



English Carpet Bowls Association

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the English Carpet Bowls Association held on 22nd January 2022

Present: Representatives from Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Norfolk, Northumberland, Suffolk and Sunderland

1. Apologies for absence

Hertfordshire

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were agreed and agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes

None

4. Correspondence

None

5. Chairman's Report

None

6. Secretary's Report

None

7. Treasurer's Report

None

8. Referee's Report

None

9. Child Protection Officer's Report

None

10. Update from Counties (State of Play)

Essex - Several clubs are struggling, they are considering a pairs tournament soon, the league won't be starting any time soon, and may have to change format next season.

Bedfordshire - Clubs also struggling with numbers. One club has closed. Not planning on any county events until April. Hoping to get back to normal later in the year.

Cambridgeshire - North and East leagues are currently running, on reduced numbers. One club has closed

Durham - League running with smaller number of teams. They have been running competitions.

Norfolk - Not playing leagues at the moment. They will be moving from evening matches to daytime, which may affect numbers.

Northumberland - League has started up again, but clubs still have players who are reluctant to turn out. They will not know how many clubs have been lost until their AGM. The Northern League was on hold, however, since having a County meeting on Sunday, the team chose to start the Northern League against Durham at Coxhoe on Sunday 20th February 2022. The county team is ready to go.

Suffolk - Running a Triples league this winter with 25 out of 40 regular teams playing. Had a friendly against Hertfordshire recently. Tournaments planned for February onwards. County team will be available for the Nationals.

Sunderland - Struggling to get a full county team at the moment.

Hertfordshire - Leagues have recommenced, and are running tournaments. They are confident they will be able to compete in the Champion of Champions and the Nationals.

11. Competitions

a) Triples & Fours

Fours - 24th April, hosted by Durham, an entry form will be issued in due course.

Triples - 4th September, hosted by Suffolk

b) Festival of Bowls

9th-13th May, at Potters

c) Champion of Champions

4th-5th June, at Stanley

d) Nationals

4th-7th November, at Potters

There was a discussion about vaccinations, and whether we ought to stipulate that anyone entering an ECBA event should be fully vaccinated. The ECBA committee fully stands by vaccination as a way of protecting everyone involved as far as possible, and strongly urge all Carpet Bowls players to do so. Committee research had established that neither the English Indoor Bowling nor English Short Mat Bowling Associations had implemented such a stipulation. After discussion, it was decided that it would be impractical to enforce such a rule, particularly as the venues in which events are held do not have a vaccination stipulation to enter them.

At the previous meeting, there was a discussion about the possibility of moving away from Potters in view of price rises which have in part come about as a result of the venue going 'all-inclusive'. While it was voiced that price may be an issue for some, it was felt overall that staying at Potters was the best option at the present time, given the fact that alternatives would involve a separate venue for the event and accommodation, as well as issues such as getting equipment to the venue.

And whilst at the current time there was more than one county who could not completely guarantee being able to get a full team of 24 for the event, it was felt that with a rule in place to allow teams to drop down to 20 players, and the possibility of counties combining to form a single team, the ECBA would commit to going ahead with the event at Potters, with further discussions around the detail to take place at the next meeting.

13. Any Other Business

Neil mentioned the World Cup of Bowls (to potentially involve teams from England, Australia and New Zealand) which was mooted pre-pandemic, he will be opening up lines of communication again in this regard.

14. Date of Next Meeting/AGM

23rd April 2022