

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of meeting of the English Carpet Bowls Association held on 12th January 2019
at the Holiday Inn, Rotherham

Present: Chairman, Treasurer, and representatives from Bedfordshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, Suffolk and Sunderland

1. Apologies for absence

Mick Cook (Hertfordshire)

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes

None

Development of Carpet Bowls

The Chairman had received communication from Norway to say that they have been carrying out demonstrations in the Baltic countries, that they continue to open more clubs and that as a result that they are looking to find ways of sourcing equipment from England more cheaply. They also report that in Sweden they are seeing more clubs changing over from Short Mat to Carpet Bowls.

Rule books

There has been a large purchase of rule books, leaving a stock of only 25. The cost of printing a new run was discussed and that if we did so we would need to consider whether any changes are required.

It was decided that making a printable version available for download from the website would be a more economical and convenient. Any suggestions, re rule amendments are to be forwarded to the Chairman.

Website

Colin Young had made a visit to Sheffield University for a demonstration and apparently the bowlers are progressing well.

There was also contact from an English national who has been introduced to the game in Sweden and who will soon be moving back here and will be looking to set up a club and develop the sport in the area.

4. Correspondence

None

5. Chairman's Report

None

6. Secretary's Report

None

7. Treasurer's Report

The losses incurred in running the Nationals were reduced to £2410 from £2690 last year thanks to an increase in the number of guests, greater income from the raffle and reduced cost of trophies.

8. Referee's Report

None

9. Child Protection Officer's Report

None

10. Competitions

National Championship

The date for this year is 8th to 11th November. There will be a £5 increase over last year's price.

Champion of Champions

Colin confirmed that the date is set for 1st to 2nd June, once again at Stanley. Sunderland will once again be providing equipment for the event but Colin asked if other counties would be able to provide assistance setting up on Friday evening.

Festival of Bowls

With Rita Daniels being in ill health Paul has now taken on the paperwork for the event and Mike has offered to help, particularly in regard to liaising with Potters.

Although there will be no international element to this year's event there will still be a number of overseas

visitors, including from New Zealand.

2019 Dates

2019 ECBA Rinks 7th April at Braintree, Essex

2019 ECBA Triples 15th September at Riverside, Durham

2020 ECBA Triples 13th September at Littleport, Cambridgeshire (Norfolk hosting)

10. Date of Next Meeting

20th April at 12.00, followed by the AGM.

11. Any Other Business

ECBA Rinks - Essex have issued invitations for the event and will send out a reminder near the time.

It pointed out that there was some confusion at the Nationals about the cost of raffle tickets which started off a 50p per strip but at one point were being sold for £1 a strip. It was agreed that a set price of 50p would apply to all further events.

It was agreed to send Rita flowers and a letter thanking her for all the time and effort she has put into the ECBA.

2018 Nationals

There was a discussion regarding the difficulty some counties had encountered in being able to achieve a full squad of 24 players, in particular Durham who suffered from last minute withdrawals which meant that rather than excluding the team they were allowed to play short with some players playing for more than one rink. Northumberland expressed concern that they were allowed to do so without reference to the other counties.

There was a proposal from Hertfordshire to change the format and drop the size of each team down to 20 given that they cannot guarantee being able to get a full team of 24, something which Durham and Bedfordshire are also concerned about, the risk being that we could end up losing one or more county from the event.

Northumberland, Essex and Suffolk all express concern that such a change would put them in a position of having to drop team members who had played for the county all season.

Essex suggested that we should retain the current format but allow teams to go with as few as 20 team members, rotating players to fill in the missing places.

It was agreed that rather than forcing some counties to drop out or others to drop players, a set of rules for playing with as few as 20 players be drawn up for discussion at the next meeting which would include the option for teams to play with just 5 rinks and forfeit the games which the 6th rink would have played and for any county playing short to submit a full list of players and their playing positions for the weekend.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 12.45pm.