

# ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Meeting of the Association held on Saturday 11th January 2020  
at The Holiday Inn, West Bawtry Road, Rotherham.  
Commenced at 12 noon.

## AGENDA & MEETING

**1. Apologies for absence**

Mike Walker (Bedfordshire)

**2. Minutes of last meeting**

Read and seconded as a true record.

**3. Matters Arising from previous minutes**

**a) Development of Carpet Bowls**

There has been a couple of enquiries from Devon & Cheshire, however this was not appropriate as it was with regard short mat.

**b) Website**

None

**4. Correspondence**

None

**5. Chairman's Report**

None

**6. Secretary's Report**

None

**7. Treasurer's Report**

Nationals - deficit slightly £100 from last year due income from raffle.

**8. Referee's Report**

None

**9. Child Protection Officer's Report**

No referee.

**10. Competitions**

**National Championships - Playing Short**

For the 2019 Nationals a set of rules was introduced allowing counties to play with as few as 20 players.

Following the event, at which 2 counties played short, Suffolk wrote to the Committee to express the feeling, which was echoed by other counties at the meeting, that while everything should be done to ensure the continued involvement of all member counties, the rules should be further amended to ensure that as level a playing field as possible between those counties with a full team and those bowling short.

The following alterations were proposed:

**Team of 23:** Register three players for team B and that spot (x8) is filled up by at least six players from D, E and F, with no bowler playing more than two additional games.

**Team of 22:** As above – and also register three players for team D and that spot (x8) is filled up by at least six players from A, B and C, with no bowler playing more than two additional games.

**Team of 21:** As above (three players in B and D) – and also register three players for team C. The spots (x16) in B and C are filled up by at least six players from D, E and F, with no bowler playing more than three additional games. The spot (x8) in team D is continued to be filled up by at least six players from A, B and C, with no bowler playing more than two additional games.

**Team of 20:** As above (three players in B, C and D) and register three players for team E. The spots (x16) in D and E are filled up by at least six players from A, B and C, with no bowler playing more than three additional

games. The spots (x16) in B and C are continued to be filled up by at least six players from D, E and F, with no bowler playing more than three additional games.

The representatives were presented with a template encapsulating the above rules with the aim of making it easier for counties to arrange their teams if they are unable to raise a full squad.

This will be discussed again at the next meeting once the counties have had the opportunity to look over the proposal.

#### **Dress Code**

The matter of a player at the Nationals requesting a change of clothing owing to discomfort from ill health was raised. The request, if agreed, would have been in breach of the Dress Code and so was turned down, and the player advised that trousers which comply with the Code need to be purchased.

There has been much discussion about standards of dress in recent years and although it was agreed that although the decision made at the time was strictly correct, in hindsight it was felt that more latitude could have been given under the circumstances. It was agreed that a letter to this effect would be issued to the county in question and that the ECBA should reimburse the cost of the trousers.

Cambridgeshire asked if players have to conform with dress code when playing in COC competitions, and if players had to 'stand in' at short notice - Northumberland advised smartly dressed if players have no uniform.

1. County uniform for county players
2. Club uniform for teams
3. Smart and casual - polo top & trousers - NO football tops, jeans or shorts

#### **National Championships - Referee**

In the absence of a National Referee it was suggested that one person (or two if more volunteers are forthcoming) be appointed Referee purely for the duration of the Nationals to provide a single point of contact in the event of any dispute. The representatives were asked to go back to their counties and ask for volunteers.

#### **Festival of Bowls**

160 booked in the competition of which there are 20 Norwegians coming over to Potters for the festival in May 2020.

#### **Champion of Champions**

Date 6-7th June 2020 at Stanley Leisure Centre, Durham.

### **11. Any Other Business**

At the September meeting, Neil Jolly submitted a report of his visit to New Zealand and provided a number of points for discussion:

1. Consider the introduction of playing out drawn games at our Nationals & Champion of Champion Events.
2. Consider live streaming of some games during our ECBA events.
3. Playing without a centre block.

While some of the counties had discussed points 1&3, not all had, so they were asked to discuss the matter and come back to the next meeting with feedback.

On the subject of live streaming, there had been an experiment at the Nationals using the Suffolk Facebook page which had met with some success and attracted a number of viewers. In addition, Suffolk had attempted a live stream of their recent county match against Bedfordshire via You Tube. Unfortunately, the broadcast was severely limited by the speed of the Wifi in the hall, however a further experiment at a county led event had produced more watchable results.

It is hoped it will be possible to stream from this year's events, the Festival, the Champion of Champions and the Nationals.

### **12. Date of Next Meeting**

18th April 2020 @ 12.00 followed by the AGM.