

# ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the 21st Annual General Meeting Held on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2012 At The Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool

Present: T Cuthbert, D. Vettewinkel, M Southgate, D Storey  
Representatives from: Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Suffolk, Sunderland.  
Approximately 27 other attendees in total

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 21st Annual General Meeting of the ECBA.

### **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Jamie Smith, Andy Gilder, Mike Walker, Alex Russell, Dean Clarke, Paul Dalliday, Mick Watkins and Ernie Burrows.

### **Minutes of last meeting**

It was agreed that the minutes of the 20th AGM be signed by the Chairman as a true record. Proposed by Hertfordshire and seconded by Northumberland.

### **Matters Arising**

No Matters Arising.

### **Chairman's Report.**

Welcome to the 21st AGM of the English Carpet Bowls Association.

As usual I will let the Secretary's report cover the detail of the competitions and restrict my comments to other matters. I will start by giving my very sincere thanks to every county and individual who has supported the ECBA over the last year, we hope for your continued support in the future.

All of the County delegates should be fully up to speed on everything that has happened at our meetings since the last AGM. All information should have been passed on to their respective county members; anyone with concerns or questions can be dealt with during AOB. During this meeting we are going to address some amendments to the rules, hopefully there is nothing too contentious and all delegates have come here with the mandate to vote one way or the other. If we fail to reach agreement this would delay the amendments until the next AGM, however it is important that we are happy with the outcome.

This has been a year that has left me with very mixed feelings, after quite a stormy lead up to holding the County Championships at Potters Leisure Resort this did prove to be very successful and seemed to meet with everyone's approval that did make the effort to attend the event. Having the attendance of eleven counties for the first time was the icing on the cake; unfortunately it looks as if this will be the last time as the sad news that North Tyneside had decided to disband reached us shortly after the event. Even more concerning is the reality that there are more counties struggling to stay in existence, this will affect all of the member counties to some degree as the way our events are structured will need to be tailored to suit our needs.

Another disappointment for me was the fact that although we only have three scheduled meetings per year we failed to fulfil that quota which is why we have to discuss the rules at this meeting. In my opinion more effort should have been made by some delegates so we at least had a quorum to hold the meeting, dates are set well in advance and some delegates even took annual leave from work to attend. Looking forward we clearly have work to do in trying to keep our membership intact; every member county and individual bowler is important to the ECBA and officers and delegates must lead by example by showing our commitment to this association otherwise 21 years of hard work will very soon be eroded.

On a more cheerful note there are some positives as we have supplied equipment to two clubs in the Limousin area of France and reports suggest it is becoming quite popular with a healthy membership already. We also had some interest during the recent Bowls Festival event at Potters where we held two demonstrations and a promise of an entry to the event next year by another club.

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.

You may remember that last year Dirk had decided to step down from the position of Secretary, we were very reluctant to lose his experience and dedication so we looked at the possibility of reducing the workload to see if Dirk felt he could continue in his role as General Secretary. We thought we would try by removing the responsibility of the competitions from the general role to see how it would work. Our thanks go to Paul Daniels who we have co-opted into this role and he will be keeping scores etc. of this weekend's event.

Tony Cuthbert Chairman

### **Secretary's Report.**

Results of Competitions over the past 12 months

Champion of Champions 2011

Single - Leigh Mynott (Cambridgeshire)

Pairs - Craig & Rebecca Hearn (Hertfordshire)

Triples – Simon Smith, Beryl & Colin Wicks (Cambridgeshire)

Rinks – John Leonard Snr., Steven Templeton, Ross Clark, John Leonard Jnr. (Northumberland)

Overall County Team - Cambridgeshire

Inter County League 2011 (North -v- South) – Suffolk

National County Championships 2011 - Winners: Cambridgeshire, Runners Up: Suffolk

Open Triples 2011

Davide Russo, Jason Ellis, Paul Ellis (Cambridgeshire)

Open Rinks 2012

Danny Morgan, John Kinghorn, Karl Pearson, Sdimon Kinghorn (Durham)

Festival of Carpet Bowls - Potters May 2012

Singles - Martin Campbell (Sunderland) for the third year in succession.

Pairs - Ally Goodrich & Neil Jolly (Suffolk)

Rinks - Jonathan & Joey Stones and Sue & Peter Jones

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.

National County Championships

The 2011 Championships were a great success and were notable for a new venue and a full entry of 11 counties. All players benefited from greatly improved playing conditions and the standard of all the matches was most impressive. Thanks are due to the team organisers in each county who responded very well to the different booking system operated by Potters, and everything went very smoothly.

North Tyneside

Sadly, the 2011 County Championships were the last occasion, at least for the time being, with 11 county teams competing. Immediately after this weekend's Champion of Champions, the North Tyneside Carpet Bowls Association will cease to exist due to shortage of members. The ECBA is deeply indebted to John & Joy Gibbs for their continued efforts in the face of severe difficulties over several years, and we share their disappointment that the Association cannot continue. We hope that the remaining North Tyneside members will be able to find a way of continuing in the sport and we wish them well.

ECBA Website

The website continues to provide carpet bowls with a window to the world, and it has enabled us to give many interested people access to carpet bowls. In particular, it has given us the opportunity to establish the sport where it did not previously exist - recently, with groups in France and in Derbyshire. The website now has links with six of our ten member counties, as well as the Eastern Counties Association, and we hope that other counties will soon be able to share in the benefits.

Child Protection Policy

We are grateful to Andy Gilder for keeping us informed on child protection legislation. The government has indicated that a more relaxed and commonsense approach will be sought but it is perhaps understandable that in the present economic situation this is not as high a priority as we would wish.

### Referee Training

We have reformed the training and qualification of referees. We are working towards appointing a maximum of six referees per county with up-to-date ECBA qualifications. In addition, we have authorised the appointment of County Referees, who will be trained and approved by County Associations, to officiate at events wholly within their home county. The Referee, David Storey, has indicated that he will not seek re-election at this AGM, and we wish to thank him for his detailed work in creating the original corps of referees, his efforts in the recent reforms to the system and for his constant presence at our competitions over many years.

### Secretaryship

Last year, I asked to be relieved of the Secretaryship at this AGM. I am grateful to the committee for agreeing to divide the tasks of the Secretary by co-opting Paul Daniels as Competitions Secretary and I feel that I must respond by continuing, if elected, at least for the time being. I am very grateful for the help, support and friendship of the officers, committee and carpet bowlers throughout the country.

Dirk Vettewinkel  
Secretary

### Treasurer's Report.

Our Balance Sheet shows an almost identical bank balance at the year end as the figure brought forward from 2011.

On the Income side we still have 11 Counties and one Associate Member. Commission from the Norbreck is obviously lower as we no longer have the National Championships at Blackpool but this is balanced by the commission from Potters last November together with the free places which they gave us. Both the ECBA Rinks and Triples made a small profit in 2011, whilst the Festival of Bowls entry was slightly down.

The Expenditure shows a decrease in Administration as we had no major purchases this year. The cost of the Champion of Champions was up due to the increased cost of travel to Blackpool but the County Championships were down as we had no transport cost for equipment and reduced travel expenses for the Officers.

My Auditor was Sue Withell once more and she agreed that the Accounts were a true record and signed them accordingly.

Margaret Southgate  
Treasurer

### Referee's Report

It has been another quiet year regarding the referee's position, which is not exactly surprising as I said at the last AGM that I would stand for another year and keep things ticking over. Unfortunately things have not worked out as planned at home since my retirement from work as I find myself working longer hours than I did before. Other issues including Aline's illness and ongoing problems have also contributed to the lack of progress which I feel is needed in the referee's training.

I decided a few months ago that I would not stand again as referee as I feel I can no longer give the role the proper time and effort it deserves and needs. I feel that it needs someone with time and commitment to progress the referee courses and training which sadly I do not think I can.

There has been one Referees' course carried out in Suffolk this year with eight candidates passing the course. Congratulations to them. The admin side (by me) for this course has not gone without its problems. Firstly I sent out the letters to the candidates informing them of the outcome in November last year only to be informed in February that no one had received them. I promised to re-send them as soon as possible but with things happening at my end they were allowed to slip. I have now recovered the original letters, and included an apology, which are ready to be distributed this weekend along with the certificates. I feel that I have let the candidates, trainers and the E.C.B.A. down very badly which is also a reason for not standing as referee again. I can only apologise to everyone concerned - no one will know how I feel.

We have two trainers, Mick Watkins and Jim Goodrich from Suffolk, who have been doing a lot of work in the Eastern Counties. I am most grateful for their efforts. It does not seem a lot - two trainers and eight referee's in a years work but it is a start.

May I take this opportunity to apologise to everyone concerned with the ECBA for my lack of effort and any embarrassment this may have caused. May i also thank the officers, delegates and everyone who has helped me with the role over the years - it has been much appreciated.

I wish the association well for the future and I am sure in these difficult times under the guidance of the officers and delegates It will continue to survive.

David Storey  
Referee

## **Election of Officers**

### Current Officers

Chairman	Tony Cuthbert
Vice-Chairman	Jamie Smith
Secretary	Dirk Vettewinkel
Treasurer	Margaret Southgate
Child Protection Officer	David Storey

There being only one nomination received for each of the current officers, they were declared elected. No nominations had been received for the post of Referee, and it was agreed to elect two referees to cover the north and the south. It was proposed by Sunderland, seconded by Hertfordshire and agreed that Colin Young be elected as Referee for the north. There was no nomination for the south but it was agreed that Mick Watkins be invited to fill the vacancy.

The Chairman expressed the gratitude of the Association to David Storey for his work over many years.

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

## **Amendments to Rules for Playing Carpet Bowls**

The following amendments were considered:

Rule 1.4	Delete rule (Bedfordshire)	<b>Defeated</b>
Rule 1.8	Delete "not exceed 96mm (3.78ins)" Insert "be 98mm (3.875ins)" (Suffolk)	<b>Approved</b>
	Delete "nor be a less bias than a no.3" Insert "and be No. 3 bias" (Northumberland)	<b>Approved</b>
Rule 2.3	Delete rule (Bedfordshire & Northumberland)	<b>Approved</b>
Rule 4.2	Delete "umpire" and insert "referee" (Essex) Delete "when they agree" (Essex)	<b>Approved</b> Approved
Rule 6	Insert new rule 6.3: (i) ONLY the Skip or designated player of the team conceding the shot(s) should remove the counting wood(s) from the head. These woods should be placed in a blank area of the carpet to avoid possible confusion later (ii) Under no circumstances should members of the team claiming the shot(s) touch or move any wood until after the final score is agreed. (Essex)	<b>Approved</b>
Rule 7.1	Add "or stopping and removing a foul wood" to final paragraph (Northumberland)	<b>Approved</b>
Rule 7.6	Delete "the skip shall cause that wood to be declared dead" Insert "one shot shall be deducted on that and each subsequent occasion" (Durham)	<b>Defeated</b>

English Carpet Bowls Association AGM 2012 minutes

Rule 7.7	Delete rule	(Durham)	<b>Approved</b>
Rule 8.2	Delete “declared a dead end and”	(Suffolk)	<b>Approved</b>
Rule 9.1	Delete either “between” or “through”	(Suffolk)	<b>Defeated</b>
Rule 9.2	Delete rule	(Essex)	<b>Defeated</b>

**Annual Membership**

The Treasurer proposed that the annual membership fee for 2012/13 remain at £100 for Members and £20 for Associate Members. This was agreed unanimously.

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

**Any Other Business**

Colin Young asked if consideration be given to increasing the travel subsidy by 25p per mile. The Treasurer undertook to work out figures on this basis and report back to the August meeting.

Rebecca Hearn, on behalf of Hertfordshire, said that Potters was a good venue for the National Championships and the booking process had worked very well.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.40 pm

INCOME

Balance brought forward	
from 2011	21,342.61
10 County Fees	1,100.00
1 Associate Fee	20.00

Development/Promotion

Raffles	814.20
Referee Courses/Rule Books	152.50

Commission from	
Norbreck June 2011	943.00
Potters Nov. 2011	3,240.00
Free Places Potters 2011	368.00

ECBA Rinks 2011	353.50
ECBA Triples 2011	497.00

Potters 2011 inc. Free Places	866.00
Potters 2012	1,970.00

Bank Interest	8.90
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31,675.71

## ECBA Assets

Computer	£400.00
Rule Books	£100.00

S.M. Withell  
Honorary Auditor  
01.06.2012

EXPENDITUREAdministration

Officers' Expenses, eg Postage, Telephone, Photocopying etc	224.54
Meeting Expenses, Venue Travel	562.12
Insurance	434.60

Development/Promotion

Raffles	138.50
Referee Courses/ Development of New Clubs	578.89

Champion of Champions

Trophies 2009	9.90
Equipment Transport	285.00
Officers' Expenses inc Admin	531.19

ECBA Rinks 2011	333.00
ECBA Triples 2011	490.58

Potters Admin 2011 inc. trophies	488.07
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County Championships

Administration	93.03
Travel Subsidy	5,853.00
Trophies	312.79

Donation in memory of Peter Boyton 100.00

Combined Bank Balances	21,340.50
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31,675.71