



English Carpet Bowls Association

**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
Held on Friday 3rd June 2005
At The Metrodome Leisure Centre, Barnsley.**

Present: All Outgoing Officers.

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

Plus 30 other attendees.

Apologies for Absence

No Apologies were received.

Minutes of last meeting.

North Tyneside proposed and Northumberland 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.

Since the last AGM the normal scheduled meetings have taken place at Rotherham, with the addition of an extra meeting in March. When we discussed at length two subjects that clearly needed our total concentration.

The Chairman gave thanks to Durham for providing the equipment for the Champion of Champions last June, North Tyneside for hosting the Triples in 2004, Hertfordshire and Cambridgeshire for providing the equipment for the County Championships, and South Tyneside for running the raffle at that event. Congratulations to Cambridgeshire for winning the North v South match and the main event.

The Chairman gave his view of our progress in the last twelve months.

Progress is sometimes difficult to measure and even more difficult to achieve, what is progress to some can seem like a backward step to others and this is the difficulty we face in the ECBA.

Geographically we are made up of Northern and Southern counties and on occasions that is very evident when voting on certain issues, it is the natural in some areas our differing ideals and priorities will come into conflict.

The other thing that can prevent progress is if county delegates are instructed to vote only for things that are going to benefit their county; we must all try to support the things that will ultimately benefit the ECBA.

From time to time we get letters from counties complaining that we are covering old ground at meetings and delegates should come prepared to vote on amendments to proposals that have been given to counties to discuss.

We must accept that each county has their own constitution and way of conducting their business, and if that means the delegates need to take certain amendments back to their committee then so be it however, this could be avoided if when items are sent to counties to discuss, each county did this ASAP and send any amendments back to the ECBA secretary, who would then make each county aware of this giving them plenty of time to discuss the amendments before the meeting.

Hopefully a simple common-sense approach can preserve democracy and keep everyone happy.

W.A. [Signature]

On a couple of occasions statements have been received from a county which seemed to have an axe to grind with some of the officers on the committee. All of the comments made received a reply from me. But I am still mystified as to why any correspondence should target members of the committee that don't have a vote. The officers are here, and in my opinion rightly so to implement your decisions. We will always-welcome comments and constructive criticism, but anyone with a personal agenda would be well advised to keep it to themselves. Officers on this committee give countless hours of their time and annual leave on your behalf we don't expect thanks or gratitude but unless you have good reason please keep your negative comments to yourselves.

My apologies for digressing from the topic of progress, have we made any, yes I think we have taken some very significant steps, whether they are forward or backwards will be for you to decide.

- Item 7 on the agenda, affiliation of clubs I sincerely hope this is accepted because this will be a very positive step forwards to include bowlers that haven't enough numbers to form counties.
- Item 8, amendments to the constitution which will obviously only be needed if item 7 goes through. But the real progress here is the fact that we are prepared for the event.
- Item 9, proposed amendments to the rules I am sure we are very near to having the perfect set of rules but as long as we keep finding faults and correcting them that is progress.
- The ECBA bowls festival at Potters attracted about another 50 bowlers as the £10 entry fee goes directly to the ECBA funds that is quite significant progress.
- Next is one of the topics discussed at the extra meeting. Without going into detail after a long and sometimes heated debate, it was decided to keep going to the Bowls Alliance meetings, at least until we find out how much it would cost us to be part of it and if there would be any benefit for the ECBA.
- Finally, the second topic discussed at the extra meeting. Having already agreed and signed contracts to take the Champion of Champions event to the Norbreck at Blackpool from 2006 to 2010, this was largely due to a big increase in the hire charge of this venue, we had to decide whether to move the County Championships there as well. Again there was a good debate but the fact that the new venue would give us greater flexibility and allow us to grow in numbers without the worry of floor space became the deciding factor. Contracts have been signed to cover 2006 to 2010. There will be an element of sadness that we are leaving Seacroft, this has been the home of carpet bowls since this all started but we are also aware that we have constantly been asked if we could find other venues, this we have done.

When you see things condensed into a few paragraphs it doesn't look much but I can assure you all that a lot of work has gone into getting us to where we are today. I just hope you don't think we have been wasting our time.

Secretary's Report.

Membership: With Sunderland joining the association this was increased to 10 for the past year.

Competitions during the past year started with the Champion of Champions. The winners of each discipline were:

Singles – Robert Davis – Northumberland, Pairs – Ron and Ann Dodd – Norfolk

Triples – Rebecca Gammage, Craig and Mick Hearn – Hertfordshire

Rinks – Tony and Florence Sprott and Betty and Vernon Brown – Northumberland

Team – Northumberland.

North Tyneside hosted the ECBA Triples competition.

The winners of an excellent final were Jason Ellis, David Russo and Paul Ellis from North Luffenham; Rutland this club is a member of and plays in the Cambridgeshire leagues.

The Inter County League match at Hemsby was between Northumberland and Cambridgeshire. The winners were Cambridgeshire.

The National County Championships proved very exciting with counties winning and losing points when least expected. This made the event very close and took things right down to the wire. However, once again Cambridgeshire continue to set the standard for other counties to achieve and were the eventual winners.

The ECBA Rinks were played as part of the Carpet Bowls Festival held at Potters in May.

The winners of the individual competitions were; Singles – David Storey – Durham, Pairs – Ally Goodrich and Stephen Cain – Suffolk, ECBA Open Rinks – Ally Goodrich, Roy Lonsborough, Neil Jolly and Stephen Cain – Suffolk

During the past year the committee has discussed many topics. At times it may have felt that the old North/South divide was opening up yet again with people from different parts of the country taking opposite views at times this has caused some heated but healthy discussions.

The EIBA have been leaders in attempting to form a body called the “Bowls Alliance”. All codes have been invited to join this body. To date meetings have been attended by EIBA – EBF – BCG – ESMBA – ECBA

Members of the Alliance will not lose their identity They will continue to govern their own code, have control of their own financial affairs, have their own rules which they will continue to develop in the best interest of their associations. This will be a pooling of information, knowledge and skills.

Meetings have also taken place with the Norbreck Hotel in Blackpool with regard to holding the County Championships and the Champion of Champion there. There may even be an opportunity to store some carpets there as well.

The ECBA has seen huge changes in the past few years, and continues to do so. Considering the person that stood and made a number of statements against the ECBA at the AGM last year was the first Chairman of the ECBA, and so laid the foundation stones upon which the current Officers and county delegates continue to build this association. I was expecting to see a number of proposals come from his county in readiness for tonight. But unfortunately nothing has been forthcoming. If any member thinks the ECBA should consider moving in a particular direction then we need to have fully thought through proposals being put to the committee not just wide sweeping statements.

During the next year I would like to investigate the sourcing of insurance.

As a governing body we should be able to assist our members in securing insurance for equipment, civil and public liability. The latter is becoming very expensive when being sought on it's own by an individual association or club.

The ECBA should also consider putting a Child Protection Policy in place, and encourage our members to do likewise. I know – the few children we have in our clubs are always with family members – I have also been told that a county can get advice from their local authority. The advice from the local authority in my County is that we should have a Child Protection policy in place. Therefore it will be wiser for us to do this now rather than wait till an accusation is made. We cannot continue to keep pushing this subject to one side.

We all know getting youngsters to come along and play our game is not easy, but Jason Ellis from Cambridgeshire should be congratulated – He is teaching youngsters in local schools in Rutland to play Carpet Bowls – This is proving very popular with

the children. Some have even shown an interest in joining a club. Hopefully some of their parents may even get the bug and take up the game.

I believe there are some similar schemes happening in other counties but unfortunately I do not have any details. But let us hope that this is a positive move forward for Carpet Bowls. Recently I was asked if we had anyone in Norfolk that would be willing to take Carpet Bowls into a Primary School. Hopefully it is not too long before we have positive news from that source.

Treasurer's Report.

Copies of the balance sheet were made available to all those present, of which the Treasurer gave a brief résumé.

The combined bank balances showed a total of £16,114.11 as cash available to the ECBA as at the 31st March 2005.

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

Affiliation of Clubs to the ECBA.

The Executive committee proposed that clubs within counties that are not members of the ECBA should be offered affiliated membership. Such clubs would not have voting rights but would be encouraged to make proposals to the committee. Members of these clubs would be entitled to enter any ECBA open event but would not be able to enter either the County Championships or the Champion of Champions. It would then be possible to ensure that such clubs were kept up to date with the rules for playing Carpet Bowls, and the ECBA would be able to encourage a number of clubs in a county to form their own County Association.

This proposal was seconded by Cambridgeshire, and agreed unanimously.

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution

The Executive Committee proposed that the draft Constitution that had been prepared in readiness to include the articles covering affiliated clubs, which had been distributed to all members' should now be formally accepted.

This proposal was seconded by North Tyneside and agreed unanimously.

Proposed Amendments to the Rules for Playing Carpet Bowls

The Executive Committee proposed that rule 8.4 should be amended to read as follows:

If, during the course of play, any neutral object disturbs the position of the jack or any wood then the skips shall: -

- (i) Remove the neutral object and leave the woods/jack to remain as they are, or
- (ii) Remove the neutral object and replace the woods/jack as near as possible to their original position, or
- (iii) Replay the end unless any live wood so moved is the only one.

This proposal was seconded Essex and agreed unanimously.

The Executive Committee proposed that new rule 8.6 is included under "Unforeseen Incidents" and should read as follows: -

If prior to or whilst a measure is taking place, the jack or a wood (which is considered to be within the count) is displaced the following will apply. Unless this is the last end of a game, and no shot has been previously conceded in which case refer to rule 8.4.

- (i) If, before the score has been agreed, a wood falls naturally without any physical interference, it shall remain and be counted in its new position.
- (ii) If, before any shots have been conceded a wood which is required to be measured, is accidentally moved by a measurer whilst the measure is taking place the end shall be replayed.

- (iii) If the jack is moved at anytime whilst a measure is taking place, measuring will cease. Any shots previously conceded/measured prior to the jack being moved will count as scoring, and the end will count as an end played.
- (iv) If a wood is accidentally moved by a measurer at anytime whilst a measure is taking place, all shots previously conceded/measured prior to the wood being moved will count as scoring and the end will count as an end played.
E.g. Measured/conceded 2 woods – ok – 3rd wood ok – then a wood that has been considered to be within the count is moved, that wood will be removed from the head but will not count and providing that wood is not the opponents nearest wood the measure may continue – 4th wood ok – the next shot is the opponents wood - then 4 shots shall be awarded and measuring will cease.

This proposal was seconded by Northumberland and agreed unanimously.

Election of Officer's.

The Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer were all willing to stand for re-election and with no other nominations being put forward all were elected for a further term.

With Mr. Washbrook standing down as Vice Chairman Essex proposed Mr. Jason Ellis of Cambridgeshire. Northumberland seconded this proposal which was agreed unanimously.

Mr. Storey had stated that he wished to stand down as Referee, but with no nominations being made prior to the meeting. The Chairman stated that during the next year one of the Trainers should consider taking on this position at the next AGM, meanwhile Mr. Storey will continue in this role.

No nominations were forthcoming for either Development Officer positions both will remain vacant.

Annual Membership.

The treasurer proposed that the annual membership fee for 2005/06 should be increased to £125.00.

Cambridgeshire seconded this proposal.

North Tyneside proposed an amendment that the membership fees should remain at £100.00 but should be reviewed in 2006. South Tyneside seconded this amendment.

The result of a vote for the amended proposal was 8 in favour 2 against; the amended motion was carried.

The Treasurer reminded all members that their fees are due within the next 28 days.

Following the acceptance of the proposal to invite affiliated members the Treasurer proposed that the fee to be paid by those clubs should be £15 per year. This proposal was seconded by Northumberland and agreed unanimously.

Any Other Business

No other business was put forward for discussion.

With all matters concluded the meeting was declared closed at 9:23 p.m.

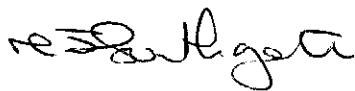
Treasurers Report AGM 2005

The accounts for the year which ended on 31st March 2005 show quite an increase in our bank balance compared to this time last year but there are several reasons for this which will not be repeated in future years, as I will attempt to explain as we look at the balance sheet.

If we take the Income first, included in Development and Promotion is a total of £400.00 from Whatton Carpet Bowls Club which has been the monthly repayment to the Association for the provision of equipment when the club was formed last year, I am pleased to say they have now become self sufficient and are hoping to purchase a further set of bowls from their own funds. Commission from Seacroft shows an increase of approx. £700.00 due to the inclusion of Sunderland at the National Championships. We had in excess of £5500.00 from ECBA Rinks, Triples and Potters in the accounts this time but what must be remembered is that we did not hold an independent Rinks tournament this year, it was incorporated in the Potters week in May, also of course the Potters income covers two years so next year we will only have half of the Potters total. We had one other plus, the interest from the bank has doubled over the last 12 months.

Moving across to Expenditure we see a decrease in administration because last year included the new computer. Development costs are also well down because last year we had a reprint of rule books, purchased Referees equipment and the loan for equipment to Whatton (this I have already covered under Income). Champion of Champions cost a little more but our biggest increase was for County Championships, the travel subsidy was up due to Sunderland joining the association, plus we purchased boards for use under a carpet in the Nelson, which together with the transport of extra carpets put up our costs. Our expenses at Potters were not very high although they do not include any expenses for the week we have just enjoyed, they will be in next years accounts.

I have again included a list of our Assets at the bottom of the balance sheet as requested. I conclude by thanking my Auditor, June Laws, who once more assures me that these are a true and correct record of the accounts



Margaret Southgate
Treasurer
3rd June 2005

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Balance Sheet-----Year to 31st March 2005

INCOME

Balance brought forward from 2004	11,510.07
10 County Fees @£100.00	1,000.00
Entry Fees for Champion of Champions	450.00
<u>Development/Promotion</u>	
Raffles	816.50
Referee Courses, Sale of Rule Books & Lapel Badges & Wedges	89.90
Repayment of Loan to Whatton CBC	400.00
County Championships Seacroft Commission and Pairs Competition	5,268.00
ECBA Rinks	1,228.00
ECBA Triples	905.00
ECBA at Potters 2004 & 2005	3,508.00
Bank Interest	137.27

EXPENDITURE


<u>Administration</u>	
Officers Expenses, eg Postage Telephone, Photocopying etc Meeting Expenses, Venue & Travel	557.98 1,131.88
<u>Development/Promotion</u>	
Travel, Meals etc Raffle Prizes & Raffle Books	270.52 125.00
<u>Champion of Champions</u>	
Hire of Barnsley Metrodome Officers Expenses inc Administration Trophics Equipment Transport	780.01 591.64 122.50 216.20
<u>County Championships</u>	
Administration Travel Subsidy Pairs Competition Equipment Transport Trophics	433.95 2,628.00 192.00 365.70 299.29
ECBA Rinks ECBA Triples ECBA at Potters 2004	625.80 777.86 71.79
Petty Cash	8.51
Combined Bank Balances	16,114.11

25,312.74

25,312.74

ECBA Assets
Computer £500.00
Lapel Badges £35.00
Rule Books £120.00

HONORARY AUDITOR


JUNE LAWS