

Annual General Meeting

Held via Zoom on Tuesday 8th July 2025 7:30pm

Minutes

1. Present

Pete Cook (PC), David Danby (DD), Jacqui Harris (JH), Mick Cook (MC), Marilyn Cook (MaC), Craig Hearn (CH), Neil Tuckey (NT), Matt Thurley (MT), Jason Ellis (JE), Carole Drury (CD), Roy Grethe (RG)

2. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Mo Ashman (Shenley), Simon and Amy Missing.

3. Chairperson's Report

Thank you to the HCBA committee and everyone else that has helped support and facilitate the running of the game. It has been several years since we have had an AGM. During that time, we have gone from strength to strength on the carpet, pushing Suffolk close several times at various competitions. We also continue to have individual success at the Eastern Counties and National levels winning multiples titles at both events this year. Unfortunately, off the carpet numbers of clubs and players playing the game within Hertfordshire continues to diminish.

We really do need someone to invest time and effort into keeping this game that we love going. I very much see the role of the chair as being instrumental in that. I'm willing to stand as chair again but cannot commit the time/effort in to helping grow our game. Therefore, I would be more than willing to stand aside to someone that can or wants to lead on this and would be happy to support that individual as best I'm able.

4. League Secretary's Report

Congratulations to Kings Langley who won the league title for the first time. They only lost the one game and that was their final fixture when the league was already won.

Position	Team	Played	Won	Drew	Lost	Points	SF	SA	Shot Diff
1	Kings Langley	8	5	2	1	42	306	223	83
2	Symonds Green Shadows	8	4	3	1	38	302	256	46
3	Symonds Green Strikers	8	2	3	3	32	257	248	9
4	Stanstead Abbots	7	3	1	3	25	253	220	33
5	Shenley	7	0	1	6	15	150	321	-171

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Fixtures were generally played to good time. One game did not get completed that was Stanstead Abbots v Shenley but that had no meaningful impact on

Shenley have indicated that they may not be fielding a team next season, to be discussed further under AOB.

5. Treasurer's Report

JH reported that we currently have £4,416.23 in the bank, which is healthier than we have been for a few years. A general discussion was held it was agreed that we need to try and retain a healthy balance since it's likely that we may have to run some competitions at a deficit in the not-too-distant future.

6. County Captain's Report

Firstly we started off with the Team Bowl on 1st October. We were always in contention and going into the final round of matches we had an outside chance of winning the day. However, we finished runners up to Suffolk. This was a theme repeated throughout the season.

Our first league game was away to Bedfordshire. We had a comprehensive 28-8 win. Our next game was cancelled by Norfolk on the scheduled date so we headed to Suffolk for another away game. We fought for every point and the final result was 18-18. It seemed on paper an excellent result but we did feel that the win slipped through our grasp.

We next played the rearranged game against Norfolk. Another 28-8 win for Hertfordshire. We went to Essex and drew 18-18. Given the results elsewhere it meant we had to win convincingly against Cambridge in our 2nd home game and hope Essex could help us out with a solid performance at Suffolk. We got off to a great start but news filtered through that Essex were being taken to task. Our 23-13 win was excellent but ultimately we could have won 36-0 and still lost the title to Suffolk. So a 2nd to Suffolk again.

Our last fixture was the 6 counties championship. Again a close fought encounter between us and Suffolk with us finishing runners up yet again. I almost hesitate to mention the National Championships at Potters. Yes we were runners up to Suffolk yet again.

As many of you know I was unable to play for several games but am pleased to report I am back to full health and looking forward to the upcoming season. Many thanks to the other members of the selection committee and for your contributions throughout the season. I especially want to thank Paul Harris who has served on the committee for many years and has decided to stand down for the upcoming season.

7. Competition Secretary's Report

Fours was the first competition of the season, held on 3rd November 2024. There were 10 entries (up from 8 the previous year). The winners (playing in and winning their first county title) were Emma Thurley, Amy Missing, Simon Missing & Matt Thurley. They beat Mick Cook, Andy Cobbold, David Danby & Pete Cook in the final 10-3.

Triples were held on 26th January 2025. There were 14 entries (up from 10 the previous year) The winners were 3/4 of the fours team as Emma Thurley, Simon Missing & Matt Thurley narrowly beat Sandra Gammage, Rebecca Hearn & Craig Hearn in the final 8-7.

The pairs were held on 23rd February 2025. There were 21 entries (up from 20 the previous year). The winners were Jason Ellis and Jack Smalley who beat Jacqui and Paul Harris in the final 15-2. With that pairs win, Jack becomes just the 6th player to win all four county titles (Craig Hearn, Mick Hearn, Pete Cook, Neil Tuckey, Jason Ellis).

The singles were held on 23rd March 2025. There were 27 entries (up from 18 the previous year). The winner was Pete Cook who beat Jack Smalley in the final 11-2. Pete retained his title, just the 3rd player to retain the county singles after Rob Washbrook in 1997 & 1998 and Craig Hearn in 2014 & 2015.

8. English Report

PC attended the ECBA AGM with Rebecca Hearn in April. It was the most productive ECBA meeting there has been for a long time. There was lots of discussion around ways in which we can grow the game and improve our current competitions.

There were proposals to change the rules around 'playing short' at the Nationals, but these were voted against, and the existing rule remains in place.

The proposal to increase the number of woods bowled in the pairs from 2 per player to 3 per player at the ECBA Champion of Champions was passed. This was implemented in the June event.

9. Eastern Counties Report

Summary from the ECCBA AGM attended by DD:

- Fees remain unchanged
- Committee Officers unchanged
- No change to Hosting Events re raffle money
- We withdrew the league match postponement proposal as after debate it was obvious others felt this was a one-off issue. Also, whilst not laid down

in rules expectation is all venues should have adequate parking arrangements on site or within close proximity.

- Dress code for CoC. After extensive debate it is changed to County kit or a Matching Team kit. No blue jeans. Penalty for inappropriate clothing 1 point deduction to team score, at discretion of ECCBA officers.
- Dates for next meeting. Committee meeting 5/10/25 (after team bowl). AGM 18/06/26.

10. Proposals

There was a proposal to change our county pairs from 2 woods per player to 3, to align with the ECBA & ECCBA competitions.

MT raised that if our numbers are low, we may want to look to host two competitions in one day and this may impact that. After some discussion, it was decided that we would continue as is for the time being. If there was a need to host two competitions on the same day in future years, all the competition formats would need looking at.

Therefore, the proposal was passed unanimously (Stanstead Abbots, Symonds Green & Kings Langley)

11. Election of Officers

Position	Current Incumbent	Willing to Stand	Nominations
Chairperson	Pete Cook	Yes	
League Secretary	Pete Cook	Yes	
Treasurer	Jacqui Harris	Yes	
County Captain	David Danby	Yes	
Selection Committee	Neil Tuckey	Yes	
Selection Committee	Paul Harris	No	Matt Thurley
Competition Secretary	Pete Cook	Yes	
ECBA Representative	Rebecca Hearn	Yes	
ECCBA Representative	Pete Cook	Yes	

There being no nominations for any other positions, officers were all re-elected to their posts, with the exception of Paul Harris is standing down to be replaced by Matt Thurley. Thanks was again given to Paul by the committee.

Committee Members

Mick Cook
Craig Hearn
Sandra Gammage
Roy Grethe

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Sandra Gammage was not in attendance; she had not indicated that she wished to stand down. With the other committee members in attendance, all were re-elected to their posts.

12. Competition Dates

Fixture/Competition	Date
ECBA Triples (Durham)	Sunday 14 th September 2025
Team Bowl (Littleport)	Sunday 5 th October 2025
ECBA Nationals (Potters)	24 th -27 th October 2025
Norfolk (Away)	Sunday 30 th November 2025
County Fours	Sunday 2 nd November 2025
Suffolk (Home)	Sunday 14 th December 2025
Essex (Home)	Sunday 18 th January 2026
County Triples	Sunday 25 th January 2026
Cambridgeshire (Away)	Sunday 15 th February 2026
County Pairs	Sunday 22 nd February 2026
Bedfordshire (Home)	Sunday 15 th March 2026
County Singles	Sunday 22 nd March 2026
Six Counties (Littleport)	Sunday 12 th April 2026
ECBA Festival (Potters)	27 th April – 1 st May 2026
ECCBA CoC (Littleport)	Sunday 10 th May 2026

PC advised that the county competition dates (highlighted in grey) were the same weekends as the previous year, he had checked with the school, and it was available. Therefore, it was agreed that we would go ahead and book those dates.

We received correspondence from Paul Daniels in the week that the first league fixture of the season, which had been scheduled for the 30th November is actually to be played on the 23rd November. A number of our regular squad have made holiday arrangements on and around the 23rd. We may struggle to field a team of 24 players, which is something we never want to have to do. Therefore, DD will contact Norfolk to enquire if they are happy to stick with the original scheduled date of 30th November.

13. Any Other Business

The league format was discussed. Symonds Grenn suggested they would be entering two teams again. Kings Langley would consider it but thought it unlikely. Playing each team home and away twice was also discussed. Ultimately, it was agreed that we would need to wait for Shenley's position before determining how best to proceed.

PC suggested it would be nice to host a presentation evening as Kings Langley had won the league for the first time and there were also some first-time finalists and winners of the county competitions. CH agreed to arrange it.

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PC said it would also be nice to look to arrange a SCAPA/Team Bowl competition on a single day as we did before COVID. PC to look to arrange.

MaC asked about the use of laser measures as it was something that had previously been suggested by Bedfordshire. A measure has been purchased and trialed by Symonds Green. It struggled to register the woods if they were too close to the jack, it seems its use is better suited to the outdoor game. This could be revisited if/when the technology improves.

Meeting closed at 8:10pm.