



English Carpet Bowls Association

Minutes of a Meeting held on Saturday 2nd April 2005 At The Courtyard Hotel, Rotherham.

Present: Chairman Mr. Tony Cuthbert, Secretary Mrs. Ann Hardy,
Treasurer Mrs. Margaret Southgate,
Representatives from: Cambridgeshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk,
Northumberland, North Tyneside. *SUSSEX.*

Apologies for Absence

Referee Mr. D. Storey, Mrs. S. Gammage Hertfordshire delegate, (Mr. Washbrook to act as Hertfordshire delegate), Cambridgeshire, South Tyneside.

Minutes of the Last Meeting

The minutes of meetings that took place on 7th January and 5th March were agreed and signed as true records.

Matters Arising

No matters arising

Correspondence received from

Essex – Re: the number of times items are sent back to counties for deliberation when the ECBA executive committee should be making the decisions at committee meetings.

The Chairman stated that he did understand the concerns raised but there have been a number of items recently that it was felt should be discussed by counties before final decisions were made.

Potters – There are a number of points that require to be clarified before we go ahead with arrangements for 2006, As a result of this the Chairman and Secretary are to have a meeting with Potters on 16th May.

Japan – A gentleman living in Japan has asked for details of how to play Carpet Bowls and the equipment required. The secretary has replied and suggested some companies he may like to contact.

Woodborough Nottinghamshire – A request for insurance details had been received. It was acknowledged that perhaps the ECBA as an Association investigated insurance so that all members were able to get insurance at reasonable rates rather than leaving it to each member to source their own policy.

Chairman's Report

See appendix A.

Secretary's Report.

The secretary did not make a specific report as items she would report on were already on the agenda.

Treasurer's Report.

The balances showing for each of the Association's bank accounts are as follows:
Current account £165.96, Premium account £625.87, and High Interest account £15,322.28 giving a total of £16,114.11.

Whatton have now completely paid for the equipment sold to them. They have said that they will purchase a new set of woods as soon as possible and return the possibly damaged set to the ECBA.

Referee's Report.

Mr. Storey had not sent a report to the meeting to be read in his absence but had requested that it should be known that he wished to stand down from the position of referee at the forthcoming Annual General Meeting. He was disappointed that no one had come forward to work with him since the last AGM when he had made his intentions clear.

ECBA Competitions.

a) Potters Mid Week Break

The chairman gave a breakdown of the entries received, which did show an increase on last year. There will be some slight changes to the format, groups will consist of 5 teams and will play 8 ends with 40 minutes being given for games.

Due to a player that is not able to use a "Bowlers Wheelchair" wishing to take part Potters have suggested that this person plays in another room or on a single carpet using indoor delivery mats round that carpet on which his wheelchair should travel. Alternatively we use the Bowlers Bar arena which will have boards on it whilst we are there. The chairman stated he was concerned about the number and positioning of joins in those boards and the effect they would have on the carpets. Given that Carpet Bowls is a sport for all, the Chairman asked for a vote to be taken as to which of these suggestions we should accept. It was unanimously agreed that we would use the Bowlers Bar unless a better alternative was found to enable the use of the International Arena.

2006 – Do we include the ECBA Rinks? The following suggestions were put forward: -

Leave Open Rinks at Potters but introduce an Open Pairs that would alternate North and South.

Re-instate the Open Rinks to alternate North and South re-name the rinks at Potters to be ECBA Festival Fours.

Re-instate the Open Rinks to alternate North and South and have all competitions at Potters named ECBA Festival Rinks/Pairs/Singles.

This item to be on the agenda for the meeting to be held on 2nd July.

b) Champion of Champions

The programmes were distributed to those delegates present. Northumberland will loan 12 carpets, Durham and Sunderland will loan 6 score boards.

All counties were reminded that they will have to pay £50 playing fees for this event, monies to be paid on the 4th June.

Counties that had winners at last years event were asked to ensure that the perpetual trophies are returned to the ECBA for this event.

c) ECBA Triples 2005

This will take place at Temple Park in South Shields on 11th September.

Entry forms have been distributed to all counties.

d) County Championships 2005

Friendly Pairs – Mr and Mrs Giddens to be asked if they would once again organise this on behalf of the ECBA.

Carpets – Suffolk to loan 9 and Essex to loan 8 sets of equipment.

Raffle tickets – the sale of these will be the responsibility of Cambridgeshire.

Administration assistance – Mrs. Ashman will not be available this year. The secretary is to seek alternative assistance.

Update on the Norbreck

Contracts have been signed and returned for the Champion of Champions.

As there has been a change of contact a meeting is due to take place during April regarding the County Championships.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

SATURDAY 2nd APRIL

Despite negative comments by some counties on our performance I feel we as a committee have taken some positive steps for the future of carpet bowls, whether all or indeed any of our ideas for affiliation and subsequent changes to the constitution survive the AGM remains to be seen.

As our referee pointed out at the January meeting some of the rules and interpretation need to be revisited and amended in order to clarify the correct procedure for both players and referees, as I have stated before I sincerely hope that David Storey decides to remain as our referee at least until we are happy that we have finally crossed the T's and dotted the I's on the rules of carpet bowls.

Perhaps my main concern came from the outcome of the extra meeting we had in March, on the agenda were two very important subjects, which were debated in full by all member counties other than Norfolk who were unable to attend due to inclement weather.

Carpet Bowls and The Future

An interesting debate on a document that although lengthy, didn't seem to come up with any firm proposals or ideas. Some counties were keen to dump it while others were keen to hang on in there to see if indeed there might turn out to be something that would be of benefit to us. Outcome, we would continue to attend meetings for the time being, while making it plain that we needed to see something positive happening on how much this would actually cost individual organisations.

Venue for County Championships

This was probably more controversial than the previous topic as it meant changing from a tried and tested venue where despite years of complaints from some parties it suddenly became a venue that we should stay at despite the fact that we were already at our limit for numbers.

Outcome, we decided to move to the Norbreck in 2006 although this is subject to the contracts being signed.

Back to my concerns, the voting for both items was very close for **CBATF** the Northern Counties were against other than Durham who although unable to see any benefits thought we should keep a dialogue through the meetings, the Southern Counties were for staying with it.

The **VFCC** the Northern Counties were all for it, the Southern Counties with the exception of Cambridgeshire who decided to go with the flow and didn't vote were against.

Both of these issues could so nearly have had to be settled by a casting vote, for the record I think the final outcome was correct on both counts, although personally I feel the **CBATF** is a waste of time and money I also feel that I would have had to vote to continue with the meetings at this stage, just as I would have voted to go to the Norbreck because I feel we need the flexibility that venue could give us.

My main fear is that we seem to have a bit of a North/South divide on both of the items discussed, so it is important that we don't view the outcomes of these issues as victories or defeats, we all gave our views on the day now we need to move on and give each decision our 100% backing. Only time will tell but I am confident that everyone debated and voted with the best of intentions for the future of our game.

As this is the last meeting before the AGM can I take this opportunity to thank you all for attending these meetings and remember, feel free to air your views but always try and leave with no ill feelings we won't always agree on everything but nothing we discuss here should spoil friendships.

Tony Cuthbert, ECBA Chairman