

## MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION HELD ON SATURDAY 18 AUGUST 2012

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

**1. Apologies for absence**

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

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

The Chairman regretted that there had been only two meetings during the previous year as there would not have been a quorum for the March meeting. He urged all members to take attendance at meetings more seriously.

**3. Matters Arising from previous minutes**

Website & Development of Carpet Bowls – Mick Watkins reported that he had conducted two demonstrations in Bedfordshire and Yorkshire, and had assisted in setting up two clubs in Suffolk which, as they were close to the boundary, were being encouraged to join Norfolk. He had also conducted a rule awareness course in Suffolk which had been very worthwhile.

**4. Matters arising from the Annual General Meeting**

Amended Rules New rule books were circulated. It was agreed to make a free issue of up to 50 books to each county, and to order a further 500 books for sale at 50 pence per copy.

Co-option It was agreed to renew the co-option of Paul Daniels as Competitions Secretary.

**5. Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that non-observance of the dress code was growing. It was agreed that it was only appropriate to enforce the dress code in the three main events – National Championships, Champion of Champions and the Festival of Carpet Bowls. It was also agreed that the dress code be included in the programme for the National Championships, and that a covering letter be sent to each county warning that the dress code would be strictly enforced at the Championships and that one point would be deducted for each infringement.

The issue of slow play was also discussed and it was agreed to include in the letter an expectation that play at the National Championships should proceed at a reasonable pace and that games should be completed within the allotted 60 minutes. It was also agreed that, in the event of a game still being in play after 65 minutes, the referee be empowered to intervene.

**6. Secretary's Report**

Nothing to report

**7. Treasurer's Report**

Community Account - £1,925.83

Business Saver Account 1 - £704.69 (for development of bowls)

Business Saver Account 2 - £19,045.81 . The total balances were £21,676.33

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

All annual subscriptions had been received, except for one which was on the way.

The Treasurer reported on the effect of an additional increase of 25p each way in the travel subsidy, as suggested at the AGM. The total additional cost would be £833, and it was agreed to defer consideration of this until the next year.

**8. Referee's Report**

Following the decision at the AGM to appoint two referees to take separate responsibility for the north and the east, it was agreed that this arrangement would be impractical and after lengthy discussion it was agreed, as an interim measure, that David Storey would resume the position of National Referee, with Colin Young and Mick Watkins as Vice-Referees for the north and the east respectively.

**9. Child Protection Officer's Report**

Nothing to report.

- 10. Correspondence**  
The Secretary circulated an email received from Joy Stephens of West Norfolk enquiring about membership of the ECBA. It was agreed that the ECBA Constitution limited membership to Associations representing whole Counties or Metropolitan Boroughs, so it would not be possible to grant membership to a part of a county. It was agreed to urge the West Norfolk clubs to strengthen their ties with the County Association, to which they are now affiliated. The Chairman said that he and the Secretary were always willing to attend meetings if it was thought helpful.
- 11. Review of the Champion of Champions 2012**  
An email received from Jamie Smith detailed the inadequacies of the Norbreck, both in administration and playing conditions, and urged that an alternative be found. The discussion covered the desirability of having the whole event under one roof, the financial implications and the lack of suitable facilities in the north of England. It was reported that Norfolk, as well as Bedfordshire, had decided not to attend events at the Norbreck.  
It was agreed to invite suggestions for alternative arrangements and to consider the problem in detail at the January meeting.  
It was pointed out that the Champion of Champions is committed to the Norbreck until after the 2013 event.
- 12. National County Championships 2011**  
Programme – The draft programme was considered and generally approved, but the Secretary was requested to approach Potters with the suggestion that the presentations take place on Sunday evening in the Atlas Theatre, following the bingo session.  
Raffle – In view of the serious congestion around the raffle table, it was agreed to suggest to Potters re-siting it behind the viewing window.
- 13. ECBA Competitions**  
**Open Rinks 2012** – No representative was present, but it was reported that the event had made a loss of £51.  
**Open Triples 2012**– It was reported that 39 applications had been received for the event at Soham. Jamie Smith had suggested holding future events later in the season.  
**Open Rinks 2013** – This would be held at Lynnsport & Leisure Park, Kings Lynn, Norfolk on 21<sup>st</sup> April 2013.  
**Open Triples 2013** – This would be organised by Northumberland in September 2013.
- 14. Promotional DVD**  
A preview of the DVD was viewed and a number of suggestions were made for items to be included or altered in the completed version. The Chairman thanked Rebecca Hearn for her efforts.
- 15. Dates of future meetings**  
The next meetings would be on 19<sup>th</sup> January and 30<sup>th</sup> March, 2013.
- 16. Any other business**  
It was suggested that some bowlers had taken part in the Champion of Champions without being resident at the Norbreck. The Secretary undertook to make enquiries.