

Cockfield Annual Parish Meeting Report

May 2024

Cockfield Carpet Bowls Club

Carpet bowls is a very sociable, friendly, gentle paced game that people of all ages and physical condition can play. It does take some skill (gained after practise) and the tactics involved are fascinating.

About The Club

The village club is based at Cockfield Village Hall, where we meet and play every Monday evening (from 7.30pm for 2 to 3 hours), throughout the year. During the League season we will also play away matches, at other Suffolk villages, on other weekday evenings.

We compete in both the Suffolk and Bury St Edmunds Leagues in the winter and the Suffolk summer league. There is also an annual knock-out Cup competition. In addition to this “regular” rhythm of matches we also enter teams into Suffolk-wide competitions, usually on a Sunday and some of our players represent the Suffolk County team too.

We are very active and probably play in the region of 60 to 70 times a year!

At present we have 19 members playing regularly (to compete in matches we need a team of between 12 to 16, depending on the competition format).

Financially, we are self-sufficient, collecting a small annual membership fee from each member, weekly subscriptions to play and run a small bingo- type competition on match day evenings. We do not receive any other financial support. Fortunately, our outlay is restricted to hire of the hall and very periodic purchase of equipment (such as woods and carpets).

Performance/ Achievements

- In the winter Suffolk and Bury Leagues we are pleased to have had a “winning” season, with 14 wins and 8 losses across both leagues. We were placed 4th in the Suffolk Division 1 West and a very creditable 2nd in the Bury East Division; having won and lost the same number of games as the winners, Stanningfield, but lost out on points scored over the season.
- Last Summer two of our members won the Suffolk County Pairs competition!
- In October our team won the Suffolk Fours competition, held at Needham Market.
- Three of our members currently represent Suffolk County and in November were part of the Suffolk team that won the Inter County League Final and then won the overall National Championships.
- In March several of our members entered the Suffolk Singles Championship, held at Needham Market. One of our members won the competition and is now the reigning Suffolk Singles Champion!
- Last weekend we played in the Bury St Edmunds League Finals Day. We won the Fours, were runners-up in the Singles and losing semi-finalists in the Pairs, a very successful day!

- Every February we host a Charity Fours Competition, which is attended by teams from across Suffolk. This year, we were really pleased to have raised £1000 to donate to St Nicholas Hospice. We thank everyone for their support.

The Future

We will shortly start playing in the Suffolk Summer League and will again enter the two Winter League competitions.

We are always very pleased to welcome new players and will continue to encourage people to join us. We would very much like to increase the membership of the Club. So if you would like to give Carpet Bowls a try, whether its socially or competitively, please do come down on a Monday evening or contact Chris Ford (07979089636).