

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION HELD ON SATURDAY
26th September 2015**

Present: Chairman, Secretary and representatives from Bedfordshire, Essex, Norfolk, Northumberland, Suffolk & Sunderland

1. Apologies for absence

Paul Daniels, Andy Gilder, David Story, Chris Blythe

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were agreed and signed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes

Development of Carpet Bowls

Mick Watkins reported demonstrations of Carpet Bowls has been carried out in West Berkshire and Devon. There is an upcoming demonstration in Worcester, DVD's are being sent to other prospects.

Potters have placed a blog on their website regarding the international visitors.

Contact information on the English website was highlighted as being out of date, all counties to advise their contacts to Paul to ensure up to date info is published.

Cambridgeshire delegate advised that numbers entering for its county team dropped to less than 24 and needed to find players to be able to enter county events. Costs of Potters has an affect with 6 players in this year's team indicating they are not willing to go to Potters so could mean Cambridgeshire withdraw from next year's event. Sunderland and Northumberland also advised it is difficult to get players to commit to county teams with rising costs.

Cambridgeshire asked to confirm if they are indeed not able to participate in next year's National Championships. ECBA needs to look at alternative venue to Potters to be able to ensure championships continue with as many member counties as possible.

4. Correspondence

None

5. Chairman's Report

The Chairman had nothing to report that was not covered elsewhere in the agenda.

6. Secretary's Report

New contact list will be circulated

7. Treasurer's Report

Community Account - £ 883.74

Business Saving Account 1 - Closed

Business Saving Account 2 - £ 16,573.65. The total balances were £ 17,457.39

8. Referee's Report

The English Referee advised he would like to have a slightly different approach so that National Referees are seen separate to County Referees. It was commented that is the training was the same then there could be no differential. National Referees would be seen as those individuals more confident at high pressure ECBA events like the National County Championships.

Dress Code infringements would be highlighted by referees but dealt with by National Referee. Cropped tailored trousers will be accepted at ECBA events.

Essex enquired about 10 more rule books, as there is sufficient stock these will be sent but it was felt that they should be paid for.

Essex, Cambridgeshire and Norfolk going through the process of refresher courses.

9. Child Protection Officer's Report

There was no report in the absence of the Child Protection Officer.

10. Correspondence

None received

Chairman commented that 8 players from Scandinavia will be at the Festival of Bowls 2016

11. Review of the Champion of Champions 2015

It was commented that the event was well organized but disappointing that limited helpers came forward to assist with clearing of equipment.

The event made a loss of £1,276

Northumberland delegates expressed dissatisfaction that decisions that should be made by the committee were not being done so, in particular the announcement regarding the change of venue for the National Champion of Champions to Stanley IBC

With regards to Stanley IBC move the costs were advised

1st Year - £300.00 for 2 days hire, with entertainment being organized for the evening.

Years 2 and 3 - £400.00

Years 4 and 5 - £500.00

Norfolk proposed and seconded by Essex that we accept the proposal from Stanley IBC and stage the National Champion of Champions from 2016. All in favour

New trophies will be sought for 2016 to replace the plates that have been presented over the past years

All counties to supply £25.00 worth of raffle prizes from 2016

12. National County Championships 2015

Potters have ordered and received 8 new mats which will be used for the Championships

9 counties will be participating

There was an issue with the number of single rooms with Durham but this has now been resolved.

Northumberland commented that the format for the programme has been changed without committee consultation. Competition Secretary made changes as follows

"The first named team on each scorecard will bowl with the black woods. The skips at each mat will toss to decide which team will bowl first"

Norfolk proposed and seconded by Bedfordshire that these changes are accepted, 4 counties in favour, 1 against. Changes therefore stand.

Travel subsidy will remain the same as per last year.

13. ECBA Events

(a) Report on Open Rinks, 26th April, 2015

(b) Open Triples – 13th September 2015 – Wolsingham, Durham

Both events were run well, the Open Rinks attracted 35 teams and was won by Claydon (Suffolk)

The Open Triples was not well supported and only attracted 23 teams, the event would have made a loss and will be reported at the next meeting as to how much. It was suggested that due to numbers and cost of halls that events should be held in the south, although this was not agreed

14. Festival of Carpet Bowls

Regrettably numbers were down from last year, 176 bowlers are currently booked in to the event.

15. Sport England – Policies

Prior to the meeting the required policies that Sport England require for our membership were circulated. Due to the amount of information that needed to be digested it was suggested that we hold an EGM at our January meeting to vote in these policies. There was some confusion whether the EGM would allow the change of Constitution. Having read the Constitution at the meeting it states that the AGM only allows such changes.

**Since the meeting it has been clarified that the EGM can indeed allow for constitutional changes and therefore an EGM will be called in January to vote on the policies.

16. Date of next meeting - 16th January, 2016

17. Any Other Business

Sunderland proposed a gratuity and seconded by Essex, all in favour

Rebecca and Craig Hearn are still working with the GB Special Olympics and hope to have Carpet Bowls included in the 2017 Games in Sheffield

The Essex delegate mentioned that there is an organization called the Transplant Sport (<http://www.transplantsport.org.uk/>) who organises activities throughout the year, their aim is to raise awareness of the need for organ donation, encourage transplant recipients to lead active lifestyles, and show appreciation for an dremember donors and their families

The Secretary to get in touch with a view to highlight Carpet Bowls as a sport that could benefit those people who have had transplants.

The Suffolk delegate asked if the ECBA would support them with a promotional event being held in December at Needham Market where potentially 3,000 people would be attending. The cost of staging this is approx. £150.00 and it was agreed to help with 50% of these costs to max £75.000, proposed by Northumberland and seconded by Bedfordshire.

Meeting closed at 2:35pm