

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of meeting of the English Carpet Bowls Association held on 22nd April 2017 at the Holiday Inn Rotherham

Present: Chairman, Treasurer, and representatives from Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Durham, Norfolk, Northumberland, Suffolk & Sunderland

1. Apologies for absence

Rebecca Hearn

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes

Mick Watkins raised the matter of the Dress Code and in particular whether or not 'bowls trousers' were acceptable attire. Although there had been a lengthy discussion at the previous meeting he felt that no definitive decision had been arrived at.

The meeting agreed that 'bowls trousers' are acceptable under the current rule and that there would be no need to amend the wording.

Development of Carpet Bowls

Mick Watkins carried out a demonstration at Inkpen, Berkshire on 20th April.

Website – Following enquires made through the website Bedfordshire reported that a further 2 new clubs had recently been established in their county.

4. Correspondence

Email from Rebecca Hearn

Unfortunately Hertfordshire are unable to send a representative to the ECBA meeting and AGM tomorrow. I would normally have been at the meeting but I have to attend a Special Olympics Head of Delegation Conference in Sheffield.

I have nothing to report from a safe guarding officer report and can confirm that I have not had any incidents reported throughout this year. I am happy to stand again if required.

With regards to the Special Olympics we are nearing the date of the event and the planning is underway. It is a massive event and the bowls competition we are organising is a small part of this. Both Mick Watkins and Mike Walker have been appointed as Officials and will form part of our team for the event along with Thomas Ellis as a lead Volunteer. If anyone else is interested in being a volunteer or popping along to spectate please let me know and I will send you the details. The planning for 2021 has already started and I am keen to push carpet bowls and support the development and changes to the rules (to ECBA) as much as possible.

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman advised that the statutes for Carpet Bowls Europe had been prepared (copies circulated). This is a non-governing body created to promote the sport of carpet bowls throughout Europe.

6. Secretary's Report

The Secretary had nothing to report

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer reported that the recent ECBA Rinks returned a profit of £88 despite the small entry, but other than that there was little to report since the closing of the 2016/17 Accounts which would be discussed later at the AGM

8. Referee's Report

Mick Watkins raised the matter of Rule 1.8 with regard to the weight of woods which is specified to be 737.09gm. It has recently come to light that there is some variation in the weight of woods currently in use. Given that the rule specifies both the required bias and size of the woods it was agreed that this rule should be amended to remove the specific weight requirement. This would be put forward at the AGM for a vote.

9. Child Protection Officer's Report

There was nothing to report.

10. National County Championships

No issues reported

11. Champion of Champions

Colin Young reported that the restaurant at the Stanley Indoor Bowls Club has now closed. Although sandwiches etc will still be available at the bar he will enquire whether the club will now allow players and spectators to bring their own food in to the venue in view of this change.

It was agreed that the ECBA will cover the cost of hiring a van for the week end for Sunderland to transport their mats to Stanley.

12. ECBA Membership

Following discussion at the previous meeting it was agreed that a proposal would be brought forward at the AGM to change the constitution to allow Carpet Bowls Associations formed to represent Unitary Authorities to apply for membership of the ECBA.

13. Festival of Carpet Bowls

Rita Daniels reported that we have 260 guests for the forthcoming Festival with 228 of those competing, compared with 178 last year. This includes a large contingent from Norway, most of whom will be bowling and one guest who will be travelling from New Zealand to compete.

14. Annual General Meeting

Votes on changes to the Rules and the Constitution would be added to the agenda

15. Date of Next Meeting

23 September 2017

16. Any Other Business

ECBA Rinks & Triples – Following the recent disappointing turnout at the Rinks it was agreed that although there is no fixed date for the event going forward a clash with the Easter weekend should be avoided. It is still up to the organising county to arrange the date, preferably sometime in March or April. It was also reiterated that the organising county would decide upon both the entry fee and the format for the events.

Mick Watkins agreed that he would arrange for the purchase of all the trophies for forthcoming events.

Rule 9.4

Hertfordshire raised the matter of a bowler who may be gaining an advantage by using a walking stick placed on the carpet in order to steady himself.

It was agreed by the meeting that the rule should not be altered and that the English Referee would have the authority to rule on such matters on a case-by-case basis.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 2.03 PM