

Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting of the English Carpet Bowls Association held on Friday 23 April 1999 in the Nelson Ballroom, Seacroft Holiday Village, Hemsby, Norfolk

Present:

All outgoing officials and representatives from all member counties.

1. Chairman's Welcoming Remarks

Chairman welcomed all to the 8th A G M and thanked the organisers of the English Pairs Championships for once again providing the venue.

2. Apologies for absence

None

3. Minutes of last meeting

Proposed and accepted as a true record.

4. Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

5. Chairman's Report

Attached.

6. Secretary's Report

Membership

10 counties are affiliated to the Association - Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Suffolk.

Champion of Champions

The second year of the above competition was held in The Dome at Doncaster on the weekend of 7/8 June 1998. All counties were represented in all disciplines.

Northumberland did very well over the weekend winning the Singles, Pairs (Brian Hesp once again losing only 1 game, to Durham, in 2 championships) and the overall Team trophy. Cambridgeshire won the Triples on shots from Essex and Norfolk won the Rinks of Four.

The 1999 tournament will be held at Rotherham Leisure Centre on 5/6 June 1999. The Dome at Doncaster, which had been provisionally booked for 5/6 June, had received a better offer from the BBC and it was not now available to the Association.

County Championship

Nine counties (Bedfordshire were unable to participate) were represented at the Championships on 30 October - 2 November 1998.

Cambridgeshire won with Suffolk runner up.

The 1999 event will be held at Seacroft from Friday 29 October to Monday 1 November 1999. Although Friday evening remains the same, no day visitors allowed Saturday and Sunday, all players must be staying in the camp.

League Championship

Durham, representing the Northern League won the League Championship from Cambridgeshire representing the Southern league on Friday evening of 30 October 1998.

7. Treasurer's Report

Attached.

8. Development Officers Report

Attached.

9. Amendments to the Constitution

Proposal from Executive Committee.

Paragraph 1.3. of the Constitution, which currently reads:-

To up hold the good name of the Association and not allow the use directly or indirectly the name of the Association for the purpose of personal gain by any individual and/or organisation

to be amended to include the following paragraph:-

If however it proved beneficial to the ECBA and the future of ECBA competitions to have an arrangement, then the Committee will have the mandate to grant any exemption that is necessary. The ECBA Executive Committee will also retain the right to revoke any such arrangement if the terms and conditions became detrimental to the ECBA and its members

The above proposal was accepted unanimously.

10. Election of Officers

<u>Chairman</u>	Mr R White was re-elected, there being no other nominees.
<u>Vice Chairman</u>	Mr A Cuthbert was re-elected, there being no other nominees.
<u>Secretary</u>	Mrs A Hardy was elected, being the only nominee.
<u>Treasurer</u>	Mrs M Southgate was re-elected, there being no other nominees.
<u>Development Officer</u>	Mr Tony Webber was re-elected, there being no other nominees.
<u>Referee</u>	Mr A Evans (Suffolk) was proposed by Essex and seconded by Norfolk. Mr D Storey (Durham) was proposed by Northumberland and seconded by South Tyneside.

Voting was 5 for each nominee. Chairman's casting vote in favour of Mr David Storey.

<u>Hon. Auditor</u>	Mr Henry Gowlett agreed to remain as auditor, there being no other nominees.
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11. Amendments to The Rules for Playing Carpet Bowls

The following rule change was put forward by the Executive Committee.

Paragraph 2.4. of the Rules, which currently reads:-

Where facilities allow, players will stand well back from the carpet when other players are bowling. When it is the turn of the skips to bowl the remaining players to go to the other end of the carpet.

to be amended to include the following paragraph:-

When it is the turn of the 3rd wood to bowl, he may visit the head if invited to do so by his skip.

This change was agreed in principle but Essex suggested that the word 'player' should be substituted for 'wood'. This was agreed.

The following amendments were proposed by Bedfordshire.

1. Rule 2.3. "Trial Ends" to be abolished.

This rule change was seconded by Cambridgeshire.

Voting on this rule was 2 for and 8 against, therefore this rule remains unaltered.

2. Rule 2.7. "Interference with the Carpet" be amended to prohibit touching the carpet during play.

The suggested wording would be...

Whether playing or directing, bowlers must not stand on, kneel on, or touch the carpet"
(The remaining text would be unchanged)

This rule change was seconded by Cambridgeshire.

This rule change was carried by 7 votes, with 3 abstentions.

11. Annual Membership Subscription

Proposal made by the Treasurer that subscriptions be increased to £85 per member, seconded by Essex.

An amendment was proposed that the subscriptions increase to £100, proposed by Suffolk, seconded by Norfolk.

The amendment was carried by 8 votes, with 2 abstentions.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.10 p.m.

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Chairman's Report to the A.G.M. 23rd April 1999

This is my first year as Chairman and it gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the eighth AGM of the Association. Our thanks go to the organisers of this weekend, MELD Leisure, for allowing us to hold our AGM at this venue.

Since the last AGM we have held Committee meetings at Chester-le-Street (June 1998), Hemsby (September 1998) and Newark (February 1999). Out of those meetings a Sub Committee was formed to discuss the possibility of sub-contracting of EBCA Championship competitions. That Sub Committee met and a Special Committee Meeting (October 1998) at Newark discussed the topics raised. Unfortunately progress has not been made because of the way our Constitution is worded. Hopefully, when we discuss amendments to the constitution later this evening, that obstacle will be overcome.

During the last year the Committee have agreed to hold meetings at a central venue rather than alternating between the north and the south. At present the Committee Meetings are held at Newark.

The Champion of Champions was held at the Doncaster Dome last year. It was a very exciting week-end and as we have come to expect, there were some very close encounters.

It is rather disappointing, after holding two Champion of Champions at Doncaster Dome and booking Doncaster for 1999, the Dome blandly advised the Secretary that they had received a better offer from the BBC for a 'Ready, Steady, Cook' programme, and the Dome was no longer available to the Association. However, we have booked the Rotherham Leisure Centre for the week-end 5th/6th June. Details of the week-end, the format and accommodation is with your County representatives.

The Leisure Manger at Rotherham has been very co-operative and actually knows about Carpet Bowls. If we have a successful 1999, Rotherham could become the home of the Champion of Champions in the future.

The County Championship was held at Hemsby. County Durham won the North v South clash on the Friday evening against Cambridgeshire to become the League Champions. However,

Cambridgeshire proved they had the ability to fight back and they were worthy winners of the County Championship, with Suffolk as Runners-Up.

The next County Championship will be held here, at Seacroft, on the week-end Friday, 29th October to Monday, 1st November, 1999.

When it comes to thanking people, it is always dangerous to thank individuals, just in case someone is left out and feels offended. Therefore, I would like to thank everyone who has helped, in any way, during my year in office.

However, it would not be right for me to finish my report without making reference to the two officers who are not seeking re-election. If my calculations are correct, Alan Howe has been Referee for five years, in actual fact I proposed Alan at the time, and I am sure you will all agree that Alan has carried out his duties with diligence and integrity.

Compared to Eve Warren, the out-going Secretary, I am a comparative novice. Eve was involved with Carpet Bowls well before the ECBA was formed. In 1991, on the formation of this Association, Eve was its first Secretary. Eve was Secretary of the Association for three years, before taking a well earned break. Eve came back as Secretary in 1997 and has been Secretary for the last two years. Eve has performed the function of Secretary in a quiet and calm manner and I am sure everyone will wish Eve all the best with her free time.

Treasurers Report. AGM 1999

Here are the accounts for 1998/99, and for the second year in succession I must tell you we have less money in the Bank than a year ago. I am pleased to be able to say that we did actually increase our income this year by approx. £1000.00 which was mostly accounted for by the extra visitors attending the County Championships. We held a raffle at the Champion of Champions in 1998 and due to the hard work of George Nixon, Pat Brown and the rest of their team from North Tyneside they persuaded the bowlers to part with an extra £100.00 for the raffle in November. They also sold ECBA lapel badges on our behalf, if you havent got yours yet Bill Ramshaw will have some on his stand this weekend. The Interest we receive from the Bank is down by £60.00 and this is due to two factors, we started the financial year with £2000.00 less in our account and we are now a further £1500 .00 down added to which interest rates have fallen steadily for the past year.

On the Expenditure side the Administration is down by approx. £500.00, the Committee now hold their meetings at Newark which is midway for all the delegates and this has cut down considerably on expenses as we no longer have claims for overnight accomodation. Development & Promotion has increased as Tony Webber has been spreading the word far and wide and I understand several new clubs have been formed. All 10 counties were represented at the Champion of Champions and this meant we needed to increase the bowling area in the Dome and of course the result was an extra £400.00 hire fee. The National championships cost more, mainly due to the cost of the trophies and administration but this was offset by the increase in visitors to Seacroft and the raffle.

Meld Leisure invited the ECBA to run the Raffle this weekend so we have the opportunity to raise some much needed funds tomorrow, please support our efforts, Tony Cuthbert will be very happy to sell you as many tickets as possible.

Henry Gowlett has again audited our accounts and I wish to express my thanks to him and hope he found the task easier this year.

Margaret Southgate
Treasurer
23rd April 1999

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Balance Sheet-----Year to 31st March 1999

INCOME

Balance from 1998 brought forward	8,133.44
10 x County Fees @ £75.00	750.00
Raffle & Board Games at Champion of Champions	305.52
County Championships	3,474.00
Raffle at " " " " " " "	627.00
Lapel Badges	37.50
Bank Interest	269.80

EXPENDITURE

<u>Administration</u>	
Officers Expenses, eg Postage, Telephone, Photocopying etc.	264.34
Meeting Expenses, Venue, Travel, Accommodation	813.53
<u>Development/Promotion</u>	
Travel, Printing, Postage, etc	587.65
Lottery Licence	17.50
English Bowls Council	100.00
<u>Champion of Champions</u>	
Hire of Dome--Doncaster	790.00
Trophies	95.14
Officers Expenses, inc. Admin	180.27
Equipment Transport	116.11
Visit to Rotherham (to set up 1999 Tournament venue)	31.80
<u>National County Championships</u>	
Administration--Programmes, Score cards, Raffle Prizes etc.	341.86
Travel Subsidy	3082.00
Pairs Competition	170.00
Equipment Transport	20.00
Trophies	476.00
Bank Charges	6.12
Combined Bank Balances	6504.94

13597.26

13597.26


Auditor

DEVELOPMENT REPORT 1999

Since the last A.G.M. I have continued giving demonstrations and talking to all sorts of people about Carpet Bowls.

During the year I was invited to attend the Nottinghamshire Village Hall Conference at Durnham Village. I accepted the invitation and took with me a video player to show some film of Carpet Bowls being played, because a moving picture tends to create more interest, I also took some of our "What is Carpet Bowls" leaflets which quickly disappeared. From this visit came a request for a demonstration from Brinsley Village Hall, which I have carried out. As yet I have not heard whether they have actually started, but I know they have applied for a grant to buy equipment.

I also met Georgina Street who is in charge of the Community Centres for Ashfield District Council. I am due to give demonstrations on Thursday 29th April at three of the centres. I understand that the funding for the equipment has been sorted out and that they wish to start a league as soon as possible.

The day before the Conference I did a demonstration at Thurgarton Village Hall, they also have applied for a grant, so things are looking promising in Nottinghamshire. If a league is formed with the Community Centres I will then try to get a County Association formed.

I have also given two demonstrations at Titley Village Hall in Herefordshire, where about 20 people attended each one. Titley have received their grant and are running well. Another village close by has now come forward and I am due to go there in May (using Titley's new equipment).

The village of West Harptree in the Bristol area where I did a demonstration is now running and two more have voiced an interest in having a go.

I was pleased to see that West Sussex are still going strong and that they have had their first friendly match, against Essex. Well done West Sussex and well done Essex for making this move.

I spoke last year to some bowlers from Rutland who currently play their bowls in Cambridgeshire and said that I would look to some villages in Rutland with a view to expanding the game there, unfortunately time has been against me. Perhaps we can get together this year to push ahead with this idea.

I am still receiving requests for information about our game and I will continue to attempt to bring Carpet Bowls to fresh Counties. I also intend to retrace my footsteps to possibly move things on in areas where clubs have been formed recently.

Lastly, I said in my report last year that I had received some interest from the Ross on Wye area and had sent information to them. I am pleased to report that 4 bowlers from Ross on Wye are attending this English Pairs weekend, so we are making progress.

L. A. Webber

Development Officer