

Bury Carpet Bowls League
Minutes of the Meeting held at
Thurston Community Centre Thursday 7th October

1. Apologies for absence were received from Ashley, Hargrave, Kirtling and Ousden. The clubs present were:-
Badwell Ash, Brockley, Cockfield, Gt. Whelnetham, Hundon, Risby, Stanningfield, Stanton, Thurston, Tostock, Withersfield and Woolpit
2. Nominations for Chairman – since the AGM Nick Wood (Hundon) had contacted Paul Leach to say he was willing to stand as the new Chairman. Trevor Bean (Stanningfield) nominated Nick and Colin Fellingham (Cockfield) seconded, there were no other nominations so we are pleased to welcome Nick to the committee.
3. Paul Leach reported that the committee had met the previous week to discuss the pros and cons of either a reduced league, or the playing of friendlies. The committee decided to recommend that the league be suspended due to the following reasons:-
 - a) clubs would not have to field a certain number of players, or place the players in set teams, they could play as many times as was necessary, in whatever position, and if one club had more players than the other, they could even mix. The format of teams could be altered to suit each match, as decided by the 2 teams involved, ie pairs, triples, fours. Also the number of ends for each friendly can be decided ie 5 ends with 4 sets of games, or 9 ends with just 2 sets of games.
 - b) if a friendly has to be cancelled, or if a team is suddenly unable to play any further games, there will not be a knock-on effect on several other clubs.
 - c) the playing of friendlies would be better for clubs with new or inexperienced players to give them a chance to practice in a more relaxed atmosphere, also a club can field more than 12 players if they are lucky enough to have a healthy membership.

A discussion then followed from the floor. Those who were keen on a league being played felt that if there were no competitive matches the Bury League would fold. It was felt that geographical leagues could be organised so teams did not have to travel too far, which seemed to be a common problem for many teams. The Suffolk League is aiming to launch a triples league with a minimum of 8, up to 12, players per team, and around 7 teams per league. Each club present was asked what their club would want to do, and the wishes of the clubs who were not present but had expressed their opinion by email, were also counted. There were only 7 teams who wished to play in a league, 7 who wished to play only friendlies and 7 teams who did not want to play other teams at present. The split geographically of those teams interested in a league would be 4 / 3, so it would not be feasible to run a league this season.

The revised contact list (attached) shows the clubs that are interested in playing friendlies with their name highlighted in green, and those who, at present, do not wish to mix are in red. Bear in mind that not all clubs wish to travel far, some prefer to bowl in the afternoon, and those who are entering the Suffolk league may not have spare capacity, or the desire, to play many friendlies. Where I have not received a message either way I have put the team under the 'Friendly' criteria – they can always say no if they are contacted!

4. The covid protocols followed was discussed and it appears that there is nothing uniform as to what is happening at clubs. Therefore when booking a friendly with a club the following points will need to be discussed in advance to save any embarrassments on the day, with the host team's preferences taking precedence:-
- a) do players have to wear masks
 - b) will tea / coffee be served or do the visitors need to bring their own drinks, we recommend that only biscuits be provided if the host wishes to provide refreshments
 - c) does the visiting team need to pay £1 per person, or will the host be running a fund raising draw like bingo, or monetary prizes – it is not recommended to run the usual raffles with a variety of prizes.
 - d) is there a limit on the number of players allowed due to the size of the venue
 - e) some clubs may wish to know that all those attending have been double jabbed.

'Track and Trace' should be observed and the visiting team should provide a list on the night of who is present and their phone numbers so they can be notified if a case of covid occurs.

Hopefully as we settle into playing against other teams this will not be such a rigmoral and will become easier to manage in time.

5. Any Other Business:-

- a) Finals Day - we hope to run a Finals Day in May as usual, but without the Victor Trophy and Knockout Cup finals. As this will reduce the playing time it will be feasible to play at a smaller and cheaper venue, and clubs will be invited to enter a team of a Single, Pairs and Fours to compete as usual. Depending on the numbers involved we may even be able to invite some local non-league teams to participate which may encourage them to think about joining the league in the future.
Secretary's Note – the hall at Risby has been booked for Sunday 15th May 2022
- b) Neil Jolly informed the meeting that the date for the match Suffolk v Bury League has been booked for Wednesday 11th May 2022
- c) The annual competition Bury v Waveney will not take place this year as it is normally played in early October. Neil Jolly warned that a number of Norfolk clubs had folded due to Covid so the secretary will try to make contact and see if it can be revived for 2022.

There was no further business so the meeting was closed and Thurston was thanked for their hospitality.