

# ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

## Minutes of the 22nd Annual General Held on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013 At The Norbreck Castle Hotel, Blackpool

Present: T. Cuthbert, J. Smith, D. Vettewinkel, M. Southgate, D. Storey, A. Gilder, P. Daniels  
Representatives from: Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Suffolk & Sunderland.  
Approximately 23 other attendees in total

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 22nd Annual General Meeting of the ECBA.

### Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from 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 21st 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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 concern or questions can be dealt with during AOB.

This has been another successful year in many ways but we are still seeing support for events and carpet bowls in general dropping at an alarming rate. A large proportion of the problem is the ageing population of the carpet bowler which, coupled with the ongoing economic state of affairs, is making it very difficult for all concerned.

The Carpet Bowls Festival held at Potters in May continues to be well supported, although this year there were quite a few last minute changes to make to the draw, but once again the event ran smoothly and was enjoyed by the competitors and they did appreciate the mementos they received to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the event.

After 11 years in my role as Chairman I have decided to step down from this position. I thought long and hard before taking this decision but on balance decided the time was right for me as personal issues were needing to be addressed. I would like to say my term as Chairman has been a real pleasure but, in truth, there have been many issues to deal with over the years – some of them quite unsavoury and unnecessary. Nevertheless together we have worked through problems and hopefully have gained both experience and a better understanding of how to move forward as one unit for the good of all ECBA members.

In particular, I would like to give special thanks to our Treasurer, Margaret Southgate, who throughout my term in office has done a terrific job in looking after our finances. The same applies to David Storey in his role as Referee and Dirk Vettewinkel in his role as Secretary. All of these officers have worked extremely hard on your behalf over the years. Over the years they have become more than just officers and I view them as friends and wish them well for the future as they continue their roles in the ECBA.

For the time being I will still be involved with Northumberland but will not be attending the ECBA meeting as a delegate – someone else has very kindly agreed to take on that role for us. This doesn't mean I no longer care for the ECBA and I sincerely hope it continues to grow and be successful. I leave this position with the ECBA in good shape both financially and by way of fulfilling our obligations set out in the constitution. My only word of advice would be to not try and fix things that aren't broken.

Thank you and good luck to you all for this weekend and the future.

Tony Cuthbert  
Chairman

### Secretary's Report.

## **Results of Competitions over the past 12 months**

### **Champion of Champions 2012**

Single – Martin Campbell (Sunderland)

Pairs – Ian Blunsten, Amy Foulkes (Cambridgeshire)

Triples – Carl Pearson, Stephen Walker, David Storey (Durham)

Rinks – John Leonard (Sr.), Steven Templeton, Ian Clark, John Leonard (Jr.) (Durham)

Overall County Team - Sunderland

### **Inter County League 2012 (North -v- South) – Suffolk**

**National County Championships 2012** - Winners: Cambridgeshire, Runners Up: Suffolk

### **Open Triples 2012**

Reepham (Norfolk)

### **Open Rinks 2013**

Joan & Chris Clark, Maxine & Don Poulter (Essex)

### **Festival of Carpet Bowls - Potters May 2013**

Singles - Paul Cousins (Suffolk)

Pairs - David & Linda Williams (Cambridgeshire)

Rinks - Jan Miller, Audrey Slowther, Rene & Blanche Barnett (Durham)

## **National County Championships**

The 2012 Championships were held at Potters for the second year but, regrettably, with only 10 counties participating following the loss of North Tyneside.

Slight alterations to the procedure following the experience of 2011 had improved the running of the event.

## **ECBA Website**

The website has continued to provide valuable information on our sport to the outside world, and it attracts messages of appreciation for the help given to many clubs and sporting organizations both in the UK and abroad. The website now has links with two more of our ten member counties bringing the total to eight, as well as the Eastern Counties Association, and we hope that other counties will soon be able to share in the benefits.

## **Promotional DVD**

Much work has been applied throughout the year to the production of a DVD for the promotion of carpet bowls and the project is now near completion. Our thanks are particularly due to Rebecca Hearn for her considerable efforts in getting this under way, together with the many members of County Associations who contributed to the project.

## **Child Protection Policy**

Although there are signs of movement, the Government has yet to introduce the promised changes to child protection legislation. Andy Gilder is monitoring the situation closely and we are grateful to him for watching the interests of the Association and our members.

## **Referee Training**

We have to report that there has been little progress this year with referee training, mainly owing to reported lack of interest from potential referees, particularly in the north.

## **Competition Secretary**

We are very grateful to Paul Daniels for his efforts as Competitions Secretary. He has conducted the National Championships and the National Champion of Champions with care and speedy efficiency.

## **Tony Cuthbert**

After a long and distinguished record as Chairman of the ECBA, Tony Cuthbert has announced his intention to retire at this Annual Meeting. This year's Festival was therefore the tenth, and last, organised by him. Throughout these ten years, the event has been the personal effort of Tony, ably assisted by Kay, and theirs has been a massive contribution to carpet bowls

Dirk Vettewinkel

7<sup>th</sup> June, 2013

## **Treasurer's Report.**

We have a slight improvement in our Balance Sheet this year of approx. £600.00. On the Income side our commission from the Norbreck is up because we now take it in different way, instead of losing 20% in VAT it was decided that if some of our bookings were done through the ECBA direct we would not lose the VAT and it has certainly been worthwhile although it has given Dirk, our Secretary, some extra work with the hotel. Potters Are still giving us a good source of income with both the Festival in May and the Championships in November.

Expenditure shows an increase in Admin. due mainly to the cost of travel to and from meetings. We obviously had a large increase in development costs as we amended the Rules last year and have had two or three reprints of the 2012 Rule Books. The overall cost of the Champion of Champions and the National Championships were similar except for one less County claiming the travel subsidy.

My thanks go again to Sue Withell, my Auditor, who has agreed these accounts are a true record.

Margaret Southgate  
Treasurer

### **Referee's Report**

There was no report

### **Election of Officers**

On behalf of the members of the Association Executive Committee, Jamie Smith presented Tony Cuthbert with a crystal bowl in recognition of his long and distinguished service to the ECBA. Tony Cuthbert thanked the members for their generous gift, which he much appreciated,

The Chairman reported that there were two nominations for Chairman:  
Jamie Smith (proposed by Cambridgeshire & seconded by Essex)  
Mike Walker (proposed by Bedfordshire & seconded by Hertfordshire)  
He explained that Mike Walker was unable to be present for personal and business reasons – it was agreed by 7 votes to 1 that his nomination should stand.  
A secret ballot was held and resulted in 4 votes each for Jamie Smith and Mike Walker.  
The Chairman exercised his casting vote in favour of Mike Walker and declared him elected.

Jamie Smith agreed to serve as Vice-Chairman and, there being no other nomination, he was declared elected.

Only one nomination had been received for each of the remaining officers:  
Secretary: Dirk Vettwinkel (proposed by Essex & seconded by Cambridgeshire)  
Treasurer: Margaret Southgate (proposed by Bedfordshire & seconded by Northumberland)  
Referee: David Storey (proposed by Sunderland & seconded by Northumberland)  
Child Protection Officer: Andy Gilder (proposed by Sunderland & seconded by Northumberland)

The Chairman therefore declared them elected.

### **Annual Membership Fee**

The Treasurer proposed that the Annual Membership Fee remain at £100 per County Association and £20 for Associate Members. This was seconded by Kay Cuthbert and agreed unanimously.

### **Any Other Business**

There being no other business, the Chairman thanked members for their attendance and declared the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

## English Carpet Bowls Association AGM 2013 minutes

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATIONBalance Sheet ----- Year to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013INCOME

Balance brought forward from 2012	21,340.50
10 County Fees	1,000.00
1 Associate Fee	20.00

Development/Promotion

Raffles	895.00
Referee Courses/Rule Books	198.50

Commission from Norbreck June 2012	1,498.00
Commission from Potters Oct 2012 inc. free Places – Nat. Champs.	3,688.00

ECBA Rinks 2012	584.00
ECBA Triples 2011	401.50
Adj. to Income from Triples	.21

Potters 2013 inc. Free Places	2,976.00
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Bank interest	8.92
Cheques not presented	223.75

32,834.38

## ECBA Assets

Computer	£350.00
Rule Books	£250.00

S.M. Withell  
Honorary Auditor  
28.05.2013

EXPENDITUREAdministration

Officers' Expenses, eg Postage, Telephone, Photocopying etc	398.52
Meeting Expenses, Venue Travel	803.43
Insurance	455.80

Development/Promotion

Raffles	138.50
Referee Courses/ Development of New Clubs	392.27
Printing of new Rule Books	802.00

Champion of Champions

Equipment transport	300.00
Officers' expenses inc. admin.	317.56

County Championships

Administration	339.85
Travel	4,998.00
Trophies	492.77

ECBA Rinks 2012	635.00
ECBA Triples 2012	339.66
New base Triples Trophy	27.50

Potters Admin 2012 inc. trophies	438.92
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Combined Bank Balances	21,954.60
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32,834.38