



English Carpet Bowls Association

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the English Carpet Bowls Association held on 24th September 2022

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

1. Apologies for absence

Cambridgeshire

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were read 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

The Treasurer reported that the ECBA Rinks and Triples had shown profits of £52 and £243 respectively.

8. Referee's Report

A referee rota for the Nationals has been drawn up and circulated, which allows for two referees, from different counties, being available for each session.

We have had a few enquiries from various areas around the country, which have all been dealt with.

9. Child Protection Officer's Report

Rebecca reported that an approach had been made to the EBCA from the Bowls Development Alliance regarding a potential safeguarding issue, which potentially included Carpet Bowls, among others. The case in question had been concluded satisfactorily, and Rebecca was subsequently invited to sit in on a number of meetings.

The BDA has asked if the ECBA would like to be a part of their safeguarding group, which would be a step forward for us, would give us access to resources we wouldn't otherwise have should an issue arise, and would help us fulfil our safeguarding obligations.

The only obligation on our part would be that if a player was suspended by another part of the BDA, we would be asked to support that suspension in Carpet Bowls.

It was unanimously agreed that we should accept the invitation to join the Bowls Development Alliance safeguarding group.

10. Nationals

Squad Numbers

All counties present reported that they anticipate having a full team of 24 players, with the exception of Hertfordshire, who definitely have 23, but hope to have 24.

Playing Format

With only 8 teams competing, instead of 9, there are now fewer sessions, and more time in the schedule. It was therefore proposed that we move back to 11 end games, instead of 9 ends. This was agreed by all, although Northumberland suggested 10 ends, to take account of the fact that many older players may struggle.

It was agreed that we should approach Potters to arrange for chairs to be available around the edge of the arena to allow players to rest, and possibly place some chairs on mats on the playing surface.

Dress Code

Further to the last ECBA meeting in April, it was minuted that for the Nationals the agreement was that uniform was to comply with each county's own dress code requirements.

There was further discussion around this, due to some concern that individuals could wear the likes of ripped jeans or football shirts, excluded under the previous Nationals dress code wording.

Generally, though, it was expected that those running county teams would be sensible in understanding that, given that the Nationals is the pinnacle event in our game, and we are in a public arena, that all players need to be smartly presented.

A further vote was taken, and it was agreed by all, with the exception of Northumberland, that the minuted wording from the last ECBA meeting be adopted and included within the Nationals programme.

11. Any Other Business

ECBA Fours will be hosted by Hertfordshire next year, they will be considering possible venues and date very shortly.

12. Date of Next Meeting

tbc January 2023