

SOUTH WEST FEDERATION OF CROQUET CLUBS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 20th November 2011

The Chairman, Bob Whitaker opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

- 1. Apologies:** Adam Wimshurst, David Grose, Ian Telfer, Elaine Woodward and Barnstaple, Broadwas, Lansdown, Plymouth and S. Bristol CC's.
- 2. Minutes** of the AGM held on 21st November 2010, after a spelling correction in Item 4. Chairman's Report, were agreed and signed. Proposed by Marcus Evans and seconded by Cliff Jones.
- 3. Matters arising** There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman reported that his first year had been a learning curve for him and an increasing admiration for his fellow Committee members. Roger had been a hard act to follow and his co-option to the Committee a great help. He was impressed with the effort and dedication of all of the Committee, meetings had been productive and each member had contributed to the success of the Federation in all of its activities. He went on to say that there have been views expressed, that there should only be one central body, i.e. the CA. He was pleased to read the CA Chairman's column in the August issue of the Gazette, where Barry Keen recognised the vital role that Federations provide. With the current economic situation and the increasing cost of travel and accommodation, the reduction in competitive play and the reduction of entries to CA fixtures book events were being offset by increasing numbers of Federation events. He said he was a firm believer in the Federations and the SW in particular. Broadwas CC retained the Murphy Shield (GC).

Bristol CC reached the final of the Inter Club (AC) and East Dorset CC came third in the Longman Cup (AC).

Swindon CC received a Pride of Swindon Award from their local council for services to the community and also won the Townsend Award from the CA for the most improved 1 or 2 lawn club.

Chris Williams (Dyffryn) was inducted into the WCF Hall of Fame.

Martin Murray (Bristol) won the Spencer Ell, David Harrison-Wood (East Dorset) won the Treasurer's Tankard, Dave Mundy (Cheltenham) retained the National Seniors' Championship (AC), and Ryan Cabble (Nailsea) retained the Musk's Cup (GC).

Ryan Cabble was runner up in the British Open Golf singles and won the doubles with Nick Cheyne of Surbiton.

CA Silver Badges were awarded to Brian Stephens (Plymouth) and Andrew Wise (Bristol).

CA Bronze Badges were awarded to Joanna Healing (Budleigh Salterton), Peter Nelson (Sidmouth), Peter Petrie and Darryl Whitehead both from Cheltenham, Duncan Reeves (East Dorset), Stuart Smith (Broadwas), Brian Stephens (Plymouth) and Mike Tracy (Nailsea).

CA diplomas awarded for services to croquet and their clubs were awarded to:

John Barber (Broadwas), Eric Bevan (Kington Langley), Cliff Cardis (Swindon), Kevin Ham (Dyffryn), Ros Key-Pugh (Lansdown), Martin Kolbuszewski (Cheltenham), Clemency Reade (Kingston Maurward), Roy Smith (Swanage) and Ian Wilson (Cornwall).

Michael Lester (Budleigh Salterton) was awarded the Coach of the Year by the CA. The Chairman presented Michael with his certificate.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Derek Beard, presented the accounts for the year which had been circulated at the meeting.

There would be no change in fees for the coming year.

Seconded by Roger Buckley, the accounts were unanimously approved.
The Treasurer proposed C. Bailey as auditor for next year; this was seconded by Roger Buckley and approved.

6. League Secretary's Report

The League Secretary, John Grimshaw, had circulated his report at the meeting.
The 2011 season saw league entries from 104 teams representing 28 clubs and 266 matches played and 13 conceded.

This is the first year that saw semi-final matches played at the home club and it appears to have worked well.

The level play Golf Croquet weekend tournament did not materialise as the costs were prohibitive. So far only 3 entries have been received for the Golf Croquet level-play league so unless more entries are received in the next fortnight it is unlikely to proceed.

The League Secretary said that when he received the match results in some cases information was missing so appealed to all Tournament Secretaries to ensure that the home team captain had a form to complete on the day of the match. It would be easier if the standard form, which can be downloaded from the website, could be used and results sent by e-mail.

The Golf Croquet Handicap League is growing and it is possible that the entry could exceed 32 teams. After some discussion and an informal vote the meeting was in favour of having more blocks (preferably an even number) rather than larger blocks and more games.

The following trophies were presented:

- Parkstone Trophy to East Dorset
- Parkstone Qualifier Trophy to Nailsea 2nd
- Federation League Trophy to Bear of Rodborough
- Intermediate League Trophy to Bear of Rodborough
- B League Trophy to Cornwall
- Golf Croquet League Trophy to Nailsea Central

Congratulations to everyone.

The Short Croquet Team Event had a full entry

Division 1 was won by Nailsea Trendlewood

Division 2 was won by Cornwall

The League Secretary said he would like to thank all the clubs who made their facilities available for tournaments and finals and to everyone who gave up their time to enable these events to take place.

The League Secretary said the meeting needed to ratify the changes that were made to the Golf Croquet League Rules to bring them to the same format as the Association League Rules which were passed at the last AGM.

This was proposed by David Harrison-Wood and seconded by Marcus Evans and carried.

7. Regional Coaching Officers Report

The Regional Coaching Officer, Cliff Jones, reported that it had again been a busy year.

14 courses had been held within the Federation.

East Dorset CC had hosted a Golf Croquet Laws Course together with Golf Croquet Referees Examinations,

a Silver Coaching course and a Coaches' Qualification Course.

Sidmouth CC had hosted a Golf Croquet Coaching Course and Laws Refresher Day, both were well attended.

A Golf Croquet Laws Course and a Golf Croquet Coaching Day were held at Dowlish Wake CC both were over subscribed.

Budleigh Salterton CC had hosted a Bronze and Silver Coaching Course and a Course for Development in Advanced Play. A Golf Croquet Coaching Day was also held with many thanks to the travelling coaches.

A Golf Croquet Coaching day and an Association Coaching day were hosted by Kingston Maurward CC and well attended.

The Coaching Officer thanked all the clubs that had provided coaches for the above courses and also the coaches themselves for their help.

Various Croquet Demonstration sessions were requested by a couple of hotels within the Federation area and these were carried out with recruitment in mind for the local clubs.

197 people had attended courses organised by the SW Federation.

The Coaching Officer said that he had run courses at the Croquet Academy. These courses consisted of a Coaches Workshop, a Triple Peel Course, a Gold Course and some Referees Examinations.

A number of requests have been made for courses in 2012 and he would be holding 4 courses at the Croquet Academy again this year including a Tournament Management Course. He said he had two personal requests to make, the first for coaches of all levels that are willing to offer their services and be able to travel to other clubs within the federation and the second for clubs wishing to host coaching course, to get in touch early so dates can be fixed. He said a big thank you to all the coaches within the Federation who put in so much time and effort in coaching within their own club.

He expressed his gratitude to Bob Whitaker for his support and help during many of the courses he had run.

8. Youth Officer's Report

The Youth Officer said that following an initiative by Richard Williamson a Taster Day was held at Westonbirt School which was a great success.

Ryan Cabbie and Harry Dodge played in the under 21 Golf Croquet Championships and Ryan went on to play in the Senior Championship.

9. Publicity Officer's Report

The Chairman said that the Publicity Officer had lost her voice so had asked him to give her report.

Both Swan and the website continue as usual. She asked clubs to please let her have any changes to club details.

Articles for SWAN should ideally be sent in before Christmas.

10. Development Officers Report

The Development Officer (North) Robert Moss reported that we now have 41 clubs within our Federation with only the South-East as large, most other Federations have only between 12 and 25 clubs.

The vast majority of CA grants this year have come to the South West.

The largest development has been the creation of the new four lawn Camerton and Peasedown CC.

Another large development is that of Barnstaple CC with the potential for four lawns.

At Cheltenham CC four lawns have been completely re-laid.

Several groups in the north of the area are exploring the possibility of creating new clubs.

Starter packs have been supplied to five new clubs, Barnstaple, Exmoor, Montecute, Wareham and Wooton Courtney.

We were asked to participate in an Edwardian Garden Festival that was held at Coombe Trenchard in June to compare the modern game with the Edwardian game.

The CA is keen to encourage croquet at Universities and Colleges. Please let us know of any young person who has shown an interest in croquet so that we can encourage them to help us approach the sports organisers.

A Gala tent is available for clubs to borrow for tournaments or special events – details will be SWAN.

Several of the new clubs would appreciate any spare mallets, sets of hoops or balls that you wish to sell or would donate, please contact either of the Development Officers and we will put clubs in touch with one another.

11. Election of Officers

All Officers were willing to stand for another year. There were no other nominations.

The Chairman said that following last year's AGM, Roger Buckley had been co-opted to the Committee to assist the Coaching Officer. He asked the meeting to ratify this appointment along with the election of officers.

Proposed by Jane Hull and seconded by David Temple and carried.

12. Proposal A from Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

There followed a discussion in which the following points were made:

With 4 teams per block resulting in everyone having to play each other twice, there would be too much travelling involved especially for Division 1 where the clubs tended to be further apart.

At the moment some clubs have difficulty in playing 5 matches so more matches would present more problems.

If only 3 games were played it would not make a viable league

David Harrison-Wood proposed an amendment that there were 5 teams in Division 1 and 4 teams in Divisions 2 and 3.

Marcus Evans proposed a further amendment to the amendment that there were 5 teams in Division 1 and the number of teams in Division 2 and 3 should be at the League Secretary's discretion.

This was seconded by David Harrison-Wood and carried.

Proposal B from Bear of Rodborough Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

As Proposal A had been amended and subsequently passed, Proposal B requires some amending to the wording.

The League for Advanced Play (the "Advanced League") shall consist of a 3 tier league to be called the Parkstone Trophy Divisions 1, 2 and 3. Division 1 shall consist of 5 teams, the number of teams in of Division 2 and 3 shall be at the discretion of the League Secretary.

The proposal was seconded by Chris Williams and carried.

It was left to Committee to finalise the wording for the League Rules.

Proposal C from The Committee (circulated with the Agenda)

The League Secretary said that as Proposal A had been carried the proposed changes to Rule 4b would not apply this year so on behalf of the Committee he would withdraw the proposal.

Proposal D from Nailsea Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

Peter Dyke on behalf of Nailsea CC said that he would also withdraw the proposal.

Proposal E from Sidmouth Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

David Harrison-Wood said that he felt that clubs being able to field a player of two steps higher in the Federation and Intermediate Leagues was excessive and proposed an amendment that clubs could only field a player of one step higher. This was seconded by Marcus Evans and defeated.

Several delegates said that they were in favour of players playing off the correct handicap. The proposal was seconded by Chris Williams and carried.

Proposal F from East Dorset Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

The League Secretary said that if the proposal was passed it would decimate the Federation League

The following comments were made:

The winner represents the Federation in the Secretary's Shield where the upper handicap limit is 20.

It would mean many clubs would not be able to field a team.

It would deny some players the chance to play in a league as they would have too low a handicap to play in the Intermediate League but would not be good enough to play in the Advanced League.

An amendment to change "handicaps of 10..." to "handicaps of 12..." was proposed by Richard Way and seconded by Mike Taylor. This was carried

The proposal with the amendment seconded by Mike Taylor was then defeated on the Chairman's casting vote so the status quo remains.

Proposal G East Dorset Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

In the discussion that followed it was stated that players needed a number of bisques to set up a break.

The proposal was seconded by Marcus Evans and carried with the Committee deciding on the Base to be used.

Proposal H from the Committee (circulated with the Agenda)

The proposal was seconded by Jonathan Wood and carried.

Proposal J from Nailsea Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

The proposal was seconded by John Grimshaw and carried.

Proposal K from Nailsea Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

After some discussion it was decided to remove "because the lawns have become unplayable"

The proposal was amended to:

In the event of a match having to be abandoned my mutual agreement every attempt should be made to replay the match, failing this the match shall be awarded to the team with the most wins in completed games. If the number of completed games is shared equally, the match shall be declared a draw. If one team wishes to abandon the match but the other team wishes to continue, then any unplayed games shall be awarded to the team that is prepared to continue.

The amended proposal was seconded by Marcus Evans and carried.

Proposal L from Bath Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

Both Chris Williams and Cliff Jones said that Short Croquet was a different game and therefore the proposal did not apply.

Daniel Mills on behalf of Bath CC withdrew the proposal.

Proposal M from East Dorset Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

The proposal was seconded by Brian Shorney and carried.

Proposal N from East Dorset Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

In the discussion that followed the following points were made:

It was stated that at CA level no Golf Croquet is played on small lawns.

The CA Laws for Golf Croquet should be adhered to.

It is no more difficult on a small lawn than a full size lawn.

The proposal was seconded by Marcus Evans and defeated.

Proposal P from East Dorset Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

The proposal was seconded by Brian Shorney and carried.

Proposal R from East Dorset Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

The League Secretary said that he was not happy with "golden hoop" being deleted as everyone understood a golden hoop.

There followed a discussion about the interpretation of a "golden hoop".

The proposal was seconded by Brian Shorney and carried.

13. Any Other Business

The Golf Croquet Adviser said that she had been asked to clarify the procedure for setting handicaps for new Golf Croquet players. There is a table which will give a handicap after a player has completed the test three times. It is advised that handicaps are not set immediately players have finished their initial few lessons but wait for 3 or 4 months to see how that player's tactics and play evolve. It is suggested that handicaps are set no higher than 10 in the first instance which then gives room for players to move up or down.

The League Secretary said that the Short Croquet would be on Sunday 15 April and that if 3 more teams entered he proposed that there would be another division.

He said he would look into whether a single day tournament – one North and one South of the region - could be arranged for the level play Golf Croquet

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.58p.m.