

English Carpet Bowls Association

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held on Friday 7th June 2002
at The Metrodome Leisure Complex.**

Present: All outgoing Officers.

Representatives from: Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, North Tyneside, South Tyneside, Suffolk.

Plus 33 other attendees.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the 11th Annual General Meeting.

1. **Apologies for Absence**

No apologies were received.

2. **Minutes of last AGM.**

These were approved and signed by the chairman as a true record.

3. **Matters Arising.**

There were no matters arising.

4. **Chairman's Report.**

Copy attached.

5. **Secretary's Report**

Copy attached.

6. **Treasurer's Report**

The statement of accounts as put to the AGM showed a total bank balance of £11,742.01 as funds available to the Association. The accounts had been audited and signed by Mrs. June Laws. A copy of the balance sheet is attached.

7. **Development Officer's Report.**

In April Ashfield District council invited the association to four different venues to be present Carpet Bowls to local communities.

I am aware of new clubs being formed in Pishill Oxfordshire, Ripon Yorkshire, Caysoun Cumbria, Dartford Kent, Morton Lincolnshire, Blackburn Lancashire. Plus up to 13 more within our current county members. There are now three clubs playing to ECBA rules in Scotland. In Herefordshire we are aware that the clubs have now formed a league and are currently considering forming an association.

8. **Referee's Report.**

A course has been developed so that we can have a number of Trainers and Accredited ECBA Umpires. To date two people one from Northumberland and one from Durham that are accredited trainers.

9. **Amendments to the Constitution.**

Proposal from Executive Committee regarding article 3 Membership.

That the current paragraph 3.1 be deleted and replaced with the following and 3.2 and 3.3 be added:

- 3.1 Membership of the ECBA shall be open to any properly constituted Carpet Bowls Association formed to represent a County or Metropolitan Borough. A copy of their constitution to be handed to the secretary for record purposes only.
- 3.2 An annual membership fee that will be agreed only at an AGM will become due for payment no later than 28 days following that AGM. Should a County or Metropolitan Borough wish to join the ECBA for the first time between AGM's they will pay the same membership fee and receive the same entitlements as set at option (b) of 3.3 below, this will then count as the first year of their membership.
- 3.3 Any County or Metropolitan Borough that has not previously been a member of the ECBA may choose either of the following levels of membership.
- a) Pay the full membership fee as agreed at the most recent AGM. This will entitle any such County/Metropolitan Borough to vote on any proposal at a meeting of the ECBA and take part in all competitions.
 - b) Opt for a maximum of the first two years of their membership to pay 50% of the full membership fee. This would entitle them to the following:
 - i) Have up to two representatives attend a meeting of the ECBA, at which they would be encouraged to take part in discussions and make proposals but they would not be entitled to vote.
 - ii) The members of clubs which form such new members may take part in any ECBA Open events.
- A County or Metropolitan Borough whilst choosing option (b) will not be invited to enter the Champion of Champions event or the National County Championships.

An amendment to delete the last sentence of 3.3 was put forward by Suffolk.

A vote by ballot card was held with 4 in favour and 5 against. A vote on the original proposal followed with 7 in favour and 2 abstentions. Therefore the original proposal was carried.

Proposal received from Suffolk to amend paragraph 4.6 of the constitution to read as follows: Nominations for Officers will only be accepted in writing from member counties 28 days prior to the meeting and not from the floor during the relevant Agenda item at the Annual General Meeting.

Essex proposed that the following sentence be added to the end of the original proposal: Should a vacancy remain for which no nominations have been received then nominations will be accepted from the floor for that position only.

A vote by ballot card was held with 7 in favour and 2 against.

Therefore paragraph 4.6 will be amended to read:

Nominations for Officers will only be accepted in writing from member counties 28 days prior to the meeting and not from the floor during the relevant Agenda item at the Annual General Meeting. Should a vacancy remain for which no nominations have been received then nominations will be accepted from the floor for that position only.

10. **Election of Officers.**

Chairman - Suffolk proposed Mr. David Schofield

Durham proposed Mr. Tony Cuthbert

Essex proposed Mr. Ray White

Following a vote by ballot card and receiving a majority of the votes available Mr. Tony Cuthbert of Northumberland was elected chairman.

Vice Chairman - Northumberland proposed Mr. Gordon Thirsk

Hertfordshire proposed Mr. Rob Washbrook.

Following a vote by ballot card and receiving a majority of the votes available Mr. Rob Washbrook was elected vice chairman.

With no other nominations forthcoming the following officers were all elected.
Secretary - Mrs. Ann Hardy, Treasurer - Mrs. Margaret Southgate,
Referee - Mr. David Storey. Development Officer (North) - Mr. Bill Ramshaw.
With no nominations for a development officer in the South, that post remains vacant.

It was agreed that Mrs. June Laws would continue to be the auditor.

Before continuing Mr. Cuthbert gave Mr. White a vote of thanks for all the hard work he has done during his term as chairman of the association.

11. **Changes to the Rules for Playing Carpet Bowls.**

The following changes to the rules were proposed by the executive committee:

A vote on each point was taken.

Amendment to Rule 1.1

Insert the words the following sentence directly after the first sentence.

A jack placement line 0.91m (3ft) long shall be marked centrally, 0.91m (3ft) from each end of the carpet. Agreed unanimously.

Extend the length of the guidelines beside which the delivery blocks are placed from 51mm (2ins) to 457 mm (18ins). With 6 votes against this was defeated.

Amendment to Rule 1.4

Delete the following words: "no less than 8oz but no more than 16oz"

Insert the words: "and weigh 283.5gm (10oz)".

With 6 votes in favour this was carried.

Amendment to Rule 2.10

Delete the following words: "this could include the jack".

Insert the following options:

- (i) Leave the bowls/jack to remain as they are or
- (ii) Replace the bowls/jack as near as possible to their original position or
- (iii) Replay the end unless any live bowl so moved is the only one.

With 5 votes in favour this was carried.

Amendment to Rule 3.1

Delete the following words: "the skip shall cause that bowl to be declared dead"

Insert "then one shot shall be deducted on that end and each subsequent occasion".

With 5 votes against this was defeated.

Amendments to Rule 3.2

Insert - 'and within the 457mm (18ins) guidelines' and 'Any woods released outside the guidelines will be declared dead'.

As the second amendment to rule 1.1 had not been agreed this amendment was withdrawn.

Change - 'if either block is moved' to 'if either block is touched'.

With 7 votes in favour this was carried.

Insert - 'If however the block is touched after the wood has been released this would not be classed as a foul'.

With 7 votes in favour this was carried.

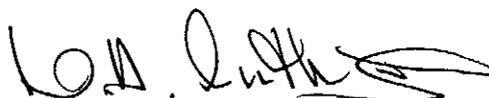
Insert - 'The forward motion which the wood is released must pass through the blocks'.

With 7 votes in favour this was carried.

Insert new Rule 5.4

Agreement should be reached between skips on what is to be measured and by whom.

With 6 votes in favour this was carried.



Insert new Rule 5.5

If the measurer disturbs either jack or bowl(s) then the end shall be replayed unless both skips agree otherwise.

With 5 votes against this was defeated.

Amendment to Rule 6.2

Delete - 'either skip'

Insert - 'the skip with the last wood in the end'.

With 7 votes in favour this was carried.

Amendment to Rule 8

Delete "Direct coaching of a player whilst a game is in progress is forbidden"

Insert new Rule 8.2

Direct coaching of a player whilst a game is in progress is forbidden. The opposing skip shall bring any offence to the notice of the independent referee who will assess the situation and may ask the offender to leave the playing area.

If the above new rule is agreed then rule 8 will have to be re numbered and become 8.1

With 6 votes in favour the amendments to rule 8 were carried.

12. **Annual Membership Fee.**

The Treasurer proposed that the subscription for the following year remain at £100.00 per County/Metropolitan Borough. This was agreed by unanimously.

13. **Any Other Business.**

Cambridgeshire asked the Chairman what are his thoughts for the future of the ECBA.

Mr. Cuthbert stated that he wished to dispel any conflict that may or may not exist between the ECBA and Meld Leisure. To meet with Meld to find the common ground between us and for both parties to work together for the future of Carpet Bowls. (Mr. Schofield a director of Meld Leisure whole heartedly agreed)

The chairman also reminded all members that the officers and delegates worked very hard on a voluntary basis for carpet bowls and therefore deserved respect and not abuse from anyone.

South Tyneside asked why have Essex arranged an event to take place on the same day as they are hosting the ECBA Triples. Essex apologised but did state that they had already informed the association of the clash of dates. The Essex event had been arranged for over a year.

With all matters concluded the meeting was declared closed at 10.18pm.

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Chairman's Report to the A.G.M. - 7th June, 2002

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to the eleventh A.G.M. of the Association.

Since the last A.G.M. the Committee has met in June and September, 2001 and January and April, 2002. All the meetings were held in Rotherham. Your County Delegates continue to consider that the venue at Rotherham offers the best option at the present.

You may recall that at the last A.G.M., held at Rotherham, I said the Committee would look at a new site at Barnsley. This is it! I would suggest that it was the basketball games behind the curtain that put the final nail in Rotherham's coffin. Let us hope that Barnsley will be an improvement.

However, your Committee will always look at other sites to see what is on offer. York and Nottinghamshire have been suggested as possible venues.

With regards to the County Championship, we have also looked at alternative sites at Butlin's at Skegness and Warner's at Lowestoft. Your Committee have decided that from a 'value for money' point of view, we should stay at Hemsby. However, we will still continue to look at any new site.

A meeting with the Management at Potter's, Great Yarmouth, was held a few weeks ago and details are being put together for the next Committee Meeting.

The Association has been invited to have a stand at the NEC for the Disability Sports Show during 12/14 July. It is said to be the biggest show of its type in Europe.

On your behalf can I thank the Cambridgeshire and Essex County Associations for running the Triples and Rinks respectively.

A triple from Durham were winners of the first competition in September, 2001.

The final of the rinks, which was played just over a month ago, was contested between two teams from Northumberland. Congratulations to the eventual winners.

South Tyneside are running the next Triples competition at South Shields on 1st September, 2002. Next year Durham will host the Rinks on 30th March, 2003 at Maidens Castle. Hertfordshire are scheduled to host the Triples in September, 2003.

The year 2001 must belong to Cambridgeshire. In the Champion of Champions they were victors in three of the four disciplines. Only Durham, who won the rinks, stopped them from having a full house. Not unnaturally Cambridgeshire won the team trophy.

At the annual League Championship Final, held on the eve of the County Championship, some very fine bowling saw Cambridgeshire emerge winners against Northumberland.

Over the Saturday and Sunday of the Championship, Cambridgeshire kept their cool and maintained their winning ways to become Champions once again.

The 2002 County Championship will be held at Seacroft, Hemsby, over the week-end 1st - 4th November. Booking forms are with the Counties.

Your Committee has worked very hard during the past year. It would be wrong to say that we all agree on everything but full and frank discussions take place. However, I have to thank my Officers and Committee for the work they put in.

A special 'thank you' has to go to Ann Hardy who has worked tirelessly on behalf of the Association. Whenever I contact her with a query - she had it sorted out the day before!

Hindsight is a marvellous thing. Maybe the timing of this A.G.M. is not perfect. However, each County Committee has a discussion paper before them regarding the location and timing of future A.G.M's. The next English Committee meeting, in a month's time, will debate this subject.

Finally, may I wish bowlers all the best over the next two days.



RAYMOND WHITE
7th June, 2002

ENGAGM02

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2002

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The membership of the association was reduced to 9 during the past year as Bedfordshire declined to renew their membership. The counties that did renew their membership were, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, North Tyneside, Northumberland, South Tyneside, Suffolk.

Since the last AGM we have re-launched our Open Triples Competition. This was hosted by Cambridgeshire at the Ross Peers Centre in Soham. Although the entry was limited to 100 and that number was not reached, there was still a total of 85 triples entered. The day culminated in an excellent final with the winners coming from Durham.

The second annual Open Rinks event was hosted by Essex at the Braintree Leisure Centre. The competition received a total of 80 entries, which was the limit set for this event on this occasion. The final was a hard fought battle with a rink from Powburn Northumberland being the eventual winners.

There are those that say these events are not truly Open as the entry is limited players that belong to clubs that form our member counties. To invite members of clubs within counties that are not in the ECBA would mean that the number of players from our current membership would be far fewer. The term Open is used to distinguish events at which entries may come from teams made up of players from different clubs and or counties.

Perhaps it won't be long before we are able to consider the organisation of both singles and pairs events. Although it may be that we need to consider these being a combined event.

Our thanks must be extended to committees of both Cambridgeshire and Essex for being such excellent hosts. As well as to everyone that has given some of their time to assist at any of our events - be it with administration, organising subsidiary competitions, measuring, selling raffle tickets the list is endless.

Special thanks must be extended though to those that have transported and to those clubs and counties that have loaned equipment. Without any of this assistance we cannot hold any of our competitions.

Myself, the chairman and the treasurer have all spent and continue to spend a considerable amount of time trying to locate an alternative venue for the National County Championships. With preferences being Holiday Centres or large hotels similar to the Norbreck at Blackpool.

It should be appreciated that to find a venue anywhere near similar to Seacroft at Hemsby is proving nearly impossible. This is mainly due to the fact that we are fortunate in many ways with the manner in which the management at Seacroft allow us to dictate to them when to serve our meals, - open the bars, - we even tell them that they must have a maintenance engineer on site for the whole weekend, - and if that's not enough we even tell them what we think of their entertainment.

We expect to be able to do all that whilst keeping the price for the weekend to be kept to a minimum. This year the economy rate for a three night stay is less than £32.20 per adult per night, and that is for full board. Where else would be able to get such excellent value for money.

As for charges for the venue. At Seacroft these are zero, at the Norbreck £2,000 plus vat.

We have received proposals from Warners and the Norbreck, and have both been declined. Warners would only allow under 16's if we could have at least 400 people, if not then these youngsters would be excluded. The Norbreck wanted to charge for the use of the playing arena, an amount which would have had to have been added to the costs per individual.

A meeting with Potter's at Hopton near Gt. Yarmouth has recently taken place. Potters are say they are trying to promote Carpet Bowls, although my personal belief is they are willing to do that at times that suit them, and not necessarily when we would want to hold events. But we await a proposal from them, this should be received imminently.

Whilst some of the officers and delegates have attempted to work for the development of the sport, details of which will be given later. We do need someone that can oversee the development of our game in the Southern part of the country. This need not just include arranging demonstrations, development can covers many things that are for the furtherance of the sport of carpet bowls.

The committee have met on four occasions during the past year. Sometimes it has appeared that we have achieved nothing at an individual meeting, but when you remember the logistics of our association, and that the fact that we meet so infrequently to get any agreement during a year is an achievement in itself.

At this point I would like to take you back to a meeting that took place in Richmond North Yorkshire it was the first to follow the inaugural meeting held at Hemsby in April 1991.

The then Chairman Mr. Schofield set out a number of steps that he wished to see the association take during those first years.

- (i) Have set of rules for the general playing of the game.
- (ii) Pass information regarding activities and business of our member counties to the secretary to give an overall reference work on the structure of the game nationally.
- (iii) A central calendar of events summarising what is happening in each county.
- (iv) Progress towards further National tournaments.

Of these items 1 and 4 have generally been achieved and are continually and rightly so under review. Items 2 and 3 are like extracting teeth. With some counties saying why should we let them have that information. What business is it of theirs.

Having reviewed the minutes of the meetings since then, every secretary has on more than one occasion requested a list of diary dates, I am no exception to that. The best result was last year when all but one county gave details, but some took that long by the time the details were handed over it was too late, most of the events had already taken place. Counties were arranging our events hoping that they were not clashing with other events that were taking place in other counties. However extreme caution was given to events organised by private enterprise. Surely events within our counties should be our first consideration, followed then by other known events. So this year if I am elected as your secretary, I will do the reverse and issue a calendar of events as known by me, and issue that to the members at the next committee meeting. Hopefully this will encourage the information to become more readily available.

In previous years there have been suggestions for the ECBA to have a business or 4 year plan.

Although I know work was started on this at least once, there is no record of the exact details. But one thing that was a major factor within such a plan was for the membership of the ECBA to be on a personal basis, not by county. Before such ideals are put into motion the ECBA must firstly consider how it could be and who would administer and have access to such a database. The ECBA must also become better known by and mean more to the players within counties that already form its membership.

We already have people questioning what are we going to do with our funds. Why do we want more money in the bank. With these thoughts it must be realised that yes we do need to lay down clearly defined plans for the future, complete with ways in which we intend to fund such plans. These could then be sent to all counties, who in turn should be asked to copy them onto all their members, and encourage them to contact us with their thoughts and observations. Hopefully we will get some indication as to what our current grass roots players think and how they feel we can get the ECBA to become a meaningful association. That would take a long time but at least we would know that we are getting things right for our current carpet bowlers.

Of course we could also contact other bodies that we know play carpet bowls and invite them to meet us, to make them aware that there is a governing body for carpet bowls in England.

We could and should also endeavour to contact the manufacturer's of the equipment we use and encourage them to include our rules or at least a guide of how to play carpet bowls in the same manner as ourselves with the equipment they distribute.

Perhaps we could look at holding a "Roadshow" type event and invite manufacturer's and suppliers to see how we play carpet bowls and encourage them to demonstrate the game in a similar way. This type of event may be a way for us to contact local sports development people, instead of waiting for them to contact us.

It is now of the utmost importance that as an association we move forward. We must plan for the future, and be more willing to accept change, think of the "what if" factors. Because it won't be long before the what if's start to become reality, and the ground work has not been done.

We must stop thinking that we don't need it now so therefore why bother. The 'we' I am referring to is neither the officer's or the delegates in isolation. But I include all members of the committees of all our members.

So often it is said at the majority of committee meeting's, "What is the ECBA doing for us?", "Why should we bother, no other county does", "Why should we ask someone from our county to work on behalf of the ECBA. After all our committee members are such busy people they don't have time to do anything for the ECBA". These are questions and statements that every committee can do something about quite easily by taking action and putting forward ideas, telling us what they would like to see happen, how it could be done and at what cost.

For the past 3 years you have had officers that have been more than willing to give their utmost to the ECBA, and have worked as a team, keeping one another informed with what is happening. You have been extremely fortunate that those officers have had some ideas of their own and have acted positively. From a personal point of view I hope that this is remembered when votes are cast to elect the officers for the next year. Just because someone has had the nerve to say "no", or "your wrong" at times, or perhaps says things in a manner that you personally don't like is not to me a good enough reason to change a team that is working well together. The officers should be elected into their roles because of their ability to do the job, and on their results if they have been doing the job recently.

On behalf of the ECBA I have agreed the association would take part in an exhibition for Disabled Sport. This event is being held from the 12th to the 14th July at the NEC Birmingham, and is being supported by national and local television, radio and press. A number of district and local councils, and some grant aid giving bodies will be present. The object of this is to demonstrate how easy it is for the disabled to play carpet bowls. As a sport we are very unique, we have young, old, middle aged, able bodied and disabled, even male and female all able to play on an even basis, and with no segregation.

May I conclude by thanking my fellow officers for their help and support throughout the past year. With special thanks to the Chairman Ray White who has worked extremely hard trying to keep me on the straight and narrow. Who along with Margaret Southgate has been there when I have needed that extra bit of support.

Also on behalf of the association I would like to thank the long suffering partners of all the officers and delegates. Because without the support of those people it would be impossible for any of us to carry out our roles.

Treasurers Report AGM 2002

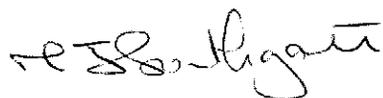
The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2002 again show an increase over last year. The increase is not as great as in previous years because our actual income is approx £1000.00 down on last year.

If you look first at the income side you will see we now have only 9 counties so both the county fees and champion of champion fees are down. Raffle income was also reduced as we were not invited to hold a raffle at the English Pairs in 2001. Included in last years accounts was £300.00 in entry fees for the ECBA Rinks with the balance showing this year but in the future this will not occur.

Moving to the other side of your sheet the Administration expenses were approx the same as 2001 but Development and Promotion costs were lower, as were County Championship expenses. Champion of Champions cost us slightly more due to the increase of hire charges for the Leisure Centre and transport of equipment. The bulk of expenses for the ECBA Rinks is included this year but as I have already said regarding the income side this will not happen in the future.

The real plus this year was the ECBA Triples which made a profit of £450 .00 whilst the Rinks made a small loss of £36.00. Both Income and Expenditure for the ECBA Rinks held on 1st April 2001 was split over two years accounts but in future it will all be shown in one years accounts and this will make it easier to see whether we have made a profit or loss on any event we hold.

Finally I wish to record my thanks to June Laws who audited these accounts. If you have any questions or comments regarding these accounts I will try to answer them.



Margaret Southgate
Treasurer
3rd June 2002

Secretary

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Balance Sheet-----Year to 31st March 2002

INCOME

Balance brought forward
from 2001
9 County Fees@£100.00

Entry Fees for Champion
of Champions
Raffles

Lapel Badges & Rule Books

County Championships
(Seacroft commission
and Pairs Competition)

ECBA Rinks(Balance of Entry Fees)

ECBA Triples

Donation

Bank Interest

10,072.77

900.00

450.00

972.05

162.50

3819.41

248.00

938.00

20.00

208.29

17791.02

EXPENDITURE

Administration

Officers Expenses, eg Postage,
Telephone, Photocopying etc
Meeting Expenses, Venue & Travel

295.49

806.34

Development/Promotion

Travel, Meals, Postage etc
Reprint of Rule Books

132.77

247.93

Raffles, Prizes & Raffle Books

135.00

Champion of Champions

Hire of Herringthorpe Leisure

Centre Rotherham

545.20

Officers Expenses inc. Administration

538.04

Trophies

81.03

Equipment Transport

121.21

County Championships

Administration

197.40

Travel Subsidy

1523.00

Pairs Competition

180.00

Equipment Transport

20.00

Trophies

243.22

ECBA Rinks

486.34

ECBA Triples

487.41

Combined Bank Balances

11742.01

Cash in Hand

8.63

17791.02

AUDITOR


JUNE ANS.