

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION HELD ON
SATURDAY 28 MARCH 2009**

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

1. **Apologies for absence**
Referee, David Storey
2. **Minutes of last meeting**
Minutes agreed and signed as a true record.
3. **Matters Arising from previous minutes**
See Item 9
4. **Correspondence**
None
5. **Chairman's Report**
Nothing to report.
6. **Secretary's Report**
Nothing to report.
7. **Treasurer's Report**
Community Account - £750.45
Business Premium Account - £1260.65 (for development of bowls)
Business Reserve Account - £13,017.93 (includes interest of £3)
To date, we have not received the supplement from the Norbreck Castle for the C of C 2008 and the County Championships. Secretary to contact Hotel.
8. **Referee's Report**
Nothing to report
9. **Development of Carpet Bowls**
 - (a) **Leaflets**
Quotation received from Printers - £360 for 5,000 leaflets.
Distribution - to existing counties for their development; areas not covered by carpet bowls; Libraries; Village Halls, etc.
 - (b) **Website**
Everyone agreed - Excellent website. Interest from 4 new clubs in Hertfordshire, one in Norfolk. Possible involvement from Wiltshire/Hampshire. 50-60 'hits' on website per day. Possible membership application from Bedfordshire.
Request from Mick Watkins, Suffolk representative, for Paul Daniels to create a link from our website to his (T&D Carpet Bowls) as a thank you for his managing our website. *All representatives agreed.*
 - (c) **Demonstration of Carpet Bowls**
A Leisure Centre in Hampshire has asked for a demonstration of the game. This Centre is linked to two other council operated centres. Mick Watkins to organise. ECBA to pay expenses.
 - (d) **Insurance**
Treasurer to check with our Insurance to see if we are covered for borrowing carpets for tournaments
 - (e) **County Championships**
All counties agreed that 11 ends at the championships should continue to be played.

At the last meeting the Chairman expressed concern for the future of the ECBA Championships due to some counties maybe falling short of 24 players and asked counties for ideas to ease the problem.

Various suggestions were discussed in detail and rejected. The Secretary suggested that

players are 'borrowed' from other counties. Following considerable discussion, all delegates agreed the following:-

- if a county has less than 22 players, they are not allowed to participate in the tournament.
- If a county team falls to below the minimum level of 24 by no more than 2 players, they will be allowed to borrow from a 'pool' set up at the beginning of the tournament.
- The pool to consist of bowlers not nominated to play for their county but who are attending the event to support only. Names to be registered at the competition table before the commencement of the championships.
- a borrowed player to be drawn at random from the pool by ECBA Officials.
- the county who require to borrow a player must nominate the rink in which they are to play, (i.e. the rink with only 3 players) and the player must remain in that rink for all the tournament.
- If the maximum 2 players are borrowed, these players must be in different rinks.
- a borrowed player must not play skip.

10. AGM - Proposed Changes to Constitution/Rules?

All counties indicated that they had no constitutional or rules for playing carpet bowls changes to be proposed at the Annual General Meeting. The Chairman asked if all current Officers (with the exception of the Secretary who has resigned) are willing to stand for the coming year. They all acknowledged agreement. It was proposed by Suffolk and seconded by Essex that all officers to continue for a further year. Unanimous agreement.

11. Champion of Champions

Durham to provide equipment; Hertfordshire volunteered to do the raffle as Northumberland are excluded from raffle because they provide the mats for the Championships; Treasurer to organise raffle books and prizes. New supplier for trophies. Administration: Peter Boyton/Alex Russell, Secretary to do scorecards and score sheets.

Substitution

Any substitution through illness must be from own county. If no substitute available, county to withdraw from the discipline. Vote 7 for 3 against.

12. (a) ECBA Rinks - Easter Sunday

Administered by Essex. 40 rinks entered, 8 groups of 5, 12 carpets to be used.

(b) ECBA Triples

Run by North Tyneside at Wallsend. Second Sunday in September 2009.

(c) Potters

Entries - 59 Rinks; 122 Pairs; 144 Singles. Profit £2,714 for ECBA funds

13. Date of Next Meeting

Annual General Meeting, 12 June 2009.
Next Committee Meeting 22 August 2009.

14. Any Other Business

1. Subsidies

The Chairman expressed his concern for the time it takes for The Norbreck Castle to pay our subsidy and suggested the following for consideration.

(a) County Championships

The £10 per person subsidy included on the booking form for the hotel be discontinued and the travel subsidy that is currently paid to each county be adjusted accordingly (based on 32 players attending the tournament). This reduces the cost of the hotel by £10 for each person and this amount can be collected from the players by the county by whatever means they feel is appropriate.

(b) Champion of Champions

The £10 per person subsidy included on the booking form for the hotel be discontinued and the county pay a subsidy of £100 to the ECBA. This would mean cheaper accommodation for the players and if required the amount can be collected from the players by the county by whatever means they feel is appropriate.

This was agreed by 9 votes to 1.

2. Child Protection Policy

Northumberland representatives attended a training course and the following emerged as our needs with regard to the Child Protection and Vulnerable Adults Act:-

- a Child Protection Officer
- sponsored CRB checks.

Andy Gilder the Suffolk Child Protection Officer for attended a course and has produced a draft policy and covering letter for members of the Suffolk Association. This draft policy and letters given to each county for information. Additional information from Andy Gilder if required.

The Chairman indicated that we need this policy in place as soon as possible.

Meeting closed at 3.05 pm

