

The representative from Hertfordshire asked about progress on the Child Protection Policy for the ECBA. The Secretary replied that this was in hand and a draft copy would be available soon.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.30 pm

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 13th JUNE 2008
CHAIRMANS REPORT

Welcome to the 17th AGM of the Association the third one at this venue.

As we did last year I will let the secretaries report cover the detail of the competitions and restrict my comments to other matters.

Firstly a very sincere thank you to every county and individual who has supported the ECBA over the last year, we hope for your continued support in the future.

As ever my personal thanks go to the officers and delegates on the committee all of these people deserve not just my thanks but yours as well for all the work they do throughout the season.

All of the County delegates should be fully up to speed on everything that has happened at our meetings since the last AGM so I will not need to go into detail during this report, if anyone has concerns or questions they can be dealt with during AOB.

This year due to work and family commitments two officers have decided to stand down from their positions the referee David Russo and the Vice chairman Jamie Smith both from Cambridgeshire, I would like to take this opportunity to thank them both for their efforts on behalf of the ECBA.

There have been some encouraging signs over the past year that more people in different areas are becoming interested in our game, whether the numbers will be significant enough to form counties etc remains to be seen.

On the promotion front we have not done as much as I would have liked, two things that we need to push on with are the new promotional leaflet and the website.

We are still without development officers both North and South, we intend to clearly define the role in the coming months and hopefully encourage someone to take on these positions.

As we look forward at what lies ahead, child protection is high on the agenda for us to deal with and you will be kept informed of any progress on that front, incidentally this will probably be relevant to clubs and counties as well as the ECBA.

As the credit crunch and fuel prices continue to pressurise people we would be naïve to think that the effects would not have an impact on carpet bowls the cost of venues at all levels are likely to rise significantly as organisations seek to pass on increases. Travel expenses for attending meetings will much higher, the cost of coaches and car travel to Blackpool will also be hit very hard. The natural thing for people to do when times get hard is to cut back on non essentials, unfortunately we all have to face the fact that our competitions could fall into this bracket and leave us facing a double whammy having hired the venue and then finding there are not enough entries to make it viable.

On the other hand people could see that coming to the competitions would be a welcome relief from the doom and gloom, I hope this is the case.

Can I thank Durham for the loan of the carpets and equipment and ask you to treat it with respect.

We wish all competitors the best of luck and hope you enjoy the weekend.

Remember at the end of play on Sunday it would be nice if there were plenty of volunteers to roll up the carpets.

Tony Cuthbert
Chairman



Secretary

Treasurers Report AGM 2008

This year I am happy to report that our combined Bank Balances have improved since this time last year by approx £2000.00. This is very encouraging having incurred the new expense of Insurance last year and Solicitor Fees, as well as refunding Raffle contributions and the one off payment of £500.00 to every County.

On the Income side our commission from the Norbreck was up, with those Officers who receive Free places from the hotel paying the cost of their accomodation direct to the Association. Our week at Potters continues to be a very good source of income for us, with the number of bowlers staying more or less at the same level.

The Expenditure is very much the same for Administration and meetings but I was able to find a new company for Insurance and that cost has reduced by over £270.00. The Champion of Champions does not include this years Trophies as they were not delivered to me until after the year end for these accounts. Unfortunately we incurred a loss at the ECBA Triples last September due to the high cost of hiring the venue in Sunderland. Finally, on expenditure, the travel subsidy to the County Championships increased this year because we no longer ask the counties to pay £1.00 per mile for the first 100 miles of the total mileage.

I wish to express my thanks to Mrs Sue Withell, my Auditor, who has signed these accounts as a true record.

Margaret Southgate

Margaret Southgate
Treasurer
13th June 2008

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Balance Sheet -----Year to 30th April 2008

INCOME

Balance brought forward
from 2007 17,378.23
10 County Fees 1000.00

Development/Promotion
Raffles 771.60
Sale of Rule Books/Badges 25.00

Commission from Norbreck
inc.Free Places, June and
November 5485.00
Pairs Competition 32.00

ECBA Triples 2007 540.00
ECBA Potters 2006/07 292.00
ECBA Potters 2008 2270.00

Bank Interest 384.21

28,178.04

ECBA Assets
Computer/Printer £300.00
Lapel Badges £10.00
Rule Books £100.00

Honorary Auditor *F. M. Mitchell*

EXPENDITURE

Administration
Officers Expenses, eg Postage
Telephone, Photocopying etc 471.62
Meeting Expenses, Venue & Travel 872.31
Insurance 367.50
Bal of Solicitors Fees 255.14

Development/Promotion
Raffle Prizes/Books 139.10
Trophy Centres 106.08

Champion of Champions
Officers Expenses inc Admin 241.47
Equipment Transport 120.00

ECBA Triples 987.57
ECBA Potters 2007 269.00

County Championships
Administration 201.82
Travel Subsidy 4048.00
Pairs Competition inc Trophies 131.96
Trophies 524.89
Equipment Transport 227.29

Combined Bank Balances 19,213.86

28,178.04

*Post Office
Bramford
Manager
01-06-2008*