

**Minutes of First Annual General Meeting held on Friday 3 April 1992 in the Trafalgar Ballroom, Seacroft Holiday Village, Hemsby, Norfolk**

**Present:**

Representative from Cambridge, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, North Tyneside, Northumberland, Suffolk, South Tyneside.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed everyone present.

**1. Apologies for absence**

No apologies - all counties/approved areas represented.

**2. Minutes of Inaugural Meeting**

The Secretary read the minutes which were approved by the meeting and signed as a true record.

**3. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising.

**4. Chairman's Report**

There is a well known saying that "Rome was not built in a day" and this is so true of this Association.

Although we sat here a year ago and decided to form an Association we didn't, of course, have any members. We had a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Referee but no members - not, that is, until organisations went back to their own members and got their approval to become so.

It is very gratifying to report that every one of those organisations who we know of who bowl have joined.

The Constitution said we should have two meetings and two meetings we had - the first at Richmond in Co Durham last September and the second at Bildeston in Suffolk in February. It is again gratifying to tell you that at each all but one organisation was represented and the absence of that one was understandable. I felt that both meetings were positive with a full and fair exchange of views and I would like to thank those representatives for their sensible debate and appreciation of others views.

We felt our initial priority should be the establishment of a set of Rules for Playing Carpet Bowls that would be acceptable to all. We did and they are defined as being a set that will be used for matches between member organisations and which can be used by those just beginning the game. They will come before you later in the Agenda for adoption.

It is my hope that each organisation will introduce them at their own Annual General Meetings in due course, for use within their own organisations.

Equally I hope that the negative approach to change that does at times prevail will not prevent their adoption. It seems to me that we should all be playing carpet bowls the same way.

We have considered a number of other subjects and particularly the direction we believe this Association should be taking. Particular efforts will be made to spread the work of the game beyond the boundaries that we have at present and it is our intention that a weekend where teams representing each of the member organisations will play each other in an English Championship will take place in the coming 12 months. The strength of a National Association has produced some quite startling results in negotiations with Brokers over a policy for the insurance of equipment and a very competitive Public Liability policy is on the table as well. These are matters which will be circulated to members in the near future.

The acceptability of carpet bowls by others took a giant step forward recently when the response to our Secretary informing the Sports Council that we existed brought an invitation to attend a meeting of the English Bowls Council and to present our credentials. I attended that meeting at the Sports Council HQ in London as your representative and went with a very open mind. Did we want to be swallowed up by another organisation so soon after our birth?

I now have no doubt that we should seek membership immediately.

The English Bowls Council exists as a forum for the discussion of all aspects of bowls where there is a common interest and I can tell you that at that meeting EVERY form of bowls was represented. I was asked to make a

presentation of our game of carpet bowls which they had already, I might add, taken the trouble to find out something about. Each form of bowls runs itself and is not answerable to the E B C in any way, however, it has a very powerful voice on issues it may wish to take up with the Sports Council or other bodies. It does not have any involvement with grants.

I was asked to make a presentation of our game, which I did, and I was given the opportunity to question those present which I did at some length. I was very gratified to see a motion passed unanimously that we be invited to apply for membership with an EQUAL VOICE on the Council.

It is my view that we should apply for membership at their AGM in 10 days time - to do otherwise would mean us being on the outside fighting the establishment when we could be on the inside influencing matters. It is a fact that the Sports Council recognise the EBC as the voice of bowls.

This is not the place in the Agenda for me to take the matter further now but I shall ask for your approval to seek membership under "Any Other Business".

Ladies and gentlemen thank you for allowing me to be your Chairman in this first year of our existence - it has been an honour!

## 5. Secretary's Report

The first year of any newly formed organisation is very difficult to measure in terms of tangible results.

- We have nine Counties/Approved areas affiliated to the Association.
- We now have a set of rules for county matches which can be developed over the next 2-3 years to become the 'bible' for playing carpet bowls.
- We have been invited to join the English Bowling Council, the governing body of all types of bowling and recognised as such by the Sports Council.
- More matches between counties have been, or are being arranged to be played.

However, the most important aspect of forming the Association has been achieved. A forum has been created where ideas of all interested parties can be brought together to form the foundation on which to build for the future recognition and success of carpet bowling.

The success of the Association will depend on the commitment of each affiliated area and the co-operation and loyalty of every carpet bowl player in these areas.

## 6. Financial Statement

The Treasurer presented the financial figures for the year 1991/92. Summarised,

<b>Income</b>	
9 members @ £100	£900.00
Donation from English Pairs Championships	£500.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1400.00</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Meeting at Richmond	£146.23
Meeting at Bildeston	£525.19
Admin & Travelling expenses	£168.20
<b>Total</b>	<b>£839.62</b>
<b>Balance as at 29/3/92</b>	<b>£560.38</b>

Mr Ferrett from Hertfordshire asked why the expenses for the meeting in Bildeston was so high - why was catering arranged for the partners of the committee members. The Chairman replied that he had arranged the meeting and it he felt that a lunch should be provided for everyone before they travelled home.

It was also asked why the E C B A only paid expenses for Officers and not to area representatives. The Chairman replied that the Constitution states Officers only but if anyone thinks it should be changed then they should propose the change for discussion at the next AGM.

Mrs L Schofield of Suffolk presented a cheque for £1500 to the Treasurer on behalf of the English Pairs Championships.

#### **7. Proposed Amendment Clause 2.1 of the Constitution**

'The deletion of the Office of Referee and the substitution of the Office of Development'

The duties of the Referee were the formation of a national set of rules for playing carpet bowls which has now been completed and there is a proposition for their adoption at this A G M. Consequently the remit discussed at the Inaugural Meeting of the Association on 12 April 1991 has been met.

It is proposed that the Office of Development be founded with a brief that the responsibilities include promoting the growth of the game, particularly in areas where it is not already played, and the presentation of the game to others particularly the media.

Perhaps carpet bowls should be presented as a complement to outdoor and indoor bowls, notwithstanding that there may be some conflict with short mat bowls, such that those that play the other forms could be allies in spreading our word. Sports Councils, Sports Centres, Local Authorities, etc. are all mediums where their ideals fit with carpet bowls, e.g. Sports Council - it is a game for all ages and the infirm, etc; Sports Centres - the same and use of their premises; Local Authorities - the playing of sport in their villages at a very low cost and as an aid to identity for rural communities.

Mr Webber presented this proposal on behalf of Suffolk Association.

An amendment was proposed that we retain the position of Referee as well as introducing the new position of Development Officer.

*Voting resulted in the amendment being adopted, 5 for the amendment, 4 against.*

#### **8. Application for membership - Wearside area**

An application received from the Sunderland Club League for membership of the Association as 'Wearside Area'. Considerable discussion took place on the subject. Durham opposed the application on the grounds that this area comes within the boundaries of the Durham County Carpet Bowls Association.

*Voting resulted in this application being accepted. 8 for, 1 against.*

#### **9. Rules for Playing Carpet Bowls**

A set of rules proposed by the Committee of the Association, to be used, in the first instance, for playing inter-county matches but with the ultimate aim for their use by all members of the English Carpet Bowls Association.

*Voting resulted in these rules being unanimously accepted for adoption.*

#### **10. Election of Officers**

Chairman	Mr David Schofield (Suffolk)
Vice Chairman	Mr Arnold Miller (Durham)
Secretary	Miss Eve Warren (Durham)
Treasurer	Mr John Crawford (Northumberland)
Referee	Mr David Brazier (Cambridge)
Development	Mr Scott Andrews (Cambridge)

## **11 Annual Membership Subscription**

It was proposed that the subscription remain at £100. An amendment was proposed that the subscription be reduced to £50.

*Voting resulted in the amendment being adopted, 5 for, 4 against. Therefore the level of subscription for year 1992/93 is £50.*

## **12 Appointment of Auditors**

The Chairman asked for nominations for an Honorary Auditor and in the absence of any he suggested that the appointment be made by the Committee and this was agreed.

## **13 Any Other Business**

### **(a) English Pairs Championships**

It was asked why this competition was not being played to the E C B A rules. The Chairman replied that this was not a matter for this meeting.

(b) The Secretary was asked if she could send future A G M papers out earlier. She replied that they are sent out in accordance with the constitution but if at all possible she would try to do so for future meetings.

### **(c) English Bowls Council**

It was unanimously agreed that the E C B A become affiliated to the English Bowls Council.

### **(d) Calendar of Events**

The Secretary was asked for a starting date for the Calendar of Events - this was agreed at 1 September.

The Vice Chairman proposed a vote of thanks for the Chairman and Secretary.

There being no further business, the Chairman once again thanked everyone for attending and the meeting closed at 10.30pm