

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION HELD ON SATURDAY 20 AUGUST 2011

Present: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and representatives from Bedfordshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, North Tyneside & Suffolk

1. Apologies for absence

Jamie Smith (Vice-Chairman), Andy Gilder (Child Protection Officer) and representatives of Cambridgeshire, South Tyneside and Sunderland.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes

Website – It had been pointed out by Drakes Pride that that the metric conversion of bowl sizes was inaccurate and would need to be corrected.

More information was needed from counties for inclusion in the website, and more counties could have their own home page or website and use it for publicising their news.

Development of Carpet Bowls – Mick Watkins reported that there had been an enquiry from Chester regarding the possibility of forming a league and an acknowledgement from Derby of the advice received. A message was read from Roger Brayshaw of Pensol Carpet Bowls in France reporting on a thriving group of clubs in the Limousin/Dordogne region

4. Chairman's Report

Nothing to report.

5. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report

6. Treasurer's Report

Community Account - £384.81

Business Saver Account 1 - £704.37 (for development of bowls)

Business Saver Account 2 - £ 16,037.28 . The total balances were £17,126.46.

Five counties had received their travel subsidies for the National Championships, totaling £4,659.

All annual subscriptions had been received, except for Sunderland, and it was agreed that the Sunderland travel subsidy be paid with the £100 subscription deducted.

The payment for the free places and the supplements from the Champion of Champions had not yet been received from the Norbreck.

7. Referee's Report

Following the Referee's report, a discussion followed on the creation of a second tier of "County Referees" and the following was agreed:

National Trainers:

David Storey would be the National Trainer for the Northern Counties, and Mick Watkins would be the National Trainer for the Eastern Counties.

English Referees:

A maximum of six "English Referees" would be appointed in each county by the National Trainer in consultation with the trainer referee for the county concerned. Where the appointees did not possess a recent referee qualification they would first be required to attend a refresher course.

English Referees would be required to commit to be available to officiate at major events.

County Referees:

Existing referees who were not appointed as English Referees would be informed that they would be designated "County Referees" and would be empowered to officiate only at events held entirely within their home county.

County Associations would be able to appoint new County Referees if required, subject to certificates and badges being distinctively different from the English items.

Expenses incurred in the training and appointment of County Referees would be the responsibility of the County Association concerned.

8. Child Protection Officer's Report

Andy Gilder reported there seemed to be little or no movement from government regarding clarification of what they are now looking for regarding voluntary sectors and clubs.

- 9. Correspondence**
The Secretary reported on an email received from the Secretary of the Toddington club in Bedfordshire drawing attention to differences between the rules in the 2005 Rule Book and the rules published on the website. He had established that the Rule Book contained the authentic set of rules and advised that these should be relied upon pending corrections to the website.
It was agreed that a further supply of rule books be issued to each county.
It was also agreed that a re-writing of the rule book be undertaken and County Associations be invited to submit material for inclusion.
- 10. Review of the Champion of Champions 2011**
Competition arrangements - It was agreed that the competition and the timing had gone well. Thanks were expressed to North Tyneside for raising £207.50 on the raffle. There was some concern over the carpeting of the Norcalympia but it was understood that this was only a temporary measure for that event only.
Venues - A discussion took place on the possibility of alternative venues that could offer better bowling conditions at a more convenient location. An approach to the Britannia/Pontins Group had failed to produce a better alternative, and it was pointed out that the financial implications of a move away from that Group would be extremely difficult.
- 11. National County Championships 2011**
Programme – The draft programme was considered and, subject to corrections, was approved.
Raffle – Hertfordshire would run the raffle, and the Treasurer reminded counties to contribute prizes to a value of £25..
Scoring – The Treasurer and the Secretary would organise the scoring.
Spectators – The Chairman reported that a carpet layout had been designed to allow maximum visibility for spectators and that it would be made clear that spectators would not be allowed on the surface of the arena.
Presentations – The presentations would take place in the International Arena immediately after dinner on Sunday evening.
Sports Hall – It was hoped that two carpets would be placed in the sports hall for use by children and anyone else who wished to have a rollup.
- 12. National County Championships 2012**
Proposals from Potters Leisure Ltd and the Norbreck Hotel were considered. It was agreed that the proposal from Potters be accepted and, of the alternative dates offered, the 5/8 October was preferred by six votes to two.
It was agreed that at the January meeting, being the first after the National Championships, consideration be given to plans for 2013 in the interests of obtaining a regular and acceptable date for the event.
- 13. ECBA Competitions**
Open Triples – It was reported that 39 applications had been received for the event at Wolsingham School, Co. Durham, including entries from every county except one.
Open Rinks – This would be held by South Tyneside in April 2012, but no representative was present.
Open Triples 2012 – This would be organised by Cambridgeshire at the Ross Peers Sports Centre, Soham, on 9th September.
- 14. Promotional DVD**
A proposal by Squelen Productions was circulated and Rebecca Hearn was thanked for her efforts in arranging it. While it was recognised that much of the material would be produced in the south It was agreed that the opportunity of the National Championships at Potters in November be used to obtain a more national perspective. Apart from action shots, it was felt that staged material could be recorded at village halls in Hertfordshire to provide a balance between national and local interest. It was agreed to ask Mick Watkins, Rebecca Hearn, Dirk Vettewinkel and Jamie Smith to be involved in the filming.
- 15. Date of next meeting**
The next meeting would be on 21st January, 2012. A possible postponement of the August meetings to September was considered, but it was felt that this would create further difficulties with the timing of the National Championships.
- 16. Date of next meeting**
Potters Booking Forms – It was agreed that the Potters booking system had worked well, and that the booking form had been convenient and helpful. It was agreed to persevere with the block bookings.
Secretaryship - The Chairman suggested that it would be desirable to ease the workload of the Secretary by dividing the responsibilities between a Secretary and a Competitions Secretary. This was agreed unanimously and arrangements would be made to implement this at the next Annual General Meeting.