

# ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

**The Minutes of the 4th Annual General Meeting of the English Carpet Bowls Association held at Seacroft Holiday Village, Hemsby, Norfolk on Friday 28th April 1995 at 8.30 p.m.**

**Present:** John Crawford (Chairman), David Schofield (Secretary), Gordon Thirsk (Treasurer), Scott Andrews (Development Officer), Allan Howe (Referee), representatives from all member counties and approximately 120 other attendees.

1. On behalf of the organisers of the English Pairs, David Schofield thanked Pontins for the facilities made available for the A.G.M. which was now recognised as the Mecca for Carpet Bowls.
2. Apologies for Absence were received from Arnold Miller, Vice-Chairman.
3. The Minutes from the 3rd Annual General Meeting were approved as minuted, and accordingly signed by the Chairman.
4. There were no Matters Arising from the Minutes.
5. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman welcomed all those present and expressed his pleasure at seeing so many attending the weekend's events, also thanking the organisers for the use of the facilities for the A.G.M.

ECBA Meetings throughout the year were detailed and a brief resumee of the Grand Prize Draw was given. Almost £5,000.00 profit was made for the Association.

The Chairman felt that venues for events should be well-placed for Members from all counties and that more counties should be encouraged to join the ECBA.

The Chairman also asked those present to consider whether proposed rule changes should not be dealt with by the Referee and a sub-committee rather than be discussed at great length at each AGM. Common sense should prevail rather than change the rules each year.

## 6. **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary reported that membership remained at 9 County Members with recent enquiries having been received from Cleveland, Yorkshire and East Sussex.

The Secretary went on to clarify how the Association is run, i.e. the Committee being made up of three representatives from each Member County, together with elected Officers, with decisions being generally made or ratified at Meetings.

The Meetings held in Suffolk in August and in Blackpool in February were detailed. Hertfordshire were not represented at either meeting and South Tyneside attended only the Blackpool meeting. Otherwise all Member Counties were represented.

Durham, had won the play-off in October at Hemsby between the Northern and Eastern Counties Leagues and the National County Championships were won narrowly by Cambridgeshire with Suffolk runners up.

The Association now had letterheads.

Promotional leaflets and rules had been sent to manufacturers and retailers of carpet bowls equipment. The leaflet had also been sent to all enquirers about the game with rules being sent out with each set of equipment sold.

The Secretary reported that there had been contact with carpet bowls in New Zealand where some 32,000 bowlers were registered. They play internationals against Australia and they seemed to be suggesting them with us also. He had also, very recently, had a letter from an equipment supplier in Denmark where the game was being introduced.

The World of Bowls journal had collapsed during the year, but the monthly Club Bowler had emerged with articles being contributed by Bill Ramshaw in the North and himself, David Schofield, from the Eastern Counties.

A sub-committee comprising Gordon Thirsk, Allan Howe and Scott Andrews had been set up to find an alternative location for the 1995 National County Championships, which would be raised later during the Meeting.

The Development Officer had reported in February that, owing to a mix up, distribution of the promotional leaflet had been delayed and would be sent out immediately.

## 7. **Treasurer's Report**

Copies of the Balance Sheet for the year to 22nd April were circulated to those present (copy attached).

The Treasurer reported that the year had been exceptional in that the lottery had provided a boost in income, although as some of the costs had been included in the previous year's accounts, the figures appeared to be inflated.

Two carpet manufacturers had assisted with sponsorships of £250.00 each plus a donation of £200.00 had been received from Durham C.C.B.A. Interest from the Business Premium Account was £150.00. The English County Championships had also boosted income.

The production of the Development Brochures had been the largest expenditure during the year although Committee Meeting costs were minimised by holding these to coincide with competitions whenever possible.

The end of year balance had increased by £5,232.71 to £9,695.34. Susie Dicker was thanked for producing the Balance Sheet.

8. There were no amendments to the constitution

## 9. **Election of Officers**

The following were proposed and seconded. There being no other nominations, each was elected unopposed:

Chairman	Mr. John Crawford (Northumberland)
Vice-Chairman	Mrs. Margaret Southgate (Suffolk)
Secretary	Mrs. Susie Dicker (Essex)
Treasurer	Mr. Gordon Thirsk (North Tyneside)
Development Officer	Mr. Scott Andrews (Cambridgeshire)
Referee	Mr. Allan Howe (Durham)

10. Details of proposed rule changes had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and representatives from the counties proposing the rule changes explained their proposals.

**Cambridgeshire proposed an amendment to Rule 3.2** concerning legal delivery of the wood in relation to the white lines and the blocks.

**Norfolk proposed the following amendments:**

That 2.1, 2.3 and 2.5 be deleted and subsequent renumbering take place.

That there be an introductory sentence to the Rules stating 'The following Rules shall apply to the playing of Carpet Bowls unless there be a specific alternative given in the arrangements for a particular Competition or Tournament'.

2.4 That the word 'may' be inserted before 'go to the other end of the carpet'.

That 2.10 be deleted and replaced by 'If any bowl be interfered with or displaced by a bowler the opposing skip may declare that bowl dead, if the jack be moved then the opposing skip may have the end replayed.'

3.2. That the final sentence be deleted.

That the word 'white' be deleted in reference to the blocks.

That 3.5.3. be replaced by 'have the end replayed if more than one wood or the jack has been moved.'

None of the above proposals was carried and the rules remained unchanged.

**Suffolk proposed an amendment to Rule 1.4.** relating to the diameter and weight of the jack. This proposal was withdrawn by the Suffolk representative.

Mr. Bill Ramshaw briefly explained the different types of jack available and that the 32oz weight jack was not designed for carpet bowls, but for short mat bowls.

**Proposal by Scott Andrews – Amendment to Rule 2.7 & 3.1** Encroachment on to the carpet. At present Officers cannot propose any constitutional or rule changes, so this could not be considered.

11. It was unanimously agreed that the annual membership subscription remain at £75.00.

12. **Any Other Business**

The Treasurer reported that a sub-committee had spent some time considering alternative venues for the County Championships and put forward a recommendation that the 1995 Championships be held at a hotel in Scarborough which was able to offer the appropriate facilities at an acceptable cost. Both Norfolk and Suffolk felt that the E.C.B.A. should subsidise the event to some extent to which the Treasurer replied that this was the intention. The proposal that the 1995 County Championships be held in Scarborough was carried unanimously.

Essex asked whether another lottery would be held. The Chairman suggested that the Treasurer might like to consider this and it would be discussed by the Committee.

There being no further business, the Chairman called the meeting to a close at 10.20 p.m.

*J. Andrews*  
*26th Dec.*

Sony

It is my pleasure to welcome everyone to this the AGM of the English Carpet Bowls Association. It is great to see so many people at these events and meet old friends and make new friends. On behalf of the ECBA I would like to thank the organizers of the weekend for the use of the facilities for this AGM.

I may not be in this seat at the end of night!

May I say before we go any further comments have been made over the last year about personalities of the ECBA & their activities in the world of carpet bowls. But what they do is for the game. What they do is a thing to do with the Ass. unless it conflicts or brings the ECBA into disrepute. Any reference to this matter will be ruled out of order.

People may look in horror at what I say but I believe it is my job as Chairman to put out good and bad as I see it.

1994 saw the national committee meet at Otford in August under with thanks to Suffolk for hosting the meeting on the Saturday everyone played in the competition at Holbrook.

Communication is still not good if it had to be said better I would have liked to have had a meeting at the English Cadette WTC but it did not allow us. Oct. saw the 1st inter County league winners match.

The grand price draw not an event without problems as it was said that if winning counties would look after prizes in their area they would be embarrassed by the ECBA. This worked well in some counties but it did not in others though I thought we were all working to help the Ass. I did receive 2 complaints over prizes with them both writing to either the licensing authority, or trading standards office, without inquiring to myself let I personally saw the prizes to avoid further delay with due Apologies I must say that the last complaint was only last week and the reasons for non payment were ridiculous. A lot of the time I have been filled with a shocking explanation. The Ass. must accept full responsibility for the draw costs by we will have about \$7,000 per year. With greater effort it would have been a lot less.

In February we had another meeting at Otford and had another great WTC. The people were given the job to do. I am sure you are familiar with what you will do more of later but remember the main objective is to get the game back on its feet as an independent organization capable of taking care of itself.

It has been said that the North wants to cry things like after rubber all they want is a fair crack at the whip, and to have someone over the halfway stage could be a help for everyone.

In some areas it is felt that Carpet Bowls should be a lot higher. It should be. I should have thought that more member Counties should be made to do it than shoring the game up at this time and to try would lead to the destruction of County Ass. So what would be gained Remember we are all people some with full time jobs trying to work for the benefit of Carpet Bowls to others and for the love of the Game.

Further through the agenda at the rules stage could these not be handled by the Referee and a sub committee so as to shorten the time for the meeting. dont forget that the rules of the game are with various manufacturers and to change them at this stage will make us look as if we cannot make up our mind. To change rules every year is a bit daft when half the time commonsense is all that is required.

TOTAL

Secretarys Report to Annual General Meeting of the English Carpet Bowls Association held on Friday, 28th April, 1995 at Pontin's, Hemsby.

Let me start by telling you that there has been no change in the membership of the Association with Northumberland, South & North Tyneside, Durham from the North East and Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex from the Eastern Counties making up the total of 9. I have had recent enquiries asking how a County can become a Member from Cleveland, Yorkshire and East Sussex.

It is clear from several comments made to me that there is some misunderstanding of how this National Association is run. Let me clarify that the Committee is made up of 3 representatives from each County and they are supplemented by Officers elected annually at this Annual General Meeting. It is up to the Officers to act between Meetings under the direction of the Chairman and he should be in touch with everything that is happening. Anything which has happened between Meetings is then required to be ratified at the next Meeting. In fact very few decisions are taken between meetings.

There have been two Meetings since the last Annual General Meeting the first in Suffolk in August and the other at Blackpool in February. Hertfordshire were unable to come to neither and South Tyneside only to Blackpool otherwise all were represented.

At Hemsby in October Durham won the play off between the Northern and Eastern Counties Leagues and the National County Championships were won narrowly by Cambridgeshire with Suffolk runners up. It was a successful weekend which went without a hitch. The Raffle was drawn on the Saturday evening.

We now have letterheads which all helps to give the Association respect.

I am pleased to tell you that the promotional leaflets and Rules have been sent to manufacturers and retailers of carpet bowls equipment. The leaflet goes to those who enquire about the game and a copy of our Rules goes out with every set of equipment sold. This has to be good news for us and those who are starting to play because it carries the name of the Association and of contact names and addresses.

We now have contact with carpet bowls in New Zealand where some 32,000 bowlers are registered. They play internationals against Australia and seem to be suggesting them with us also. I have also, very recently, had a letter from an equipment supplier in Denmark where the game is being introduced.

During the year the World of Bowls collapsed but the monthly Club Bowler has emerged and articles are being contributed to that by Bill Ramshaw on news from the North and myself from the Eastern Counties.

A sub-committee of Gordon Thirsk, Allan Howe and Scott Andrews was set up to find an alternative location for this years National County Championships and, this will no doubt, be raised after the formal business in any other business. It was decided that the Association would sponsor that weekend by contributing £150 to each participating County.

The Development Officer reported in February that there had been a mix up at the Sports Council and the promotional leaflet had not been sent out but would be immediately.

That is a brief summary of what has happened in the past 12 months

In conclusion there are some personal comments that I would like to make.

I shall not be offering myself for re-election. There are a number of reasons for this but the significant one is pressure of work - I hold a senior executive position in a substantial civil engineering company and, with continuing recession in that industry, it demands a considerable amount of my time.

I have made this decision, though, with sadness because I feel there is so much that has yet to be done in carpet bowls and I would like to have been part of it.

I believe that if we are going to encourage the growth of our game, which surely we must as a National Association, then we must have a steady income. I am convinced that a small registration fee per bowler is the way forward - 50p per year, i.e. less than 1p per week, to ensure the future of carpet bowls surely won't hurt even the hardest up amongst us!

It has to be wrong that a County, such as Bedfordshire, who would like to become Members, cannot afford the sub. because, although growing, they are still small in numbers of bowlers. It is not advancing the cause of carpet bowls to exclude those who are just getting under way - they need our help not exclusion!

If the Association is to be successful then we should all be pulling in the same direction and for that to be the case there must be a common cause to work for, a clear way forward and a 3 or 4 year plan will do that.

It is disappointing that the Sports Council have let us down so badly over the distribution of the promotional leaflets. A check in the last fortnight shows that these have still not gone out despite the Sports Council having had it a year or more ago. Perhaps Scott has had more luck but the only enquiries I have received are from those that I have sent out. I hope that strong representations are made at the very highest level in that organisation.

Eve Warren, when resigning as Secretary last year, referred to the unpleasantness she had received and I also have suffered my fair measure of it. It is extremely difficult to understand why and for it to happen to you - it really is most unpleasant. Most of the accusations are totally untrue which makes it all the worse.

However, as I said a few minutes ago, my reason for not offering myself for re-election is because of pressures from outside the game. Civil engineering pays me a salary and enables me to have food on the table - it has to take precedence.

My heart, however, is in carpet bowls and the marvellous game that it is and I would dearly love to see its growth throughout the country. It has done so much for Village Halls and for people, particularly those who are not able bodied, and it remains my dream that all will have the opportunity of discovering its delights. The popularity, even after 5 years, of such a weekend as this English Pairs is a sound testament to that.

Ladies and gentlemen I wish this Association every good fortune for the future.

## TREASURER'S REPORT 1994/5

This year has been rather exceptional in that we have included the Lottery which has given us a boost in income. Some of the costs of running the Lottery were included in last year's figures thereby giving us an inflated amount.

We had help from two carpet manufacturers in the form of sponsorships in the form of £250. each plus a donation from Durham C.C.B.A. of £200. The Business Premium Account this year has produced Interest of just over £150.

The balance sheet shows that only 8 County Fees were received this year, in fact due to some administration error one was not paid. This has been received since the accounts were completed.

The English County Championships held in October also helped considerably with the income this year.

The largest part of expenditure this year was the production of the Development Brochures on which our Development Officer may have some further comment.

We have tried to keep down committee meeting costs this year by having these at competitions where possible.

The final balance in the bank this year is £9,695.34. an increase of £5,232.71. over last year.

I must thank our Auditor Mrs.S.Dicker for her help in producing all the copies of the Balance Sheet for nothing. This has been a great help. Thankyou Susie.

That,Ladies and Gentlemen is my report for the last financial year.

G.Thirsk.

Treasurer.

# ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

## Balance Sheet – Year to 22nd April 1995

### INCOME

Balance from 1994 - brought forward	£4,462.63
8 x County fees @ £75.00	£600.00
Lottery, net of deductions	£5,282.91
English County Championships	£2,087.00
Raffle	£414.00
Sponsorship/Donations	£700.00
Business Premium Account Interest	£150.93

### EXPENDITURE

<u>Administration</u>	
Officers' expenses including travel, postage, telephone & accommodation	£611.06
Meeting Expenses	£60.00
<u>Development/Promotion</u>	
English Bowls Council	£70.00
Brochures	£2,587.30
Printing	£237.27
<u>Fundraising</u>	
Carpet Transport & costs - County Championships	£240.50
Trophies	£196.00
	£4,002.13
Bank balance	£9,695.34
	<u>£13,697.47</u>



Auditor