

**MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION HELD ON SATURDAY
14 JANUARY 2017**

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

1. Apologies for absence

Harold Ball. Aline Pearson and Rita Daniels

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 on a visit he made to Worcestershire recently. Although there were some initial difficulties arising from the fact that they were not playing to ECBA rules, those involved are hopeful of establishing a league, forming an association and joining the ECBA and have the funding in place to do so.

As a result it was felt that it was worth us pursuing the matter and providing them with support, on the proviso that they adopt ECBA rules. Mick will therefore be arranging a further visit in the near future, hopefully on a larger scale to involve more people from the area.

The Chairman Advised that he would not be able to pursue our registration with Sport England, and further pointed out that he did not think an application would be accepted within the limited time frame, and suggested our application be shelved at this time.

4. Correspondence

Letters received from New Zealand confirming they would send a squad of 8 to the 2018 Festival. And from Rita Daniels advising she would not be standing for re-election as secretary.

5. Chairman's Report

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

6. Secretary's Report

N/A

7. Treasurer's Report

Since the last meeting the only major event has been the Nationals which saw losses reduced from £2600 in 2015 to £2100 in 2016.

With all our events for the year now completed the Associations accounts are currently £2600 better off than at the same time last year and although a loss for the financial year is still anticipated it will be much reduced from 2015/16.

It was agreed that when the Association's insurance policies come up for renewal this year the Property Policy should not be renewed since we would have to pay the first £250 of any claim which exceeds the likely amount of any such claim.

Community Account - £1,528.06

Business Premium Account - £13,581.15. The total balances were £15,109.21

8. Referee's Report

The Referee reported on the dispute between an Essex player and a National referee. He felt very strongly that the player should be reprimanded for misconduct. However, the Essex delegate offered an apology on behalf of Essex County, and pointed out that the referee in question had also lost his temper. It was agreed that this also was unacceptable for a National referee. However, the referee had since resigned. As both parties were in the wrong no further action was required.

Dress Code. A long discussion took place without any specific changes to our current code. However, it was agreed that once again County Captains would be reminded that it was their responsibility to ensure that their players were properly dressed, or suffer the penalty.

9. Child Protection Officer's Report

There was nothing report.

10. Review of National County Championships

The Chairman reported that everything had run smoothly and that there had been no repeat of previous year's complaints about the food, meal time or accommodation.

He did however express his disappointment at the unacceptable attitude taken by some players towards referees who had been asked to undertake a measure. Given the relatively small number of qualified referees, anyone who requests a measure must accept that the person on duty may be from one of the counties involved in the game in question and allow that person to measure and make a decision regardless. Referees are expected to act in an unbiased manner and should be treated with due respect.

It was felt that all too often referees were being called upon to make decisions which could easily have been made by the players at the mat and that they should only be called upon when a measure is so close that the two teams cannot decide for themselves.

It was also thought that an effort should be made to ensure that all counties have qualified referees to contribute towards the pool required at the event.

It was pointed out that the maximum squad size for the Nationals was 32 and that when players are rotated in and out of the team, that no player may play on the same mat or against the same county more than once.

11. Champion of Champions 2017

The booking for Stanley has been confirmed and Sunderland have kindly agreed to supply the carpets and equipment for the weekend.

12. Festival of Carpet Bowls

Potters have advised that 224 guests have booked in, in addition Norway have advised that they will have 40 guests joining us. We await confirmation from Sweden and Denmark.

At this time 35 have booked on the coach.

13. ECBA Membership

Although it was generally recognised that there was a need to change to widen the scope of areas who would be able to apply for membership, it was thought that a more precise definition of the criteria would be required.

After much discussion it was decided to defer any vote on altering the criteria for membership until the next meeting with member counties asked to submit their proposals.

Squad Size

A proposal to reduce the size of the squads for the Nationals was defeated. However it was acknowledged that it was acceptable for one county to liaise with another to arrange in advance for players to be loaned for the duration of the Championships as opposed to waiting until arriving at the event to complete their team.

It was also recognised that two counties could form a combined team for the Nationals, following the precedent set in previous events.

It was also agreed to allow counties to use up to 4 substitutes in future, up from the current maximum of 2.

14. Annual General Meeting 2017

The existing officers all agreed to stand for another year and were duly nominated, with the exception of the Secretary who will not stand for re-election.

15 Date of next meeting - 22 April 2017

16 Any Other Business

Special Olympics

Rebecca reported that progress was still being made in preparation for the event in August. Although it is disappointing that the event will have to be played to rules which have been imposed by the organisers and which differ slightly from English rules, our involvement this time should allow us to ensure that ECBA rules are the basis for any future competition.

ECBA Rinks will be held at Littleport Leisure Centre, Cambridgeshire on 16th April.

ECBA Triples will be held at Sherburn Community Centre, County Durham on 10th September.

The meeting was closed at 3.35pm