

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
held on Friday 5th June 2003
At The Metrodome Leisure Centre, Barnsley.**

Present: All Outgoing Officers.

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

Seeking membership Sunderland City Metropolitan Borough

Plus 40 other attendees.

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming everyone to the 12th Annual General Meeting of the ECBA.

Apologies for Absence

Northern Development Officer Mr. B. Ramshaw.

Minutes of last meeting.

North Tyneside proposed and South Tyneside seconded that the minutes of the last AGM be signed as a true record. With no objections this was so done by the chairman.

Matters Arising.

No Matters Arising

Chairman's Report.

The committee has met on 4 occasions since the last AGM. All meetings have taken place at Rotherham. But with only four meetings between AGM's progress does seem to be slow, but we have moved forward quite significantly in some aspects over the past few months.

As well as passing information to other web sites to use we now have our own web site which is being developed by Mr. Jason Ellis of Cambridgeshire.

Thanks to those counties that have successfully hosted events on our behalf.

Congratulations were passed to Mick and Craig Hearn from Hertfordshire on winning the English Pairs at Hemsby in April. This event is organised by MELD Leisure and remains the main Pairs event of the year.

As an Association we continue to have a good relationship and dialogue with MELD and it is hoped that this will continue for many years.

The committee has worked very hard on your behalf, they give up their time, work and holidays very often with very little gratitude. Special thanks were given to the secretary and treasurer who should be congratulated on their negotiations for venues for the competitions.

Secretary's Report.

Membership of the Association remained at 9 counties.

Competitions – the winners of the Champion of Champions 2002 were:

Singles – Mr. C. Page of Suffolk, Pairs – Messrs. M. and C. Hearn of Hertfordshire,

Triples – Miss K. Sharp, Mr. P. Graham and Mr. B. Smith of Durham,, Fours – Mrs. I. James, Mr. I. James, Mr. I. Clark and Mr. B. Hesp of Northumberland. The team trophy was presented to Suffolk.

South Tyneside hosted the ECBA Triples – the winners were from Pittington Co. Durham.

The County Inter-League Championship was a match between Durham and the winners Suffolk.

The National County Championships saw all nine counties take part, with Suffolk completing the double.

The ECBA Rinks were hosted by Durham – the winners were from Haswell/Pittington Co. Durham.

Congratulations were passed to Mr. B. Smith of Durham as he skipped the winning triples in the Champion of Champions, the ECBA Triples and with the addition of one player the ECBA Rinks.

Thanks were given to all those that had helped with the administration etc., at all of our events

Since last years AGM when a number of rules changes were accepted the opportunity was taken to re-organise the overall lay-out and presentation, something which has been well received.

Our Referee has completed a training course for Referees. We now have six trainers in the Eastern Counties and two plus the referee himself in the Northern Counties.

Essex has already held some courses and have a total of ten accredited referees. There is another course already planned in Essex. Hopefully by the County Championships in November other Counties will have held courses and we will have a number of those referees in attendance.

The committee have approved the purchase of standard sets of equipment for all the trainers. Should any of them decide they no longer wish to be trainers then they are to return that equipment to the ECBA. Another expenditure agreed is the purchase of a laptop computer for the secretary to use, the old one is to be passed to the treasurer. The taking part in the exhibition at the NAC proved very expensive but very worthwhile for all those that attended.

The secretary has attended two events held in Ashfield, Nottinghamshire during the past year. It is apparent that although the players are full of enthusiasm they would not be able to take part in our major events – purely due to their individual problems. However another contact in Nottinghamshire may well provide the drive to get an Association up and running in that county.

Mr. Ramshaw has had contact with Herefordshire and there is a small league now being played in that county.

A past Chairman of the ECBA has sent details of Carpet Bowls being played in Canada where they play in a similar fashion to ourselves. But what is interesting is the fact that it is being played by a large number of people.

Treasurer's Report.

Copies of the balance sheet were made available to all those present.

The accounts for the year closed on 31st March and show an increase in our bank balance of a little over £600.00 compared to last year.

The combined balances show the Association having a total of £12,365.47 in its bank accounts.

Thanks were passed to Mrs. June Laws who had audited the accounts on our behalf.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution.

A proposal was put forward by the executive committee to amend article 3.1 of the constitution to add the following words be added after the first word membership. "which would be at the agreement of a minimum of two thirds of the current members".

The Suffolk delegate did suggest alternative wording but a formal proposal was not forthcoming.

Following a vote, which resulted in 7 in favour, 1 against and 1 abstention the proposal, was carried. Article 3.1 would then read as follows:

Membership which would be at the agreement of a minimum of two thirds of the current members 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.

Election of Officer's.

As all officers were willing to stand for re-election and with no other nominations being put forward all were formarly re-elected.

Proposed Changes to the Rules of Playing Carpet Bowls.

The following proposals were put forward by the executive committee.

Amendment to Rule 9.1

To insert the words "between or" after directly after the word pass.

With 8 votes in favour this rule would then read as follows:

The forward motion on which a wood is released must pass *between or* through the 457mm (18ins) delivery space, which shall be demarcated by the guidelines and the blocks

New Rule 9.2

A new rule is inserted as follows:

All woods must be released within the demarcated delivery area. Should a bowler after being warned by the opposing skip or a referee continue to infringe this rule then that wood shall be declared dead, stopped and removed from the carpet.

This rule was agreed with 6 vote's in favour and 2 against this rule will now be included within the ECBA rules.

As this new rule was accepted then the existing rules in this section would require re-numbering 9.3 and 9.4 and an amendment to rule 1.3 and new rule 1.4 will be required as follows.

Amendment to Rule 1.3

Insert the following words at the end of the rule. "which measure 457mm (18ins.) in length".

This amendment was agreed unanimously and so rule 1.3 will now read:

There shall be a delivery space at the centre of each end of the carpet which shall be 457mm (18ins.) wide marked by two guidelines which measure 457mm (18ins.) in length.

New Rule 1.4

Insert the following rule to define the markings required for the "delivery area " as mentioned in new rule 9.2. This will only be required if the proposal for 9.2 is accepted.

This rule was agreed unanimously and so rule 1.3 will now read :

A delivery area shall be demarcated as follows at each end of the carpet. A lateral line 457mm (18ins.) in length shall be drawn to connect the two guidelines that mark the delivery space.

Amendments to Rule 8.1

Insert new option (iv) as follows to this rule:

If a wood is mistakenly declared dead and removed from the carpet then that wood shall be replayed.

Essex proposed that this should be a rule on it's own and included under the heading Unforeseen Incidents as rule 8.5.

A vote resulted in unanimous agreement for the ruling and for it to be numbered as per the proposal from Essex.

Proposal Received from Suffolk CBA.

That rule 1.9 reverts to the wording to read as it did prior to the 2002 AGM this would therefore re-instate a minimum and maximum weight for the jack.

The jack shall be 63.50mm (2.5ins) in diameter and weigh no less than 8oz but no more than 16oz

With the result of a vote giving 3 in favour and 6 against this proposal was not carried.

Proposal received from Essex CCBA.

(This would have been withdrawn if the proposal from Suffolk is accepted).

That the following words be added to rule 1.9.

“or be within the manufacturers accepted tolerance for this size and weight of Jack”.

Rule 1.9 would then read:- The jack shall be 63.50mm (2.5ins) in diameter and weigh 283.5gm (10oz) or be within the manufacturers accepted tolerance for this size and weight of Jack.

Hertfordshire proposed that the tolerance accepted by the manufacturers be included within the ruling. Cambridgeshire seconded this amendment and with 8 in favour and 1 against rule 1.9 will now read as follows: The jack shall be 63.50mm (2.5ins) in diameter and weigh 283.5gm (10oz) or be within the manufacturers accepted tolerance for this size and weight of Jack. (Currently 15% plus or minus)

Membership of any New County/Metropolitan Borough.

An application for membership has been received from Sunderland Carpet Bowls Association. The secretary stated that although a copy constitution had been received it did require some amendments to be carried out, and would be speaking to the representatives from Sunderland the next day.

Following questions over status of Sunderland as a Metropolitan Borough and suggestions that as a new association they should take things slowly at first. Preferably by taking part in the Northern League next season. That would then enable all member counties to evaluate the amount of impact this association would have on current members, as no member wished to see another county suffer loss of it's county team players.

The representatives from Sunderland understood the concerns being raised and will take those points back to their committee.

A vote regarding the membership of Sunderland CBA resulted in 0 for 3 against and 6 abstentions.

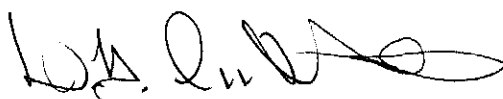
Annual Membership.

The treasurer proposed that the annual membership fee for 2003/04 remains at £100.00 This was seconded by Hertfordshire and agreed unanimously.

Any Other Business

There were no other items put forward for discussion.

With all matters concluded the meeting was declared closed at 10:00 p.m.



ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 6th June 2003

Chairman's Report

Welcome to the twelfth AGM of the Association and the second one at this venue, being more or less central and the fact that all of the counties are present at this event it would still seem to be the best place to hold the AGM.

Since the last AGM we have had meetings in July and September 2002 and January and April 2003, these meetings continue to be held in Rotherham. With only four meetings between AGM's, progress does seem to be slow but I think we have moved forward quite significantly in some aspects over the last few months.

At the first meeting in my new role as chairman I circulated a document outlining some points that I felt should be addressed if we were to have controlled progression. Competitions, formats, venues and development were all highlighted and taken back to counties for discussion, some counties obviously put a good deal of thought into the document and came back with some very useful proposals and I am pleased to say eventually we reached agreement on all of them.

As well as passing on information for other websites to use we now have our own website which has been set up and is currently being looked after by Jason Ellis from Cambridgeshire, we thank Jason for his efforts and hope those of you who use this service get some benefit from it.

Referee courses are now up and running and our thanks go to David Storey for the considerable time and effort he has put into getting this off the ground.

The ECBA Triples was hosted by South Tyneside at South Shields in September 2002 and won by Durham. The Rinks hosted by Durham in March 2002 and held at Maidens Castle was one of the best venues we have been to, it was also won by Durham with some of the same players that won the triples.

The next event will be the triples hosted by Hertfordshire 14th September 2003 and held at Woodson Park Leisure Centre in Ware.

Our thanks go to those counties who have hosted events on our behalf.

The Champion of Champions ran very smoothly last year, the reduction to nine ends meant players were less tired and the event ran reasonably well to time. There were some complaints about activities in the other half of the hall this has been addressed for this year as we have hired the entire hall for both days.

After the dominance of Cambridge in 2001, last years honours were shared between Suffolk, Hertfordshire, Durham and Northumberland.

My thanks go to former chairman Ray White for staying on to run the event.

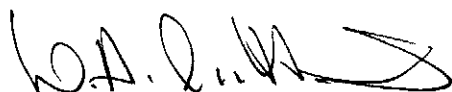
The County Championship produced some fine bowling with Suffolk winning the North v South match on the Friday evening narrowly beating Durham and continued in the same vein for the rest of the weekend by winning the main event with Durham once again runners up.

County Championship 2003 will be at Seacroft Hemsby the weekend 31st October to 3rd November.

A final mention for competitions, our congratulations to Mick and Craig Hearn from Hertfordshire who won the English Pairs at Hemsby in April, as you know this event is run by Meld Leisure and along with myself many players see this as the main pairs event of the season this was the thirteenth year and I am delighted to say that it will be there next year as well, we continue to have a good relationship and dialogue with Meld and I hope this continues for many years to come.

The committee as a whole has once again worked very hard on your behalf, they give up their time, work and holidays very often with very little gratitude, my special thanks to Ann Hardy our secretary and Margaret Southgate our treasurer who should be congratulated on their negotiations for venues for the competitions.

For my part it has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your chairman and I hope to do so for another term but in the mean time I wish you all the best for the weekend and the coming season.



Tony Cuthbert
Chairman
6th June 2003

**SECRETARY'S REPORT
ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION
AGM 2003**

MEMBERSHIP:- THIS HAS REMAINED AT 9 COUNTIES FOR THE PAST YEAR.

COMPETITIONS:- SINCE OUR LAST AGM WE HELD OUR FIRST CHAMPION OF CHAMPIONS HERE AT BARNSELY. WHILST SOME PEOPLE CHOSE TO BE VERY NEGATIVE BECAUSE THEY FOCUSED PURELY ON ONE ASPECT - BUT BY ENSURING THAT WE HAVE THE WHOLE OF THE SPORTS HALL AVAILABLE TO US THIS YEAR I BELIEVE WE HAVE AN EXCELLANT VENUE GOOD LUCK TO ALL THOSE THAT ARE DUE TO PLAY DURING THE NEXT TWO DAYS. THE WINNERS FROM LAST YEARS EVENT WERE

SINGLES - MR. C PAGE - SUFFOLK

PAIRS - MESSRS M. AND C. HEARN - HERTFORDSHIRE

TRIPLES - MISS K. SHARP - MR. P. GRAHAM - MR. B. SMITH - DURHAM

RINKS - MR. I. JAMES - MR. I. CLARK - MR. I. JAMES - MR. B. HESP - NORTH'LAND

TEAM - SUFFOLK

SOUTH TYNESIDE HOSTED THE TRIPLES IN SEPTEMBER THE WINNERS WERE FROM PITTINGTON - DURHAM

THE INTER-LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP - A MATCH BETWEEN DURHAM AND SUFFOLK WHICH SAW ALL SIX GAMES BEING PLAYED IN AN ELECTRIFYING ATMOSPHERE THE EVENTUAL WINNERS WERE SUFFOLK.

NATIONAL COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS - ALL NINE MEMBER COUNTIES TOOK PART. AFTER TWO HARD AND VERY COMPETITIVE DAYS PLAY SUFFOLK COMPLETED THE DOUBLE.

IN MARCH DURHAM HOSTED THE ECBA RINKS AT MAIDENS CASTLE. THE WINNERS WERE FROM HASWELL/PITTINGTON - DURHAM.

I WOULD NOW LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT TO CONGRATULATE MR. BILL SMITH OF DURHAM - HE SKIPPED THE WINNING TRIPLE IN LAST YEARS CHAMPION OF CHMAPIONS - THE TRIPLES AT SOUTH TYNESIDE AND THE RINKS IN DURHAM. WHAT A FANTASTIC YEAR. WELL DONE BILL AND YOUR TEAM.

TO HOLD ANY OF OUR EVENTS WE RELY HEAVILY ON MANY WILLING HANDS. FAR TO MANY TO NAME INDIVIDUALLY - BUT OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE SOME THAT ARE FAR MORE OFTEN COMING FORWARD THAN OTHERS. BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH OR HOW LITTLE YOU HAVE HELPED DURING THE PAST YEAR ON BEHALF OF THE ASSOCIATION PLEASE ACCPET OUR THANKS.

FOLLOWING LAST YEARS AGM WHEN WE HAD A NUMBER OF RULE CHANGES THE OPPORTUNITY WAS TAKEN TO RE-ORGANISE THE LAY OUT SOMETHING WHICH HAS BEEN VERY WELL RECEIVED. IN FACT IT HAS MADE IT EASIER TO SEE WHERE RULES NEED TO BE REVISED.

OUR REFEREE HAS COMPLETED A TRAINING COURSE FOR REFEREES. WE HAVE SIX TRAINERS IN THE EASTERN COUNTIES AND TWO PLUS THE REFEREE IN THE NORTH.

THERE HAVE BEEN TWO COURSES HELD IN ESSEX GIVING US A TOTAL OF TEN ACCREDITED REFEREES. THERE IS YET ANOTHER COURSE DUE TO PLACE IN ESSEX NEXT WEEKEND WHEN HOPEFULLY MORE WILL BE QUALIFIED. IT IS HOPED THAT BY THE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS IN NOVEMBER OTHER COUNTIES WILL HAVE HELD COURSES AND WE HAVE A NUMBER OF OUR REFEREES ATTENDING.

EVERYONE THAT HAS TAKEN THE TIME TO GO THROUGH THE COURSE HAS BEEN VERY POSITIVE, AND RAISED MANY QUESTIONS - PERHAPS THIS IS WHY WE HAVE YET MORE RULE CHANGES BEFORE US THIS EVENING.

I MUST HOWEVER CONGRATULATE MR. STOREY THE ECBA REFEREE AND THANK HIM FOR ALL THE HARD WORK HE PUT INTO DEVELOPING THIS COURSE.

THE COMMITTEE AGREED THAT ALL TRAINERS SHOULD HAVE A STANDARD SET OF EQUIPMENT - MEASURE- CALLIPHERS - WEDGES - FEELER GAUGES - THESE HAVE ALL BEEN PURCHASED AND THE TRAINERS HAVE ALL AGREED THAT SHOULD THEY NO LONGER WISH TO BE TRAINERS THEN THEY WILL RETURN THE EQUIPMENT TO THE ECBA.

ANOTHER EXPENDITURE AGREED BY THE COMMITTEE IS TO PURCHASE A LAPTOP COMPUTER TO BE USED BY THE SECRETARY - THIS HAS RECENTLY BEEN PURCHASED AND WILL NOT SHOW ON THE BALANCE SHEET TILL NEXT YEARS AGM. OUR OLD COMPUTER WILL BE PASSED TO THE TREASURER TO USE.

MR. JASON ELLIS FROM CAMBRIDGESHIRE IS DEVELOPING A WEB SITE FOR US. BUT WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEND INFORMATION TO OTHER CARPET BOWLS WEB SITES SHOULD THEY REQUEST THE INFORMATION. BUT WHILST WE WILL PUT SUFFICIENT INFORMATION ON WEB SITES REGARDING HOW TO PLAY THE GAME - HOW TO SET UP THE EQUIPMENT WE WILL NOT PUBLISH OUR RULES IN FULL AS THAT WOULD THEN MEAN IT WOULD BE POINTLESS HAVING THEM PRINTED FOR RE-SALE IF PEOPLE COULD DOWNLOAD AND PRINT THEM FOR NOTHING. SOMETHING WHICH WOULD BE UNFAIR TO THOSE THAT DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO A COMPUTER AND OR THE INTERNET.

THE TAKING PART IN THE EXHIBITION AT THE NAC PROVED VERY EXPENSIVE BUT IT WAS WELL WORTH THE EXPERIENCE FOR THOSE THAT DID ATTEND. WE WILL BE BETTER PREPARED IF WE CHOSE TO DO SUCH AN EVENT IN THE FUTURE.

I HAVE ATTENDED TWO EVENTS IN ASHFIELD - NOTTINGHAM DURING THE PAST YEAR. ON BOTH OCCASIONS IT WAS APPARENT THAT ALTHOUGH THE PLAYERS REALLY DID ENJOY THE GAME OF CARPET BOWLS IN REALITY THEY WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO TAKE PART IN ONE OF OUR EVENTS - PURELY DUE TO HEALTH PROBLEMS. BUT HOPEFULLY THEY WILL CONTINUE TO THRIVE.

WE HAVE ANOTHER CONTACT IN NOTTINGHAMSHIRE A MR. BRODERICK - A NAME WELL KNOWN TO PEOPLE IN BOTH SUFFOLK AND NORFOLK. MR. BRODERICK HAS UNFORTUNATELY SUFFERED WITH HEALTH PROBLEMS BUT THE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT TEAM IN ASHFIELD ARE HELPING HIM TO GET A CLUB UP AND RUNNING IN THE VILLAGE WHERE HE NOW LIVES.

MR. RAMSHAW HAS RECENTLY HAD CONTACT FROM HEREFORDSHIRE - THERE ARE NOW FOUR VILLAGES WITH FLORISHING TEAMS THAT NOW PLAY IN A SMALL LEAGUE AND HOPE TO GET MORE VILLAGES ROUND ABOUT THEM INTERESTED.

DURING THE YEAR MR. RAMSHAW REPORTED THAT A CLUB IN NORTH YORKSHIRE HAS BEEN FORMED AND ARE GOING FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH.

A PAST CHAIRMAN MR. JOHN CRAWFORD HAS SENT ME DETAILS OF CARPET BOWLS BEING PLAYED IN CANADA - ANYONE FOR AN INTERNATIONAL? - SERIOUSLY THOUGH THEY SEEM TO PLAY IN A SIMILAR FORMAT TO OURSELVES ALTHOUGH THERE ARE A FEW VARIANCES - BUT THE GAME IS CERTAINLY BEING PLAYED BY A LARGE NUMBER OF PEOPLE THERE.

MAY I CLOSE BE THANKING THE COMMITTEE FOR THEIR SUPPORT THEY HAVE GIVEN TO ME DURING THE PAST YEAR. MAY I ALSO THANK THOSE STALWARTS THAT ARE THE LONG SUFFERING PARTNERS OF ALL OUR COMMITTEE - BECAUSE WITHOUT THEIR SUPPORT NONE OF US COULD PUT AS MUCH TIME AND EFFORT INTO THE GAME OF CARPET BOWLS.

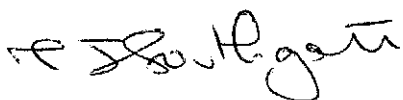
Treasurers Report AGM 2003

The accounts for the year ended 31st March 2003 show an increase in our bank balance of a little over £600.00 compared to this time last year, so we are holding our own on the financial side of the Association.

Taking the Income side first, it appears that we are raising less on raffles but in 2002 the raffle income from the first ECBA Rinks was included but now the host county gives me a balance sheet listing the income and expenditure for the event and both sides are then on your balance sheet as a single item. We again did well with the sale of rule books and lapel badges, we also received a donation from Ashfield District Council as a thank you for the visit and assistance given by our secretary and vice chairman when Ashfield ran their first competition. We also received an increase in commission from Seacroft after the National Championships. You can see for yourselves the benefits we are receiving from running our own competitions, our thanks must go to the host counties for their hard work in making these events such a success.

If we now look at the Administration side of the accounts I am pleased to say that the actual administration of the association has cost approx. the same as last year, but there is a large increase in the amount spent on development. However this is very much a one off as we took part in the D Sport event at Coventry last year because the committee felt it was important that we tried to show that we were a sport that was available to all, regardless of any disability that they might have. Both the Champion of Champions and National Championships cost a little more but that is only to be expected with the increase in hire fees for venues and transport of equipment.

I hope I have made these accounts reasonably clear to you and if you have any questions I will try to answer them. I would like to finish this report by thanking June Laws who once again audited these accounts for me.



Margaret Southgate
Treasurer
6th June 2003

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Balance Sheet-----Year to 31st March 2003

INCOME

Balance brought forward	
from 2002	11,750.64
9 County Fees @ £100.00	900.00
Entry Fees for Champion of Champions	450.00
Development/Promotion	
Raffles	678.00
Lapel Badges & Rule Books	314.50
Donation from Ashfield D.C.	50.00
Referees Course	12.40
County Championships (Seacroft commission and Pairs Competition)	4,515.08
ECBA Rinks	1,174.60
ECBA Triples	916.00
Miscellaneous	80.00
Bank Interest	102.23

EXPENDITURE

<u>Administration</u>	
Officers Expenses, eg Postage, Telephone, Photocopying etc	362.80
Meeting Expenses, Venue & Travel	859.19
<u>Development/ Promotion</u>	
Travel, Meals etc (including D Sport Event)	1,610.24
Print/Reprint of Rule Books	518.13
Raffle Prizes & Raffle Books	149.32
<u>Champion of Champions</u>	
Hire of Barnsley Metrodome	625.00
Officers Expenses inc Administration	585.56
Trophies *	98.91
Equipment Transport	126.31
<u>County Championships</u>	
Administration	234.20
Travel Subsidy	1,523.00
Pairs Competition	193.00
Equipment Transport	75.00
Trophies	235.49
ECBA Rinks	681.50
ECBA Triples	700.33
Combined Bank Balances	12,365.47

20,943.45

20,943.45

HONORARY AUDITOR

Jaws
JUNE LAWS