

## **ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION**

### **The Minutes of the 5th Annual General Meeting of the English Carpet Bowls Association held at Seacroft Holiday Village, Hemsby, Norfolk Friday 26th April 1996 at 8.10 p.m.**

**Present:** John Crawford (Chairman), Margaret Southgate (Vice-Chairperson), Gordon Thirsk (Treasurer), Scott Andrews (Development Officer), representatives from all member counties and approximately 60 other attendees.

On behalf of the English Carpet Bowls Association Mr. John Crawford, welcomed those present, and thanked the organisers of the English Open Pairs competition for allowing this Annual General Meeting to take place, as well as Pontin's for the facilities. Mr Crawford apologized for starting at 8.10pm, but unfortunately, two separate times had actually been published, this being due to a typographical error.

#### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

These were received from Mrs. Susie Dicker the Secretary of the E.C.B.A. In her absence Mrs. Hardy of Essex will be taking the minutes.

#### **MINUTES OF THE 4TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Mr. David Schofield pointed out that it was Mr. John Crawford who had made the welcoming statement, not as published. Mr. Crawford agreed and duly changed the minutes. These were then agreed and signed.

#### **MATTERS ARISING**

There were no matters arising.

#### **CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

Over the past year there have been meetings of the committee in South Shields, Peterborough, and Blackpool. Grateful thanks to the counties that organized those. Many comments regarding the National County Championships in Scarborough have been heard by the Officers and the committee. This year these championships will be held here at Hemsby, from the 1st to the 3rd November.

In November, myself, Gordon and Susie were invited to the Sports Council, in London. We received an apology with regards to the delivery of the promotional leaflets, but at the end of the day help was offered. Information is required from every club to enable a complete overall picture to be drawn up, giving the total number of people participating within the sport. So please get that information back to your county secretary as soon as possible.

E.C.B.A.

Annual General Meeting 26.4.96

Grateful thanks must be extended to all the officers who have quietly and diligently gone about their different roles, as well as helping to improve and promote carpet bowls. Thanks also to the many unnamed people who also put in a lot of time and effort for the benefit of all carpet bowlers.

#### **SECRETARY'S REPORT**

This was read by Mr. John Crawford on behalf of Mrs. Susie Dicker.

Thanks went to the county secretaries, whom Susie had found to be very efficient and helpful in regard to getting the relevant information to her as requested.

Last summer saw the formation of the first Leicestershire carpet bowls clubs, following a very enjoyable and successful demonstration.

There has been ongoing contact with clubs within West Sussex, and earlier this year Scott met with them to advise on how to form a County Association.

We have been asked by a group of early retired people from Stourbridge in the West Midlands to arrange a demonstration for them which we hope to arrange shortly.

In November our Chairman, Treasurer and myself were invited to a meeting at The Sports Council who are anxious to promote and support our sport. As a result, the coming year should see the preparation and completion of a 4-Year Plan for submission to the Sports Council for consideration for a substantial grant. However, there is a great deal of work still to be done on this project over the coming months and county secretaries may well be asked to assist in a small way. Each county kindly submitted details of the estimated number of Carpet Bowls clubs and players within their areas and I have been quite astounded by the high number of Carpet Bowlers within our nine member counties. I know there are many, many more playing in other counties up and down the country, who are not members of our Association.

Hopefully the coming year will see even more counties joining the Association, and receiving the benefits that membership brings.

#### **TREASURER'S REPORT**

The past year appears to have been one of payments, rather than receipts. This is mainly due to the Association paying for the National championships held at Scarborough, unlike previous years, when our needs have been met totally by Pontin's.

Mr. Gordon Thirsk briefly went through the balance sheet which showed a present bank balance of £8,821.69. It was explained that it appears that we have an extra county fee paid during the year. This in fact is to correct a shortfall in 1994, when only 8 county fees were received. It is hoped that with the majority of counties about to submit cheques to cover the lottery tickets, the financial situation should be further improved.

Mr. Thirsk concluded by thanking Mr. Gowlett of Essex for auditing the accounts at very short notice.

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION**

#### **The following proposal has been received from Durham CBA**

1. No person shall use directly or indirectly the name of the English Carpet Bowls Association for the purpose of personal gain for themselves or another.
  
2. No person shall be elected onto the Executive Committee of the English Carpet Bowls Association who:-
  - a) organizes any competition using directly or indirectly the English Carpet Bowls Association for the purpose of personal gain for themselves or another.
  - b) carries on a business selling and supplying bowls equipment to the general public or receives commission for such sales.
  - c) sells or supplies bowls equipment or receives commission from the sale/supply of bowls equipment on a part time basis.

The proposal was seconded by North Tyneside.

Mr. Crawford asked that counties considered carefully before voting on this proposal, as the result could have a detrimental effect on the future of carpet bowls as a whole.

Following a lengthy debate to ascertain as to whether there was anything personal intended in this proposal, this was strongly denied by Durham. Suffolk requested that the proposal be split into two separate proposals, and not dealt with as one. Durham agreed to this, accepting that if item 1 was turned down, then item 2 would not be voted on.

A show of hands was called for on item 1, the result being 3 votes for, 3 votes against, 1 abstention. It was noted that two counties chose not to take part in this vote at all. The deciding vote was left with Mr. Crawford who voted against this proposal, thereby the proposal was turned down. Mr. Crawford added that had this proposal been carried then he would have stood down as Chairman of the Association immediately, as the company he works for supplies some equipment.

E.C.B.A.  
Annual General Meeting 26.4.96

The meeting then moved to item 10 on the agenda.

### **CHANGES TO RULES FOR PLAYING CARPET BOWLS**

**The following proposal was received from Norfolk CBA.**

**Rule 2.8 line 1.** Delete "Any bowl which comes to rest between the bowler and", and substitute "Any bowl which does not completely pass".

**Rule 2.10** Delete existing rule and substitute -

"If any bowl be interfered with or displaced by a bowler then the opposing skip may declare that bowl dead. Should the jack be moved then the opposing skip may have the options set out in Rule 3.5".

Norfolk were invited to explain the reasoning behind the first amendment.

It was stated that during an inter-county match a problem had arisen, and this proposal was being put forward to prevent any such future occurrence.

Cambridgeshire raised the issue that if a line went the full width of the carpet at the halfway point then this situation would not arise.

It was then pointed out by the Chairman that if Norfolk's proposal was carried, then Rule 1.1 would need to be amended, with regard to a line being drawn on carpets at the halfway point.

A show of hands was called for and there were 6 votes for, 2 votes against and 1 abstention.

Thereby Rules 1.1 and 2.8 are to be duly amended to read as follows:-

**Rule 1.1** A carpet shall be a minimum of 6ft and a maximum of 6ft 6in wide and a minimum of 30ft and a maximum of 33ft long. There shall be a delivery space at the centre of each end of the carpet which shall be 18in wide marked by two white guidelines which shall be no more than 2in long upon which shall be placed two blocks of wood, of a contrasting colour to the carpet, being of size 6inx4inx2in (or 150mmx100mmx50mm metric equivalent). A lateral line shall be drawn across the carpet equidistant from each end.

**Rule 2.8** Any bowl which does not completely pass a lateral line level with the centre of the centre block or which touches or passes over that block shall be declared dead.

Norfolk was invited to clarify the need for the proposed change to rule 2.10.

Following a lengthy discussion as to whether this rule related to woods or players actually displacing a wood or the jack, a vote was called for.

The result being, 3 votes for, 6 votes against. Thereby Rule 2.10 will remain unchanged.

E.C.B.A.  
Annual General Meeting 26.4.96

Mr. Crawford stated that the changes to the rules will initially be issued as amendments. They will be included in the officially printed version when these are next sent to press.

The meeting now returned to item 9 on the agenda.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

- CHAIRMAN** Mr John Crawford was proposed and seconded.  
There being no other nominations Mr Crawford was duly elected.
- VICE-CHAIRMAN** Mrs Margaret Southgate was proposed and seconded.  
There being no other nominations Mrs Southgate was duly elected.
- SECRETARY** Mrs Susie Dicker was proposed and seconded.  
There being no other nominations Mrs Dicker was duly elected.
- TREASURER** Mr Gordon Thirsk was proposed and seconded.  
There being no other nominations Mr Thirsk was duly elected.
- DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**  
Mr Tony Webber was proposed and seconded, as was Mr Doug Double. A show of hands was called for.  
Mr Webber received 3 votes, Mr Double 6 votes.  
Mr Double was thereby elected.
- REFEREE** Mr. Allan Howe was proposed and seconded.  
There being no other nominations Mr Howe was duly elected.
- Hon: AUDITOR** Mr Henry Gowlett was proposed and seconded.  
There being no other nominations Mr Gowlett was duly elected.

#### **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

It was proposed by Mr Thirsk that these should remain at £75.00 per county. This was seconded by Durham.

It was suggested that perhaps a pro-rata amount could be agreed for counties with a small membership. This was rejected as it was the county associations and not the actual clubs that this amount was levied against. A show of hands was asked for and the proposal was carried unanimously.

E.C.B.A.

Annual General Meeting 26.4.96

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr Crawford confirmed that a letter confirming the booking for the National County Championships had been received from Pontin's.

A business proposition had been received from MELD Leisure. It was proposed that this should be held over till the first committee meeting for discussion. This was seconded by Durham.

There were some present who wished it to be discussed in full at this time, despite being reminded that this was an Annual General Meeting, and only items submitted by member counties could be allowed for discussion.

Questions were also asked regarding the forthcoming Open Triples competition to be held at Potter's of Hopton. It was pointed out that at present they were only being allowed to use the English Association name for one year, although the Sports Council see this as an opportunity to promote our sport, as does the committee. It will also get more people playing the game of carpet bowls which, after all, is what we are all trying to do.

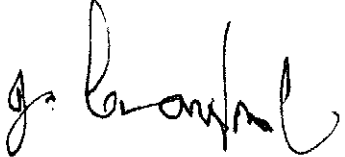
There followed a lengthy discussion regarding both MELD Leisure and Potters. The MELD Leisure proposition to be put on the agenda for the first committee meeting following this AGM, and representatives from MELD to be invited, so that they may answer any questions.

It was asked if there was a report from the outgoing Development Officer. Unfortunately there was not, although Mr Crawford did re-iterated what had already been stated regarding the Sports Council.

The chair asked if there were any other items for discussion.

Suffolk proposed a vote of thanks to be extended towards the acting secretary. Mr Crawford thanked Mrs Hardy once again, then announced that the Grand Draw would follow this meeting directly.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.30 p.m.

  
12.10.96