

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION HELD ON SATURDAY 29 MARCH 2014

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

1. **Apologies for absence**
Jamie Smith, Paul Dalliday & David Storey.
2. **Minutes of last meeting**
The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.
3. **Matters Arising from previous minutes**
Development of Carpet Bowls David Storey had conducted a demonstration in Kirkby Stephen Leisure Centre, Cumbria. It had gone well, with 16 attending. Mick Watkins reported that a further demonstration in Cumbria was pending. Norfolk reported that a festival to mark the 30th anniversary of carpet bowls in Norfolk was being organized, featuring an open tournament and mats available for demonstrations. The event was being circulated to every village in the county.
4. **Correspondence**
There was no correspondence.
5. **Chairman's Report**
The Chairman had nothing to report that was not covered elsewhere in the agenda.
6. **Secretary's Report**
The Secretary had nothing to report that was not covered elsewhere in the agenda.
7. **Treasurer's Report**
Community Account - £1,072.53
Business Saving Account 1 - £322.56
Business Saving Account 2 - £18,559.16 . The total balances were £19,954.25
The balances were approximately £1000 down on the same time in the previous year, but this had included costs in producing the DVD. She asked that any expenses be sent to her in time for the books closing on 30th April.
8. **Referee's Report**
There was no report in the absence of the Referee.
9. **Child Protection Officer's Report**
There was no report in the absence of the Child Protection Officer.
10. **Annual General Meeting**
The Annual General Meeting would be held at the conclusion of bowling on Saturday, 7th June.
It was agreed to nominate Mike Walker and Margaret Southgate as Chairman and Treasurer and, subject to their consent, Jamie Smith, David Storey and Andy Gilder as Vice-Chairman, Referee and Child Protection Officer. There had been no progress in securing a nomination as Secretary.
It was proposed by Northumberland, seconded by Suffolk, and agreed that the division of the Secretary's duties between General Secretary and Competitions Secretary be made permanent by seeking an amendment to the constitution at the AGM.
11. **National County Championships 2014**
It was noted that the raffle would be organized by Bedfordshire.
12. **National County Championships 2015**
The various proposals submitted by Potters Leisure Ltd were considered and it was unanimously agreed to accept the weekend 13th – 16th November at a £5 increase on the 2014 prices.
13. **Festival of Carpet Bowls**
A written report was received from Rita Daniels:

*"This event is now fast approaching.
We have 246 people coming and of these, 17 are non bowlers.*

<i>RINKS</i>	<i>56 teams</i>
<i>PAIRS</i>	<i>104 pairs</i>
<i>SINGLES</i>	<i>148</i>

There are increased numbers in all three disciplines but the number qualifying in the rinks and pairs does not make the knockout rounds too different from last year.

But with the increase in the singles numbers we will be holding two sessions of these on Tuesday evening. Trying to squeeze more time during the day has become an impossible task.

I have posted everyone a letter pointing out a few things to them.

1. *Thanking them for their support.*
2. *Advising them it is important that they register on Monday.*
3. *Warning them that there will be two sessions of bowls on Tuesday evening involving 64 players.*
4. *Dress code*
5. *Shoes for bowling in the arena.*
6. *The importance of letting me know if anyone has to withdraw.*

We are hopeful that everything will fall into place. It is a huge task and it is only now that perhaps we fully appreciate all the work that Tony put in over 10 years of running the event.

I have thoroughly enjoyed receiving the bookings and to date the planning is going well. I have the close support of Peter Masters who will be assisting me with the results. His wife Kay, Mike and myself have supported this event for most, if not all, of its 10 years, so hopefully we are aware the routine that is the Festival of Carpet Bowls.

We trust that we will do a good job for you.

My thanks to Mike Walker for his reassurance and support when I needed it."

14. Champion of Champions, Wolsingham, 6-8 June, 2014

The draft programme was circulated and approved.

15. Champion of Champions, 2015 onwards.

It was agreed to hold the 2015 Champion of Champions at Wolsingham under the same arrangements as 2014. Details of a holiday village at Newton Hall, Blackpool, were considered – it was agreed that the accommodation on offer did not meet our requirements, but the price was worth pursuing.

16. ECBA Competitions

a) Rinks 20th April, 2014 (Pelton Community Centre, organised by Sunderland) It was reported that 20 teams were entered. There would be a 9.15 a.m. start, finishing at approx. 6 p.m. Food would be available.

b) Triples 14th September, 2014 (Braintree Leisure Centre, Essex) Food would be available, but catering would not be up the standard of past events. It was agreed that the entry fee should be set by the organizing county and an entry form would be placed on the website..

17. Dates of Future Meetings

Meetings were booked for 16th August 2014, 17th January 2015, 25th April 2015 (including the AGM) and 26th September 2015.

18. Any Other Business

The Chairman reported that 2 clubs had shown interest in applying for grants from Sport England but were unable to do so as the ECBA was not recognised. It was agreed to submit an application for recognition.

Following the work done by Rebecca & Craig Hearn with the Special Olympics, an approach had been received from Special Olympics Essex. It was agreed that the Chairman and Secretary should discuss this with Rebecca & Craig with a view to achieving a national policy towards the Special Olympics.

Mick Watkins reported on participation in a fund-raising project by Radio Suffolk, which had resulted in radio publicity for carpet bowls.

It was reported that Potters had offered assistance with the promotion of carpet bowls, including a feature in the Potters' "Bowls News" magazine, which should appear shortly.