



English Carpet Bowls Association

ENGLISH CARPET BOWLS ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the English Carpet Bowls Association held on 16th September 2023

Present: Representatives from Bedfordshire, Durham, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk, Northumberland, and Suffolk

1. Apologies for absence

Colin Young (Chairman), Stephen Roe and Maureen Giddens (both Cambridgeshire)

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were read and agreed as a true record.

3. Matters Arising from previous minutes

None

4. Correspondence

None

5. Chairman's Report

Neil Jolly (Vice Chairman) advised that Colin Young (Chairman) had been unwell recently and was as such unavailable to chair the meeting. Best wishes had been passed onto Colin for a speedy recovery.

Since our last meeting, we had a held a number of events:

ECBA Rinks: Held on 30 April 2023 at Needham Market and hosted by Hertfordshire. 34 teams entered and seven of our nine member counties were represented. The winning team were from Durham, David and Steven Templeton, Adam Wilson and Ian Clarke, who defended their title.

Festival of Bowls: Held at Potters between 8 and 12 May, with around 120 bowlers taking part, including a small party from Norway and a sole traveller from New Zealand. In the three events, bowlers from Suffolk and Sunderland took the titles.

Champion of Champions: Held at Stanley over the weekend of 3 and 4 June. Eight member counties competing, with the wins shared around between Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire and Durham, with Hertfordshire taking the team event.

ECBA Triples: Held at Sherburn earlier this month, twenty teams taking part. It was the Durham/Sunderland triple of Martin Campbell, Wayne McMann and Aidan Turnes who were victorious, on the last bowl of an extra end in an exciting final.

Thanks must go to anyone involved in running these events.

6. Secretary's Report

None

7. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer presented an up-to-date balance sheet. The main items since the last meeting were the Nationals Travel Allowance, paid out to the counties, and the ECBA Triples which showed a profit

of £308.

8. Referee's Report

Mick Watkins reported that he's had a couple of rules related enquiries, and they had been dealt with. He had prepared a referee's rota for the Nationals and that had been sent on to Paul Daniels, to be included in the programme.

9. Child Protection Officer's Report

None

10. Nationals

The counties that were present reported that they expected to have a full squad of at least 24 available for the Nationals, with the exception of Hertfordshire, who currently have 23 available.

The draft Programme had been circulated before the meeting, and there were no issues raised with the content generally. Durham asked if it would be possible to have the Breakfast and Lunch times brought forward 15 minutes, to 8am and 12pm respectively. We will liaise with Potters to ask if this can be done before the programme is issued.

In view of rising prices, each county will now be asked to provide draw prizes to an amount of £30 (previously £25).

Potters have offered 25 - 28 October for the 2024 Nationals.

Colin is going to pursue an increase in the commission paid to us by Potters for events that we run there, these have remained unchanged for many years, and represent the bulk of the Association's income. Hertfordshire enquired whether we could propose a percentage for the commission, rather than the current monetary sum per head, and this suggestion would be passed onto Colin.

11. Any Other Business

- a) Northumberland reported that they have not yet set a date for the 2024 ECBA Rinks which they will be running, but will be doing so shortly.
- b) Bedfordshire asked if there were any promotional materials available to attract new players, and to try to interest village halls.

Essex suggested trying to contact the county's Sports Development Officer, and local doctors surgeries, to try and promote the health benefits of the game, and will check to see if they have any material that would help.

Mick Watkins has a leaflet which we will arrange to make available.

It was also suggested that a link to the ECBA's YouTube channel is circulated, where the promotional video is available, as well as a number of matches from ECBA events, which give a feel as to how the game is played. Paul Daniels was thanked for all of his work in both recording the footage and populating the YouTube site.

The link to the ECBA YouTube site is: youtube.com/@carpetbowls

12. Date of Next Meeting/AGM

27 January 2024 (tbc) - virtual meeting

Meeting closed at 11.40am.