

English Carpet Bowls Association

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on Saturday 17th September 2016 at the Holiday Inn, Rotherham.

Those present : Mike Walker (Chairman), Colin Young (Vice Chairman), Paul Daniels (Treasurer), Rita Daniels (Secretary), Mick Watkins (Referee & Suffolk representative), Harold Ball (Beds), Clifford Richardson (Essex), Kay Cuthbert (Northumberland) and Lavinia McGahan (Sunderland).

Apologies were received from: Durham (Aline Pearson), Hertfordshire & C.P.O. (Rebecca Hearn), Norfolk (Jill Emms) & Cambridgeshire (who have no volunteer for this post at this date).

One visitor was present.

The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Gerald Sutton regarding the fact that Norfolk have not been represented at the last four meetings. Gerald will discuss the matter with Jill Emms.

The meeting commenced at 12.00 noon.

The Minutes of the Previous Meeting were taken as read, these having been circulated following that meeting.

Matters Arising: The error in the previous minutes were corrected. The Referee (Mick Watkins) visited Cornwall and not Devon as stated.

a) Website: There have been no further enquiries regarding requests for visits by the Referee for assistance with the game and/or the setting up of clubs since the last meeting.

b) Development:

1. Following contact by Norway it has been established that Denmark has 200 Carpet Bowls clubs, although they play on Short Mat carpets. However they have expressed an interest in joining us at the Festival.

2. Bob Weafer (Short Mat Bowls) has offered the ECBA space in his magazine in order to promote Carpet Bowls. Some members at the meeting pointed out that there had been contact from Mr Weafer previously and were aware that there are bowlers who had paid a subscription for this magazine in the past but who had not received any copies. Although there will be no cost to the Association, further discussions with Mr Weafer will take place before any commitment is made.

Sport England:

The Chairman reported the following:

Our pre-application for recognition was accepted.

We now have to prepare and submit our full application. Prior to this I was required to attend a meeting with Sport England. At this meeting Sport England explained what they expected and required for our full application to be approved. They were critical that the ECBA did not have a register of clubs or players and this would be required. Various other weaknesses were discussed, and what remedial action we would have to take. We now await a letter from Sport England detailing the areas that require our attention. They further explained that ours was the last application under the current set of rules, future applications would be considerably harder.

Register of Affiliated Clubs:

In order to compile this register, it was agreed by all delegates that affiliated counties are requested to send in a list of their affiliated clubs by names and number of members in each club (in some cases this may have to be estimated). In addition, in a separate section, please also advise of any known non-affiliated clubs.

We would appreciate this information prior to our next meeting in January and should be sent direct to Mike Walker.

This register will be only used for our application to Sport England and to monitor the rise or fall of carpet bowls activity and is fully covered by the Data Protection Act.

Chairman's Report: The Chairman had nothing further to add to his comments earlier in the meeting.

Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer presented an up to date set of accounts.

One county (Cambridgeshire) has yet to pay its annual subscription (*see note at the end of these minutes).

Following the losses incurred last year, this year has already seen improvements in the form of substantially reduced losses from the Champion of Champions and increased profits from the Triples, Rinks and Festival of Carpet Bowls. In total these represent an improvement of £2000 compared with the corresponding 2015/2016 events.

However, even with further anticipated savings the Association will still record a loss this year.

The biggest expense remains the travel subsidy paid to the counties attending the National Championships. It was proposed by Clifford Richardson (Essex) and seconded by Kay Cuthbert (Northumberland) that for the 2017 event, the subsidy would be reduced from the current £2.00 per mile to £1.75 per mile.

This would represent a further saving of £700 which together with the anticipated increases in income from next year's Festival will be another step towards the Association reaching break even point.

Referee's report.

1. Mick Watkins reported that he was finding it difficult to arrange for two trainers from different counties to be present for training sessions and asked if the meeting would accept that one trainer and himself as the ECBA Referee would be acceptable as an alternative to enable these to take place. This was agreed.
2. There is a Referee's visit to Sunderland pending which will incur some expenses.

Child Protection Officer's Report: No report was submitted for the meeting.

Correspondence:

1. Following the Champion of Champions in June, the Chairman had asked for a letter of thanks to be sent to Stanley Indoor Bowls Centre. A copy of the letter was read to the meeting.
2. An email had been received from West Sussex Carpet Bowls Association regarding the type of footwear being worn when playing Carpet Bowls and asking if the ECBA have a Health and Safety policy dealing with this. The Chairman pointed out that if our Association were successful with their application for Sport England, the Association would be required to instigate a Policy as part of the application.

Review of the Champion of Champions:

It was agreed by those present that the arrangements were very satisfactory. The staff proved to be most helpful and the venue for bowling was excellent.

National Championships 2016

Everything is in place for this event. Cambridgeshire are due to organise the raffle. ECBA will arrange the draw tickets and float. Each County is reminded to supply raffle prizes to the value of £25.

ECBA Events:

1. Report on the Open Rinks had been dealt with previously.
2. Report on the Open Triples this had been organised by Bedfordshire and been held at Needham Market with the assistance of Suffolk. The event recorded a profit of more than £400. The winners were Neil Jolly & Steven Cain (Suffolk) with Jaxon McKenna (Sunderland)
3. The 2017 events are due to be organised by the following counties:
Rinks - Cambridgeshire
Triples - Sunderland

Festival of Carpet Bowls:

1. At this date the information provided by Potters for this event confirms that 208 people had booked accommodation. This does not include the 59 places that Norway have booked or the further 10 rooms (for 20 people) which are being held in the Chairman's name to ensure that should Denmark require rooms, there is provision to accommodate them.
2. The raffle, run for the first time this year, proved to be successful and will be repeated in 2017.
3. The Trophies: The shields that the winners are awarded have all been filled on the front. This year's winners have been asked to instruct their engraver to move the earliest names from the front to the back of the shield, leaving space for the winners of the 2016 event on the front.

Date of the next meeting: Saturday 14th January 2017.

Any Other Business:

1. **Stanley Indoor Bowls Centre:** Colin Young reported that Durham had decided to remove the equipment from the Stanley which they had previously stored there and which had been used for this year's Champion of Champions. However Colin confirmed that Sunderland would arrange to provide the equipment for the 2017 event. An open telephone conversation then took place between Colin and the manager at Stanley to confirm that the venue would be available for the weekend of 3rd-4th June 2017.
2. **Special Olympics:** This event will be taking place at Sheffield University in August 2017. And as previously reported the ECBA have been approached to run the Carpet Bowls competition with Rebecca Hearn and Paul Daniels as Competition Managers. Mick Watkins and Mike Walker will also be attending as referees.

The Chairman suggested that Polo Shirts with the ECBA logo would be appropriate for this event. A proposal was made for this as put before the committee by Colin Young (Sunderland) and this was seconded by Kay Cuthbert (Northumberland).

3. Verdi Mat sponsorship: The ECBA have accepted Verdi Mat's offer of sponsorship, although the agreed amount of £200 for this year has not yet been received.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 2.25pm.

**Cambridgeshire's affiliation fee was received on 19th September.*

Please send the Sport England information to Mike Walker. Email: medlock244@aol.com

Before January 2017.