

Minutes of the 6th Annual General Meeting of the English Carpet Bowls Association held on Friday 25 April 1997 in the Trafalgar Ballroom, Seacroft Holiday Village, Hemsby, Norfolk

Present:

All outgoing officials and representatives from all member counties except South Tyneside

1. Chairman's Welcoming Remarks

Chairman welcomed all to the 6th A G M and thanked the organiser. Voting cards were given out to each member county present.

2. Apologies for absence

South Tyneside.

3. Minutes of last meeting

Proposed and accepted by Suffolk and seconded by North Tyneside.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this the 6th AGM of the English Carpet Bowls Association. Grateful thanks are expressed to the organisers of this weekend, for allowing us to hold our AGM at this venue.

Since the last AGM we have held meetings at Whitley Bay, Haverhill and Blackpool, grateful thanks go to all those concerned in organising these meetings.

Last year an the open triples competition was held at Potters under the banner of the Ass. although it was a first time event, and not a large entry we still got a return from Potters as promised. Potters is not to everyone's taste, but a good many carpet bowlers do attend who do like the venue. The winners of the past competition were Association members. Regrettably there are those who believe that these weekends run by others are against the Association interests.

As we do not have a fixed income, funds from these sources could be very beneficial. No one wants a raffle every year to raise funds, where are we to get finance!

This year there will be an ECBA triples in October which is being organised by Northumberland at one of the premier holiday parks in the North of England

6. Secretary's Report

7. Treasurer's Report

8. Amendments to the Constitution

2.2.c. to read 'Co-opt an officer should the need arise through an officer leaving for any reason whatsoever'.

Proposed by Suffolk, seconded by North Tyneside. Unanimously accepted.

9. Election of Officers

Chairman **Mr John Crawford** was elected, there being no other nominees.

Vice Chairman **Mrs Margaret Southgate** was elected, there being no other nominees.

Secretary Current Secretary standing down, **Miss Eve Warren** (Durham) was elected, there being no other nominees.

<u>Treasurer</u>	Mr Gordon Thirsk was elected, there being no other nominees.
<u>Development Officer</u>	Office currently vacant. Mr Tony Webber (Suffolk) was elected, there being no other nominees.
<u>Referee</u>	Mr Allan Howe was elected, there being no other nominees.
<u>Hon. Auditor</u>	Mr Henry Gowlett agreed to remain as auditor, there being no other nominees.

10. Amendment to the Rules

Proposal from Hertfordshire - 'That Rule 1.4 be amended to read 'The jack shall be 2.5in. in diameter and weigh no less than 8 oz or no more than 10 ozs'.

Essex proposed an amendment 'The jack shall be 2.5in. in diameter and that the maximum weight be 16oz., minimum 8oz.

The amendment was carried unanimously.

Rule 1.4 now reads "..... the jack shall be 2.5in. in diameter and weigh no less than 8oz. and no more than 16oz.

11. Annual Membership Subscription

The Treasurer felt that the current subscription of £75 remain in place. This was agreed by all present.

12. Any Other Business

1. Proposal from Essex - 'that a subsidy is made to cover the cost of accommodating those players that as Champions of their respective counties are requested to compete in the National Championships. This to be active from this year, as after all the people taking part this year are all doing so with very short notice being given to them'.

Various points were made by some member county's representatives.

As there was no seconder for the proposal, the proposal was not carried.

2. Norfolk on behalf of the Eastern Counties Association voiced a complaint that the 'Champion of Champions date coincided with the Eastern Counties Triples Championship. The Chairman expressed his sympathy and pointed out the difficulty in allocating a date that suited all.

In drawing the meeting to a close, the Chairman thanked the small number who attended the meeting.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.50 p.m.



English Carpet Bowls Association

Chairmans Report to AGM. 25th April 1997

It is my pleasure to welcome you all to this the 6th. AGM of the English Carpet Bowls Association Greatfull thanks are expressed to the organisers of this weekend, for allowing us to hold our AGM at this venue.

Since the last AGM we have held meetings at Whitley Bay, Haverhill, and Blackpool, greatfull thanks go to all those concerned in organising these meetings.

Last year an open Triples competition was held at Potters under the banner of the Ass. although it was a first time event, and not a large entry we still got a return from potters as promised, Potters is not to everyones taste, but a good many carpet bowlers do attend who do like the venue. The winners of the past Comp. were Ass. members, Regrettably there are those who believe that these weekends run by others are against the Ass. interests.

As we do not have a fixed income, funds from these sources could be very beneficial. No one wants a Raffle every year to raise funds, where are we to get finance !

This year there will be E.C.B.A. Triples In October which is being organised by Northumberland at one of the premier holiday parks in the north of England , Mr. Tony Cuthbert of North'd has leaflets and booking form for those who haven't got them.

The English Rinks Championships in October past went very well with minor comments about the scores postings, I accept full responsibility for this but it was only as it had been done in the past with postings only going up after each set of six games.

This year will see the first of the Ass. National Championships at Doncaster on 7th June at the Dome, each County has been asked to send their annual champions, of a Rink, Triple, Pair & Single player .

It was with quiet a shock in early July to receive a letter of resignation from Mr. Doug. Double, our Developement officer, dut unfortunately this was due to ill health, and as he had been instructed to lead a quiet life and so had no option than to stand down. This left us with an anomily as the constitution is not set up to allow for anyone to be co-opted in such an event, resulting in the fact we have not had a developement officer since that time. I hope we can rectify this matter tonight in the election of officers.

Comments have been made about the things the Officers would like to do, but in all things, the interest of the Ass is at the heart of all Ideas, some of these must be radicle to move forward, to expand, the mystical 4 year plan must be thought of or we will never get backing from the Sports Council, as I have said at other times there is a heck of a lot more to the Ass. than just playing Carpet Bowls and until this is realised is will be impossible to go forward.

The 1997 English Rinks Championships are already firmly booked here at Pontins for the week-end of 31st October - 02 November and amongst the discussions you may be sure the interest of the Bowlers is always uppermost Last year I said we would try to get Photographs of the teams and I sincerely apologise that this did not happen but will give it high priority this time.

As Chairman and on behalf of the Ass. I wish to thank Our Vice Chair person Margaret Southgate for her hard work over the past year from organising events to trying to find venues . To Susie Dicker our Secretary who has done all the paper work and kept everyone informed often a miss understood position, some people never realise the work load involved, as well as running a business.

Also to Gordon Thirsk. our Treasurer who has looked after our Finances and kept the accounts healthy, while negotiating venues for the forthcoming competition at Doncaster always trying to get the best deal for everyone and seeing to the trophies that we require for events

Thanks must go to Anne Hardy who has stood in for the Secretary at meetings on occasions.

To Eve Warren who set up the English rinks of last October with the format and all the relevant paperwork and scorecards , and her time at the end in checking totals etc. Further thanks must be given to all those who in any way have helped toward the running of the Association with the Carpets , Raffles etc .

In closing I would like to add that it has never been my intention to try and build and control an empire , but all my efforts are for the greater interests of the Assodation, and to develop we must pursue all avenues on the broadest front possible.

I would be so bold as to repeat that there is more to the E.C.B.A. than playing Carpet Bowls.

John Crawford
Chairman E.C.B.A.

25th. April. 1997

E.C.B.A. A.G.M. 25TH APRIL 1997

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The last 12 months has seen the E.C.B.A. Officers working particularly hard, with mixed results.

On the positive side we have made immense strides forward with the first English National Triples Competition, which was held at Potters, just a stones' throw away from here. The venue could not have been better and it was very much enjoyed by all who attended. Arrangements for the 1997 English National Triples are now underway and a north eastern venue has been chosen, which we are sure will prove to be both popular and successful.

On behalf of the E.C.B.A. the officers are proud to be hosting the inaugural 'Champion of Champions' competition in Doncaster in June. Most member counties will be entering a team of ten champions which is sure to result in top class bowls and friendly rivalry.

However, as the year has progressed it has become increasingly apparent that our Constitution has a number of areas that require re-structuring to permit the Association to 'grow' in line with the growth of our sport.

Under unfortunate circumstances at the beginning of our Association's current year, we were left without a Development Officer, one of just six positions on the Committee.

- * Our Constitution gave us no provision to rectify this situation and, as such, we have been without a Development Officer for a full year.

This prompted the Officers to take professional advice and a few of the issues raised are noted below:

- * Our Constitution refers to *affiliated* Members. We have no affiliated members and no quantification of affiliation is given within the Constitution.
- * Up to three representatives from each Member County can attend each Meeting. With our current membership, a total of 33 people could be present, with an additional three each time a new Member joins. Unwieldy to say the least and it does not take a great mathematician to work out that, on the premiss that membership remains static and each county has full representation, should each attendee speak for slightly more than five minutes, the meeting will last for four hours!

- * The E.C.B.A.'s Officers are not entitled to a vote.

These points are all food for thought for the County Committees to consider over the coming year. The opportunity to make Constitutional changes comes only once a year and then only provided proposals are made in advance giving the statutory notice period.

My two years as an E.C.B.A. officer have been extremely enlightening – I have seen how unstintingly my fellow-officers work, often in the face of much derision. They give up many hundreds of hours of their time each year for a cause that they genuinely believe in. None of this is for personal gain (and usually results in being out of pocket!) or recognition. Their dedication is to put Carpet Bowls on the sporting map.

I will not be standing for re-election this year, but I do ask you to give the officers your wholehearted support – they deserve it, and more-importantly, they need it.

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

A.G.M. APRIL 1997

TREASURERS REPORT

You should by now have a copy of the balance sheet.

In spite of having to pay out over £3,100 in subsidies to the member Counties this year we have ended the year with over £1,650 more than our starting balance. Thanks in part to income from the Lottery, part of which was included in last years accounts. The County Championships at Pontins last year also helped to balance our accounts.

Bank Interest has risen this year to £303.10 thanks to the Higher Interest Business Account which has a balance of just over £10,000 even though we have had to use part of this throughout the year, it has been replaced being £3,000 more than the opening balance.

We are about to have another demand on our resources by the introduction of the Champion of Champions Competition at Doncaster where the E.C.B.A. will be paying for the Dome, all the prizes and this includes the first time Perennial Cups as well as the individual trophies, carpet transport etc., and this will amount to around £1,500 with no income return whatsoever. Accommodation has been arranged in a different way to minimise the cost to those individuals participating.

This latest competition is one of the way of proving our growth and advancement to the Sports Council, who are prepared to help us as a sport, if we can prove a four year plan. This amount could be a five figure sum and would enable the E.C.B.A. to help its members even more. With this in mind we have to go forward and not stagnate.

Finally I would like to thank Henry Gowlett our Auditor and hope that he will carry on for yet another year.