

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Committee Meeting of the English Carpet Bowls Association
held on Saturday 23rd April 2016 at The Holiday Inn, Rotherham.

Those present: Mike Walker (Chairman), Paul Daniels (Treasurer), Mick Watkins (English Referee), Rebecca Hearn (Hertfordshire Delegate) Cliff Richardson (Essex Delegate), Kay Cuthbert (Northumberland Delegate) Colin Young (Sunderland Delegate) Harold Ball (Bedfordshire Delegate) and Aline Pearson (Durham Delegate). Visitors from Suffolk, Sunderland, Northumberland & Hertfordshire also attended.

1. Apologies for Absence were received from Jill Emms (Norfolk), Andy Gilder (CPO Officer) and Jamie Smith (Secretary).

2. Minutes of the Previous Meeting were taken as read (having previously been circulated).

Two items were amended to correct the minutes before they could be signed.

Saturday and Sunday were deleted in the Chairman's Report.

Item 11: Champion of Champions, reference to a raffle was deleted and replaced with Domino Cards.

The minutes were then confirmed and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising:

Domino Cards will replace the raffle at the Champion of Champions. The prizes will be in the form of cash. Any donated items will be added as additional prizes. Colin Young would be responsible for supplying the cards.

There was a question regarding the National Championships Trophy which is to be renamed the David Story Trophy. The options were to either to purchase a new trophy or to replace the plaque on the plinth. It was agreed to simply replace the plaque.

Development of Carpet Bowls: Enquires have been received from clubs in Durham, Hertfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex. With the exception of Essex all the counties have someone who is responsible for handling such enquiries. Cliff Richardson (Essex) agreed to take on the role.

European Carpet Bowls

The game continues to expand in Norway and is now starting up in Sweden with enquiries being made by Denmark.

The possibility of starting a European Association will be discussed at the Festival of Carpet Bowls when there will be a contingent of bowlers from Norway attending.

The ECBA are being asked to assist with the Rules of Play and the development of an Association. Mike Walker and Paul Daniels will attend a meeting at Potters with Tommy Dhalgren who is responsible for promoting the sport in Norway and Sweden.

The Chairman pointed out that this connection could help to expand Carpet Bowls and gain publicity.

It was pointed out that the constitution of the ECBA allows the Association to join other Associations. The Chairman advised that the ECBA is only being asked to assist with the project and there will therefore be no cost to the Association. Mick Watkins said that the ECBA should be involved from the beginning.

4. Correspondence:

Correspondence was received from Jamie Smith who gave his apologies not being unable to attend the meeting due to a work commitment and said that he would now be unable to carry on his duties as Secretary due to a promotion at work.

Jamie added that he would hand over all relevant paperwork at the Champion of Champions event in May.

Tony Cuthbert (Northumberland visitor) proposed that a letter of thanks was sent to Jamie for his work on the committee.

5. Chairman's Report:

Mike had nothing further to report.

6. Secretary's Report:

There was no report.

7. Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer reported that the Association had recorded a loss of £3,847.12 for the year 2015/16, compared with a loss of £1,933.75 in 2014/2015.

The main areas of concern are as follows:

Development costs had increased £500 owing to referees courses and demonstrations. Although Development costs cannot be eliminated altogether we need to think carefully whether or not it is viable to pick up all the costs for demonstrations.

Champion of Champions losses were up by £200 to £1,276 owing to one less entry and reduced income from the raffle. However the event will see it's costs reduced by £900 owing to the change of venue this year, but it will still be running at a loss. We should reconsider the reduction of the entry fee agreed at the previous meeting in order to bring the event closer to running at break even. Tony Cuthbert proposed that the entry fee for the Champion of Champions should return to £100 per county.

The Nationals losses were up £380 to £2,642 owing to reduced commission from Potter's due to a fall in the number of bookings. The biggest expense with regard to the Nationals is the travel allowance which totals £5544. The current allowance of £2 per mile was set when fuel prices were higher than they currently are, although this will have had little effect on the cost of hiring coaches.

ECBA Triples lost £275 owing to the cost of the venue. The Triples/Rinks events run in the North will see their costs reduced as a result of a change of venue. The recent Rinks event only lost £25 despite a low entry.

We need to consider ways to increase our revenue from the Festival of Carpet Bowls, the profits from which subsidise the losses on the Nationals, particularly since there are a large number of people who attend the event but who do not play and from which the Association receive no income.

The Chairman suggested that we should approach Potters with a view to returning £5 of the current discount offered to Festival guests, to the Association as a way of boosting our income with effect from the 2016/17 event. This was agreed.

8. Referee's Report:

Mick Watkins said that he had completed 2 referee's training courses and had made visits to Worcestershire, Berkshire, Devon and Oxfordshire and he would be going to ~~South Yorkshire~~ ^{Cornwall} on 16th May to do a demonstration.

Tony added that development was important not only for new clubs but for the established ones as well. There was a suggestion that perhaps a small fee should be charged for demonstrations depending on the distance travelled. The cost of demonstrations would be discussed at the next meeting.

9. Child Protection Officer's Report:

There was no report.

10. National Championships 2016:

Further discussion on the travel subsidy was deferred until the next meeting.

Hertfordshire reported that they were finding it difficult to get a team due to the expense of the event.

11. Festival of Carpet Bowls:

It was confirmed that 2016 will see an increase in number of entrants over the previous year's event.

12. Date of Next Meeting:

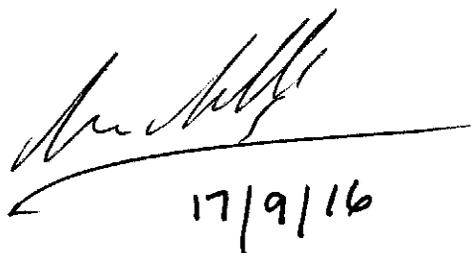
The suggested date was 24th September 2016 but this has to be confirmed.

13. Any Other Business:

The Chairman reported that there had been offers to fill the vacancies on the committee. Rebecca Hearn had offered to act as Child Protection Officer and Rita Daniels had offered to take up the position as Secretary.

Special Olympics: Rebecca and Paul have applied for the positions of Manager and Deputy Manager of Carpet Bowls for the event which will take place at Sheffield University over the week of 7th to 11th August 2017.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 1.30pm.


17/9/16