

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION HELD ON SATURDAY
22 JANUARY 2011**

Present: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, and representatives from Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Suffolk & Sunderland

1. Apologies for absence

North Tyneside

The Chairman referred to the death on 10th December of Tom Ross, a popular bowler who had linked carpet bowls in the North and South over many years.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were corrected to show that Eve Warren had proposed the increase in the travel subsidy, and were then agreed and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes

Development of Carpet Bowls – Development requests had been received from Derbyshire and from France, and contact had been made.

Website – Information was urgently needed for the website as it was currently short of news and content, and it was pointed out that the facility existed for each county to have its own page, although the ECBA would have to administer the whole site. Mick Watkins agreed to enquire if it would be possible for each county to have access to the content on its own page.

4. Correspondence

The Chairman reported that Andy Gilder had submitted resignation from the post of Child Protection Officer as he was moving to Leicestershire. Subsequently, however, his move had not materialised and he was now able to take up the post again. This was agreed unanimously.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that the dress code had not been properly observed by some players at the National Championships. It was agreed that the standard should be that required by each County Association and counties should be asked to consider ways of enforcing this.

There had been complaints about conversations occurring within earshot of games in progress. It was agreed that little could be done about this, but that excessive celebrations should be discouraged.

It was agreed that children in the playing arena should be under control at all times.

Applications for Norbreck accommodation had been much too late for the National Championships and this had created the difficulties with accommodation that had resulted.

6. Secretary's Report

Nothing to report.

7. Treasurer's Report

Community Account - £392.20

Business Saving Account 1 - £856.80 (for development of bowls)

Business Saving Account 2 - £16,033.08. The total balances were £17,282.08

The three outstanding £10 supplements had been paid by Suffolk. The supplement refunds had not yet been received from the Norbreck for June or November. The Secretary agreed to write.

The raffle at the National Championships raised £571, satisfactory considering the absence of one team.

8. Referee's Report

The referee referred to information from Essex that the county was introducing a rule that a qualified referee should be present at all League & Cup matches in the county, and that the county was undertaking a series of training courses to expand the number of referees. It was noted that the regulation that courses should be undertaken by two trainer referees from different counties was not being observed and it was agreed that, while the courses already planned could proceed, no more courses would be approved for the time being. The referee announced that he intended to devise a different course for the appointment of two or three Senior Referees, who would oversee future referee training. Consideration would also be given to extending the time after which referees would need to be re-examined, although there was no record of the existing referees.

9. Review of National County Championships 2010

The Secretary pointed out that the Norbreck policy was to release allocated accommodation two months before the event and, in 2010, of the 245 rooms allocated, only 33 had been taken up by 17th September. An unexpected demand on space at the Norbreck had then created the problem experienced by many bowlers.

10. Champion of Champions 10/12 June 2011

It was not yet clear how many counties would be participating pending the results of the County Tournaments. It was agreed to review the situation in March. Application forms were distributed.

11. National County Championships 11/13 November 2011

It was hoped that there would be full entry of eleven counties, but North Tyneside and Sunderland were experiencing difficulties in finding a team, and the situation would be reviewed in March. It was stressed that provisional names could be submitted with bookings, to be updated later. A note regarding cancellation insurance was circulated, and ideas for fundraising were discussed..

A draw was held to determine the order in which surplus accommodation would be offered to counties and the order was:

Sunderland
Norfolk
Suffolk
Bedfordshire
Northumberland
Essex
Durham
Hertfordshire
Cambridgeshire
South Tyneside
North Tyneside

Jamie Smith suggested that consideration be given to holding future ~~National Championships~~ *Champion of Champions* alternately in the north and south. Sunderland suggested that they might be held at a neutral venue.

12. Discussion on the functions of the ECBA

A letter from Jamie Smith was circulated and discussed:

Potters

The Chairman criticised the action of Jamie Smith in contacting Potters regarding prices after they had been agreed between Potters and the ECBA. Jamie Smith said that more than one person should be involved in the negotiations, and that Potters prices were aimed at keeping children away. These concerns were not being addressed. Mick Watkins said that the National Championships were an event for bowlers, not children, and that it was wrong to go behind the committee.

Functions

In a lengthy discussion, the following observations were made:

Mick Watkins said that officers elected should be allowed to operate without interference. Some of the ideas on development were worthwhile.

Margaret Southgate reported that she had attended meetings with Sport England, where there had been no interest in indoor bowls.

The Chairman pointed out that Sport England dealt with the Bowls Alliance with which we had decided not to be involved.

Jamie Smith proposed that a DVD be produced to assist in development projects.

Kay Cuthbert pointed out that a development budget existed.

Mick Watkins said that development material could go on the web and Facebook and suggested that a DVD could be filmed at the Festival.

Trevor Tumber asked that the Secretary write to Central Bedfordshire Council to seek help in promoting carpet bowls.

The Chairman referred to a suggestion that carpet bowls should feature in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards, but this would not be possible until we had qualified coaches.

Jamie Smith said that he had written to delegates because his email correspondence with the Chairman had been circulated, unprofessionally, by the Secretary and he needed to explain his position in detail.

The Chairman said that issues should be addressed, but that writers of emails should be prepared to have their comments published.

Eve Warren suggested that communication by telephone would be better.

Colin Young said that if he had a point to make, he would make it in a letter to the Secretary.

13. Competitions

Rinks 2011 - to be held by Hertfordshire on 15th May at Ware Drill Hall

Triples 2011 - to be held by Durham on 11th September at Woosingham School Sports Hall.

14. Dates of Next Meetings

It was agreed to book Committee Meetings on 20th August 2011, 21st January and 24th or 31st March 2012. (31st March 2012 was booked)

15. **Any Other Business**

(a) National Championships 2012

Jamie Smith asked what venue was being proposed for 2012. The Secretary explained that an offer from Potters was awaited, and the Chairman said that the subject would be raised with Potters at the Festival in May.

(b) Champion of Champions 2012

It was agreed to consider alternative venues at the March meeting.

(c) National Championship Presentations

The Secretary reported criticisms of the arrangements at Blackpool for the presentations. It was agreed that in 2011, the presentations should take place in the International Arena immediately after the competition.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Smith', with a flourish at the end.