

**South West Federation of Croquet Clubs
Notice of AGM**

Date	18 th November 2018
Time	Arrive at 10.00 for registration with prompt 10.30 start
Venue	Batch Country House Hotel, Batch Lane, Lymsham, Weston super Mare, BS24 0EX If necessary, you may contact the Secretary, Linda, on: 077 857 861 47

- **Please read this document carefully - no paper copies will be available at the meeting, so please bring your own or have them on your mobile device**
 - it contains the information you need to book your places at the AGM and to participate fully in the discussions and votes.
- **Please acknowledge receipt of this email giving the following information:**
 - Your voting delegates: each member club is entitled to 2
 - Any non-voting delegates
- **For each delegate please provide the following information making clear which club they are representing**
 - Their name
 - Their email address - this will be used to send information about the event directly to them - it will not be shared with any other members or indeed, anyone else
 - Their menu choice - this is provided for £15 which must be paid (preferably in cash) to SWF on arrival
 - Roast Beef and Yorkshire Pudding
 - Breast of Chicken with a apple and herb stuffing, wrapped in bacon and served with a wild mushroom sauce
 - Fillet of Salmon with Hollandaise Sauce
 - Vegetarian Nut Roast
 - Followed immediately by tea and coffee
- **Note we are introducing an after-lunch discussion session - see details below - we do hope many of you can stay on for this**

Please be mindful of the following constitutional requirements:

- 5b. Full Member clubs... are empowered to appoint two voting delegates (who are not members of the Federation Committee) and any number of observers to attend any General Meeting.
- 5c. Affiliated Member clubs are only entitled to observer status at General Meetings.
- 7d. (at an AGM) at least one third of the Delegates and Committee entitled to attend shall form a quorum.
- 8e. Members of the Committee shall have their own vote at a General Meeting and, if required, the Chairman shall have an additional casting vote.

Agenda

Welcome

Introducing the committee

Apologies

Minutes of last meeting

These may be found on p3 -10 and on the SWF website: www.swfcroquet.org.uk

- follow the archive link on the bottom of the home page

Matters arising

Chair's report

To ensure enough time for debate and discussion at the AGM we aim to circulate this and other Committee reports prior to the meeting

Treasurer's report

To be circulated

League Secretary's report

To be circulated

Regional Coaching Officer's report

To be circulated

Publicity Officers' report

To be circulated

Youth Officer's report

To be circulated

Development Officers' report

To be circulated

GC Advisor's report

To be circulated

Federation Representative's report

To be circulated

Election of Officers 2018 - 2019

See full details on p 11

Resolutions

See full proposals on p12 - 20

South West Croquet Academy

A member of the SWCA will talk about their work

AOB

Date of next meeting

Lunch

Workshop

See outline p21

**South West Federation of Croquet Clubs
Minutes of AGM**

Date	19 th November 2017	
Time	10.30	
Venue	Batch Country House Hotel, Batch Lane, Lympsham, Weston super Mare, BS24 0EX	
Present	See attached list p8	
Committee present	Chair Treasurer Secretary League Secretary Regional Coaching Liaison Youth Officer SWAN Editor Development Officer North Development Officer South GC Advisor Rep to CA Council Webmaster	Marcus Evans Norman Connor Linda Shaw John Grimshaw Richard Jackson Marcus Evans Maureen Smith Robert Moss Adam Wimshurst Ros Key-Pugh Klim Seabright Jack Smith (Apologies)
Welcome	Marcus welcomed everyone to the meeting	
1) Apologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Received from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Wellington CC, Broadwas CC, Dyffryn CC, Palace Wells CC, Bude CC Jack Smith, Sue Mackay, Stefan Carlyle 	
2) Minutes of last AGM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) These were agreed as correct and duly signed 	
3) Matters arising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Campbell Anderson (Beckford CC) noted that there was no minute of the change to GC rules handicap limits. b) Marcus replied that there had been confusion at the meeting and consequent inaccuracy in the minutes. The matter is being discussed again today. 	
4) Chair's report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Marcus described SWF as a strong body that we were lucky to be a part of and highlighted significant achievements by local players <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Bristol reached the final of the national inter-club competition, losing out to Surbiton ii) Mark Suter (Nailsea) won the Chairman's Salver returning to croquet after a 10 year break iii) Robert Wilkinson (Bristol) won the Spencer Ell iv) James Galpin (Nailsea) won the National Junior Championship b) He noted forthcoming changes to the Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Norman Connor is standing down as Treasurer after 7 years of quiet efficient service with easy to read reports ii) He has left us in a stronger financial position enabling us to provide a level of financial support to new small clubs iii) We do not have a replacement as yet so any offers or suggestions will be welcome 	

- iv) Norman was presented with a bottle of port in recognition of his long and valued support
- v) Sadly too Jack Smith is standing down as webmaster - he has had a lot to contend with recently - bad health and internet difficulties beyond his control - we thank him for his support and wish him well
- c) We thank Sue MacKay for stepping into the breach and keeping our creaking website going
- d) We plan to have a new website by the beginning of next year and welcome suggestions for this
- e) Thanks to Linda in her role as secretary and for introducing Cygnet
- f) This time next year we will be looking for a new Chair and League Secretary and eventually a new Development Officer
 - i) Suggestions / offers of help will be welcome and support will be given
- g) There were no questions

5) Treasurer's report

- a) Summary of accounts previously circulated and attached p10
- b) Having felt 'conned' into the post, Norman has enjoyed his role
- c) He is pleased to have seen an increase in income - citing the Short Croquet fees in particular
- d) He noted a £400 surplus for the year
- e) He is not proposing any increase in charges
- f) There were no questions
- g) The report was unanimously accepted

6) League Secretary's report

- a) This had been previously circulated and is attached p10
- b) The following additional points were made
 - i) Statistics relevant to the GC League Rules proposals were given
 - ii) There are a high number of entries for next year which may mean some restructuring of divisions especially for Advanced and Federation
 - iii) John would welcome feedback on this e.g. travel implications
 - iv) There are fewer GC Level Play entries so these will be reverting to 2 regions
- c) Short croquet is over-subscribed for both venues
 - i) Camerton & Peasedown have offered a third day for a fifth division
 - ii) Budleigh hope to be able to do the same
- d) John noted he would be resigning next year and has had one possible expression of interest in taking on the role
- e) Trophies were presented

Parkstone Trophy: Bristol	GC Level: Nailsea
Parkstone Division 2: Taunton Dean	GC Handicap: Cheltenham
Parkstone Division 3: The Bears	GC High Handicap: Cheltenham
Federation: Bath	Short Croquet at Nailsea: Nailsea (Club)
Intermediate: Lym Valley	Short Croquet at Budleigh: Sidmouth Fortfield
B League: Taunton Deane	

- John reminded people there are 14 more days in which to return League entries
- There were no questions

7) Regional Coaching Officer's report

- a) This had been previously circulated and is attached p 14
- b) Richard noted how he too had accepted the role with short notice but has made contact with all clubs
- c) He thanked the coaches especially those who have worked outside their own club and would welcome others who are able to do this
- d) He noted Dave Kibble is able to run another Coaches course next year if there is a demand for it
- e) He reminded the meeting about the CA awards and encouraged nominations
- f) He also referred to the wider CA Diploma and encouraged clubs to nominate people
- g) Brian Shorney informed the meeting that Sarah Hayes (Cheltenham) is now Chair of the CA Coaching Committee
- h) There were no questions

8) Publicity Officers' report

- a) Maureen reported on behalf of Jack (report attached p 15) and thanked Sue for her support with the website and is looking forward to a new one
- b) She then spoke of SWAN noting the tight deadlines and urging prompt submission of articles and information
 - (1) She particularly welcomes interesting and wide-ranging articles and photos noting the 1st Feb deadline
- c) Errors do occur in SWAN and hopefully Cygnet can help correct these quickly
- d) She re-iterated the importance of keeping us updated with contact details
- e) There will be an increase in charges for adverts in SWAN - these will apply to non-SWF or private adverts with SWF members being entitled to 50% discount which means prices do not increase for members next years
 - (1) She urged advertisers to submit payment with the advert as some people were being chased months later for payment
- f) She asked if people wanted to see the rankings in SWAN and the meeting was in favour of this continuing
- g) There were no questions

9) Youth Officer's report

- a) Marcus noted two local outstanding juniors:
 - i) James Galpin (Nailsea)
 - ii) Daniel Gott (Bath)
- b) If any club would like support with recruiting / retaining young players, Marcus would be happy to provide this
- c) He noted that Lionel Tibble ran a junior summer school this year and plans to do so again next year - he would welcome more juniors

10) Development Officers' report

- a) Adam presented the report for the South - attached p16
 - i) He noted in particular an exemplary development grant application from Cornwall but did point out that applications do not need to be as long as this!
- b) Robert presented the report for the North - attached p16
 - i) He urged clubs to seek advice before you start the application
 - ii) He cited Cardigan's experience with seeking insurance cover for equipment and urged clubs to shop around and seek advice from their Development Officer or CA before committing themselves on this

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii) He would welcome information on the numbers of young people playing in the region iv) He urged clubs with surplus equipment to bear in mind the needs of new clubs v) He has been in post for 10 years and is not intending to stand down immediately but will do so within the next 6 years vi) He noted that we will be holding a series of Handicap Conferences in the new year and that from 2019 every club will be expected to have a Club Handicapper for the relevant code in order to be able to enter League teams c) Campell Anderson (Beckford) requested the dates for these be confirmed asap d) Smaller clubs expressed concern they would not be able to appoint a Club Handicapper and were reassured they would receive full support from the SWF with this e) Brian Shorney reminded the meeting that with regard to Development Grants it is CA policy only to support those clubs playing, or intending to play, both codes: AC and GC
<p>11) GC Advisor's report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Ros presented her report which may be found on p17 b) She commented on the forthcoming GC rules proposal from Nailsea c) She also summarised her work on the CA Governance Working Party and on the Federations working group on player recruitment and retention d) David Harrison-Wood (East Dorset) noted he thought 8 is the best lower limit for high handicap GC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i) Ros replied that 8 is the lower limit and the highest handicaps of players in the High Handicap League so far has been 12 to the best of her knowledge. ii) Also that we needed to think about how much overlap there is between adjacent levels iii) Noted that CA is introducing a C Class GC competition with 7 as the lower limit and wondered if we should consider doing the same e) Campbell Anderson (Beckford) queried if there was a process for arranging friendly practice games and was advised to make direct contact with neighbouring clubs f) Andru Blewett (St Agnes) and Klim Seabright (Cheltenham) both described ways they do this
<p>12) Federation Representative to Council report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Klim presented his report which may be found on p20 b) He stressed the importance of taking into account the views and needs of all croquet players, not just CA members
<p>13) Update on the work of the CA Development Officer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Linda summarized work Dave Gunn has been undertaking with Federations - report may be found on p20 b) Cygnet will keep members up to date with developments
<p>14) Election of Officers 2017 - 2018</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The following people are standing uncontested: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Marcus Evans: Chair b) Linda Shaw: Secretary c) John Grimshaw: League Secretary d) Klim Seabright: Fed Rep to CA Council e) Adam Wimshurst: Development Officer South f) Robert Moss: Development Officer North

- g) Richard Jackson: Coaching Officer
- h) Ros Key-Pugh: GC Advisor
- i) Maureen Smith: SWAN / Publicity Officer
- 2) Marcus suggested the vote take place en bloc
 - a) This was agreed nem con
- 3) All were voted in unanimously

15) Resolutions: Constitutional

The original proposed resolutions and rationale are attached p22 - 3

Resolution A:

Proposed	SWF Committee		
Seconded	Stephen Custance-Baker	Taunton Deane	
For: Unanimous	Against	Abstentions	

Resolution B:

Discussion concerning changing the word 'paying' to 'playing' in section 5, para b was deemed not necessary and the original proposal was voted on

Proposed	SWF Committee		
Seconded	Peter Dyke	Nailsea	
For: Unanimous	Against	Abstentions	

Resolution C:

Proposed	SWF Committee		
Seconded	Bob Whiffen	Bristol	
For: Unanimous	Against	Abstentions	

Resolution D:

Proposed	SWF Committee		
Seconded	Ray Ransom	Bristol	
For: Unanimous	Against	Abstentions	

Resolution E:

Noted that the CA would prefer all SWF member clubs to be CA members but the committee made the decision not to make this a requirement.

Proposed	SWF Committee		
Seconded	Ray Ransom	Bristol	
For: Unanimous	Against	Abstentions	

Resolution F:

- 1) David Harrison-Wood (East Dorset) noted that all references to the CA be clarified to refer to the role as Representative to the CA council to distinguish this from the role of secretary or other club contact.

This was proposed as an amendment to the original proposal

Proposed		SWF Committee	
Seconded		David Harrison-Wood	East Dorset
		For: Unanimous	Against Abstentions

- 2) Brian Shorney (Kington Langley & CA Chair) noted we are one of only a couple of Federations holding our AGM in the autumn rather than the spring so the question of an earlier election does not arise for others.
- a) Marcus set out our rationale for autumn AGM - having a committee in place to plan and undertake tasks for the following season.
- 3) BS also noted this may be an ephemeral issue in the light of possible forthcoming governance changes.

The amended proposal was presented:

Proposed	SWF Committee		
Seconded	Stephen Custance-Baker	Taunton Deane	
For: Nem con	Against	Abstentions	

16) Resolutions: League rules

- a. The original proposed resolutions and rationale are attached p23 ff

b. Eligibility for GC handicap league: Bath

- i. John Grimshaw queried if clubs may be reducing players' handicaps to enable them to play
- ii. JG also noted that by adopting this rule not all team members would need to play all games in a match which would help those with less stamina
- iii. George Lang (Plymouth) noted that by adopting this change, more players would have the opportunity to develop competitive play skills and confidence

Proposed	Bath CC		
Seconded	Mark McNair	Exeter	
For: Majority	Against: 1	Abstentions: 4	

c) GC league rules: Nailsea

- i. Keith Southern (Swanage) said he was generally in favour of the proposals - untimed games can make the day very long and 20 is too many games for one day
- a. He would favour 12 singles and 4 doubles games
- ii. Mark McNair (Exeter) was opposed to the proposal - the 20 game format works well and there are few drawn games
- iii. John Grimshaw felt the proposal should have been split into individual proposals
- a. He opposes the proposal and thinks some players will only play two games on a day which is not satisfactory
- iv. Helen Pryor (Cornwall) felt 50 minutes is long enough - there are no problems with having draws and the day would become too long if the proposal were adopted
- v. Comments received from Broadwas were read out - attached p25
- vi. Comments received from Dowlish Wake were read out - attached p25
- vii. Stephen Custance-Baker (Taunton Deane) was opposed to the proposals

- a. He felt there was a good argument for having a different structure for level play but this proposal covers all forms
- viii. David Harrison-Wood (East Dorset) felt time limits in handicap games were inherently unfair as the lower handicap player may not have time to catch up
 - a. A drawn game, while it appears on the handicap card, has no impact
 - b. Ros Key-Pugh noted that her analysis showed many of the draws at Camerton & Peasedown were 3 or 4 all - such games would need much more time if they were to go to a clear win
 - c. Peter Dyke (Nailsea) noted the opposition to the proposals
- 1. These had been submitted as one following discussions with other players throughout the season
- 2. Low handicaps do not like giving away a large number of extra turns - there can be huge discrepancies in handicaps
- 3. In one situation the players took 20 minutes to run Hoop 1, which consequently delayed the double banked game
- 4. Few tournaments allow drawn games although the Rules do allow for this
- 5. Noted that no drawn games are permitted in AC

Proposed	Nailsea CC		
Seconded	Jane Hull	Kington Langley	
For: 8	Against: Majority		Abstentions: 4

17) AOB

- a. Brian Wilson (Chair CA Marketing Committee) noted that National Croquet Day will be held on 13th May 2018
 - i. The theme is still to be agreed and clubs will be informed - suggestions to the Marketing Committee will be welcomed
- b. Stephen Custance-Baker (Taunton Deane) requested that John Grimshaw send him the results of Handicap League GC matches and offered to undertake an analysis of high / low handicaps results
 - i. Only hard copies are available and John will endeavour to get these to Stephen
- c. Action: JG / SCB**
- d. SCB noted he had expressed an interest in taking on the League Secretary role but had not realized this included organizing the short croquet competitions and had we thought about separating these responsibilities
 - i. Marcus replied that the committee had considered this and will follow this up
- e. Action: Committee**

18) Advance Notice of events at CPCC for 2018

- a. Please email roskeypugh@yahoo.co.uk to be kept informed of these events which will be open to all members of SWF clubs and I will ensure you are kept informed. They are all open to members of all SWF clubs.
- b. Coaching: Sunday March 25th 2018 1 day's GC Coaching for Handicaps 3 - 9 Bring your own lunch. £10pp. Lead coach: Ros Key-Pugh + 3 assistants.

- | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">c. SWF GC Open Level Play Doubles Tournament on Tuesday September 4th 2018 9.30 to 5pm Maximum entry 16 pairs. Bring your own lunch. £10 per player.d. 64 Challenge GC Fun Progressive Handicap Doubles Tournament Sunday September 30th 2018 £15pp including lunch. |
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18) Date of next meeting

- | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) Sunday 18th November 2018 at the Batch Country House Hotel |
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19) Meeting closed

- | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) The meeting closed at 12.59 |
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Election of Officers

Nominations have been received for the following positions:

Chair	Brian Wilson	Camerton & Peasedown CC
Nominated: Robert Moss		Seconded: Klim Seabright
Marcus Evans is standing down as his term of office has come to an end		

League Secretary	Stephen Custance-Baker	Taunton CC
Nominated: John Grimshaw		Seconded: Richard Jackson
John Grimshaw is standing down after 14 years in the role.		

Development Officer	Paul Francis	Bath CC
Nominated: Robert Moss		Seconded: Adam Wimshurst
Robert Moss is standing down from the role to undertake other commitments		

The situation concerning the remaining positions is:

Treasurer	Neil Morrison: Swindon CC Neil was appointed by the Committee during the year but has not stood for election
Development Officer	Adam Wimshurt would like to stand down but is prepared to remain for one more year for the South if there is no other candidate
Secretary	Linda Shaw remains unopposed
Coaching Liaison	Richard Jackson remains unopposed
GC Advisor	Vacant: Ros Key Pugh is standing down from the position - no nominations received
AC Advisor	Vacant: No nominations received
SWAN Editor	Maureen Smith remains unopposed
CA Rep	Klim Seabright remains unopposed
Youth Officer	Marcus Evans remains unopposed
Committee member	Robert Moss remains as a committee member
Webmaster	This is being undertaken in a paid capacity by Alison Jones - she is not a member of the Committee

Proposals to SWF AGM 18th November 2018

- These proposals have been presented in what seems to be a logical order.
- Remember delegates may vote for or against a proposal, or they may abstain

Proposal 1

Budleigh Salterton CC

"That in future all league semi-finals and finals should be played at a neutral club who have lawns of, and prepared to, an appropriate standard.

Rationale:

This is to ensure that neither team has any advantage and that the quality and state of the lawns will not influence the result."

Margaret Brett
Croquet Secretary

Note from SWF Committee

If this proposal is adopted, we have calculated that League fees would need to be increased to cover the additional lawn fees and catering costs. This means entries to each League would be £12.00 per team

Proposal 2

Bristol CC

"Bristol Croquet Club proposes that the play-off game between the top team in Parkstone Division 3 and the bottom team in Parkstone Division 2 is abandoned from 2019 and that these two teams are promoted and relegated as a matter of right."

Rationale:

Ray Ransom and Martin Leach are the two delegates and will speak to the motion.

Proposal 3

Bristol CC

That Clause 4 b(2) of the League Rules (Association Croquet) is replaced by the following,

2. For each club in (1) above, no member of the Division 1 or 2 squads may play in a lower division.
3. A member of a lower division squad may play in one match in a higher division whilst retaining their membership of the lower division squad. However if they play in more than one match in a higher division, their membership transfers to that squad, and they may no longer play in the lower division.

Rationale:

Ray Ransom and Martin Leach are the two delegates and will speak to the motion.

Proposal 4

East Dorset CC

Please note that this Proposal relates to both the **Association and Golf Croquet** League Rules.

1. INTRODUCTION

Some years ago the CA decided that our sport was played on "courts" instead of "lawns", and changed all references accordingly. It is probably time for this Federation to follow suit.

2. PROPOSED CHANGE

"Lawn" to "court" wherever appropriate.

3. RELEVANT RULES

Many ...

Proposal 5

East Dorset CC

Please note that this Proposal relates only to the **Golf Croquet** League Rules.

1. INTRODUCTION

There is a great deal of redundant wording in the naming of the Golf Croquet Leagues, giving a rather cluttered appearance and making it difficult "to see the wood for the trees".

2. PROPOSED CHANGE

As these Rules are solely for Golf Croquet, as stated in the title, it is quite unnecessary to repeat this in each and every league name. Removal of the redundant words also allows the "nicknames" to be deleted. The leagues can then be referred to by their proper names when required: these names are unique within the SWF.

3. RELEVANT RULE

1. LEAGUES AND ENTRIES

- a. The Federation shall organise a number of leagues, in which teams from Full Member Clubs may play matches against one another. The leagues currently supported are:
 - (1) the ~~Golf Croquet~~ Handicap League (~~the "Handicap League"~~);
 - (2) the ~~Golf Croquet~~ Level Play League (~~the "Level Play League"~~);
 - (3) the ~~Golf Croquet~~ High Handicap League (~~the "High Handicap League"~~).

Proposal 6

East Dorset CC

Please note that this Proposal relates only to the **Golf Croquet** League Rules.

1. INTRODUCTION

Doubles games frequently take longer than singles games, because of the necessary (though limited) discussion that takes place between the partners, so less progress is made before the time limit imposes itself. This can mean that more doubles games go to time rather than a normal ending.

2. PROPOSED CHANGE

We propose that the time limit for doubles games be increased to 60 minutes. Doubles games are usually single-banked, so the length of the game (and that session) will not increase by more than 10 minutes.

3. RELEVANT RULE

8. TIME LIMITS

- a. A time limit of not less than 50 minutes *for singles (60 minutes for doubles)* shall be agreed by both team captains before the start of each game (except as directed under Rule 13e); if they wish, they may agree to play any game without a time limit. If the two captains cannot agree on a time limit, the shorter of the two suggested time limits shall be used.

Proposal 7

East Dorset CC

Please note that this Proposal relates only to the **Golf Croquet** League Rules.

1. INTRODUCTION

This proposal is intended to specify a new and more appropriate format for the Golf Croquet Level Play League, to replace the format inherited since its inaugural season from the Golf Croquet Handicap League.

The problems with this existing format, when applied to Level Play competition, are:

- there can be a large difference in handicap between players in each game, which could be seen as unsuitable in terms of level play;
- a single-game result, or – worse – one determined by a time limit, might not be representative of that encounter;
- some clubs may struggle to field more than 3 players (the current minimum Golf Croquet League team size is 4);
- 20 games (in 6 sessions) are considered by some clubs to be too many for one day of Golf Croquet;
- drawn games or drawn matches may result.

The proposed format is based on the one that has been in use for many years by the CA in its Inter-Club Championship and Murphy Shield Golf Croquet events; it was also adopted by the Southern Croquet Federation in 2013 for their GC Level Play League. It is, however, somewhat prescriptive in terms of team size (four, and only four, players), doubles pairings (the two lowest handicaps), and match format (one doubles and six singles, in two sessions).

This proposal retains the pertinent features of that format – i.e. best-of-3 play; no time limits; no draws – and adds in the flexibility of team size, doubles pairings and match format found in the SWF AC Advanced League, to wit:

- team size can be from 3 upwards;
- substitutes in a later session are allowed;
- a doubles pair may be *any* two players in the team;
- the match may comprise almost any combination of singles and doubles;
- the match may be played in two sessions.

In this new format there will be, as a general rule, no time limits and no draws allowed, so a meaningful result can be achieved in each match – and without the necessity for a deciding game in a play-off.

2. PROPOSED CHANGES

Each match, between teams of three or more players (though substitutes are allowed as well), will be played as an odd number of rubbers: a rubber is a best-of-three encounter between two players (singles) or two pairs (doubles) – the equivalent of a game in handicap play. Matches will be played on full- or near to full-sized lawns without time limits, and opponents will be paired in handicap order. Exceptions to the above general principles are also included.

When considering these changes it is important to bear in mind that the CA Inter-Club GC match format, on which this proposal is based, currently allows for best-of-3 play with no time limits in two sessions, which has proven to be a practicable proposition for a one-day match.

Even if each game runs to an average of one hour, and all the rubbers go to three games (i.e. 2-1), that's just 3 hours per session. This would mean that a match starting at 10am could be finished by 5pm, including a lunch break.

Furthermore, a match can be played with 3, 4, 5 or even more players in a team, provided that there are sufficient lawns and the same number of players per side in any one session.

3. RELEVANT RULES

As this is a major change to the Golf Croquet League Rules, the details of the rule changes will be found in an appended Schedule so as not to interrupt the flow of these Proposals.

In summary, the rules affected by this proposal are **5-9, 11a, 13d/e and Appendix 1.**

4. DHW specifically asked if his "Schedule 1" could be placed right at the end of the document. While it does make it slightly more disjointed, I think we should accommodate this request please. – if everyone is happy with this as it isn't what we agreed at the meeting

Schedule 1: Level Play League Rule Changes

(a) Rule 5 [*Level Play League as per AC Advanced League*]:

5. SIZE OF TEAMS

- a. **HANDICAP AND HIGH HANDICAP LEAGUES.** A team shall consist of a minimum of four and a maximum of eight players.
- b. **LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE.**
 - (1) *The size of teams for any given fixture is a matter for agreement between the opposing clubs, subject to (2) and (3) below.*
 - (2) *The minimum team size shall be three players.*
 - (3) *Subject to (2) above, where teams cannot agree on the team size the lower of the two suggested figures shall be used.*
 - (4) *Nothing in (1) to (3) above shall restrict a club from substituting new players in a later session of the match.*

(b) Rule 6 [*Level Play League as per AC Advanced League, plus "rubbers" and "match points"*]:

6. MATCH FORMATS

- a. **HANDICAP AND HIGH HANDICAP LEAGUES.**
 - ~~a-~~(1) Matches shall comprise twenty games: four doubles games and sixteen singles games.
 - ~~b-~~(2) Matches may result in a 10-10 draw. Two match points shall be awarded to a winning team, or one match point to each team in the event of a draw.
 - ~~c-~~ Half way markers are mandatory at all SWF Golf Croquet League matches.
 - ~~d-~~(3) Where a club has two or more lawns available, the home team captain shall choose the lawns for the first and fourth sessions, and the visiting team captain shall choose the lawns for the second, third, fifth and sixth sessions, avoiding double-banking where possible. The choices may be made at the beginning of each session, or the captains may agree to choose lawns for as many sessions as they wish at the beginning of the day and subsequently when they need to.
- b. **LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE.**
 - (1) *Whatever the team size, the match shall be arranged so that one side must win (except as provided in Rule 11b).*
 - (2) *Subject to 5b(1) and 6b(1) above, and the number of lawns it has available, the home club shall choose the match format. Appendix 2 lists the possible match formats.*

- (3) *A rubber shall be the best of three games; a match shall consist of a minimum of five rubbers. One-lawn clubs may either play two afternoon sessions or triple-bank.*
 - (4) *Two match points shall be awarded to a winning team, or one match point to each team in the event of a draw under Rule 11b.*
 - (5) *Where a club has two or more lawns available, the visiting team captain shall choose the lawns for each session of the match, avoiding double-banking where possible.*
- c. *Half-way markers are mandatory at all SWF Golf Croquet league matches.*

(c) **Rule 7** [*specifies game type and lawn size*]:

7. GAME FORMATS

a. **HANDICAP AND HIGH HANDICAP LEAGUES.**

~~a~~-(1) All games shall be 13-point *handicap* games, played according to the CA Rules for Golf Croquet on full-size, near to full-size (i.e. $\frac{3}{4}$ -size or larger), or small (i.e. less than $\frac{3}{4}$ -size) lawns.

~~b~~-(2) Games may be played on small lawns only if full- or near to full-size lawns are not available at the home club. In this case the home club must advise their opponents that small lawns are being used, for some or all of the games, at least seven days before the date of the match.

b. **LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE. All games shall be 13-point level play games, played according to the CA Rules for Golf Croquet on full- or near to full-sized lawns.**

(d) **Rule 8** [*deals with time limits, if any*]:

8. TIME LIMITS

a. **HANDICAP AND HIGH HANDICAP LEAGUES.**

~~a~~-(1) A time limit of not less than 50 minutes shall be agreed by both team captains before the start of each game (except as directed under Rule 13e); if they wish, they may agree to play any game without a time limit. If the two captains cannot agree on a time limit, the shorter of the two suggested time limits shall be used.

~~b~~-(2) If a game should be held up because of double-banking, the clock in that game shall be stopped until the game can proceed.

~~c~~-(3) When time is called each side shall be entitled to 4 additional turns (the extension period). Extra turns may not be used during the extension period. If the scores are level after this then the game is drawn and each side shall have earned a $\frac{1}{2}$ game point; there shall be no continuation of play.

b. **LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE.**

(1) *There shall be no time limits, except with the agreement of both captains.*

(2) *Where a time limit is invoked, a draw is not an acceptable outcome.*

(e) **Rule 9** [*Level Play League as per AC Advanced League*]:

9. PAIRING OF OPPONENTS

a. **HANDICAP AND HIGH HANDICAP LEAGUES.**

~~a~~-(1) The two team captains shall exchange the names of their players in each round of the match immediately prior to the commencement of that round. During this exchange, one captain shall present the names of his players first, to which the other captain shall respond with his players' names, as follows.

~~(4)~~i. Before the first round, the home team captain shall present first.

~~(2)~~ii. Before the second round, the visiting team captain shall present first.

~~(3)~~iii. For subsequent rounds, this "right of presentation" shall alternate.

~~b-(2)~~ No one player shall play in more than two doubles and four singles games, and no game shall be repeated (except as allowed under Rule 13e).

b. LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE.

(1) *It shall be the duty of the team captains to arrange the pairing of opponents for all games of the match prior to the start of the first session.*

(2) *As play may be all singles, all doubles or a mixture of both, the following shall apply.*

i. *Where one or more doubles rubbers are to be played in a session, the captains shall nominate the partnerships; opponents shall be paired in order of aggregate handicaps. For any remaining singles rubbers in that session, opponents shall be paired in handicap order.*

ii. *Where only singles rubbers are to be played in a session, opponents shall be paired in handicap order.*

iii. *Where two or more players in a team have the same handicap the captain shall choose their order, which shall apply for the whole match.*

iv. *Singles players must play different opponents in each session, so the pairings must be adjusted, if necessary, to comply with this requirement.*

(f) Rule 11a [Level Play League walkover score added]:

a. WALKOVERS.

(1) If a club fails to provide the minimum size of team for any match, the League Secretary shall be empowered to award a walkover win to its opponents.

(2) **SCORING.**

i. **HANDICAP AND HIGH HANDICAP LEAGUES.** A walkover win shall be scored 9-0.

ii. **LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE.** A walkover win shall be scored 3-0.

(g) Rule 13d [change of reference]:

d. For each play-off and the final, the host club shall:

(1) determine the number and size of the lawns (subject to Rule ~~7b~~**7a(2)**); and

(2) appoint a referee.

(h) Rule 13e [a deciding game is only for the Handicap Leagues]:

e. **HANDICAP AND HIGH HANDICAP LEAGUES.** If a play-off or final match ends in a 10-10 draw, ...

(i) Appendix 1 [change of references]:

As Soon As Possible (LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE)

3. Contact your opponents to agree team size.

5b

4. The home club should then decide the match format and notify the away club.

6b

See also Appx

At least 7 days before the match (**HANDICAP AND HIGH HANDICAP**

35. Contact your opponents to state your team size.

5a

46. Where relevant, the home club must inform the away club of the size of lawns to be used.

~~7b~~7a(2)

On Match Day

57. The team captains shall arrange the pairings of opponents for all 9a(1) / 9b(1) games prior to the start of each round / *the match*.

(j) **Appendix 2** to be copied from the AC League Rules.

Proposal 8

Kingston Maurward CC

FORMAT FOR GC LEVEL PLAY MATCHES AT CLUBS WITH ONLY ONE LAWN

KMCC propose that GC Level Play matches at clubs with only one lawn are reduced to 14 games (2 doubles and 12 singles), and that no one player shall play in more than one doubles and three singles games

Rationale:

This resolution is aimed at making GC Level Play matches more manageable at clubs with only one lawn. Please note - this proposal is only for GC Level Play and only at clubs with one lawn.

KMCC has only one full-sized¹ lawn and we struggle to finish our home GC Level Play matches within a reasonable timeframe. SWF League Rules (GC) state: “*matches shall comprise twenty games: four doubles games and sixteen singles games.*” Twenty games at a club with one lawn means 10 rounds of 50-minute games (with double-banking throughout), so at least 500 minutes of play. When one adds in delays due to double-banking, time for changeovers and a break for lunch, the match is likely to last about 560 minutes (9 hours and 20 minutes). This is a long day even before one considers the commute to and from KMCC.

This would reduce the match to 7 rounds, which we believe is a much more manageable and palatable format. Those concerned about the possible confusion that may result from this alternative format should take comfort from the range of alternative formats already available for AC matches at clubs with varying numbers of lawns (including clubs with one lawn).

KMCC’s lawn¹ is slightly smaller than full-sized. The Club also has a ½-sized lawn, which is not appropriate for GC Level Play games.

Proposal 9

Kingston Maurward CC

6. MATCH FORMAT

- a. Matches shall comprise twenty games: four doubles games and sixteen singles games.
- b. Matches may result in a 10-10 draw. Two match points shall be awarded to a winning team, or one match point to each team in the event of a draw.

It is proposed that - for matches at clubs with only one lawn:

- a. Matches shall comprise fourteen games: two doubles games and twelve singles games.
- b. Matches may result in a 7-7 draw. Two match points shall be awarded to a winning team, or one match point to each team in the event of a draw.

Proposal:

9. PAIRING OF OPPONENTS

- b. No one player shall play in more than two doubles and four singles games, and no game shall be repeated (except as allowed under Rule 13e).

It is proposed that - for matches at clubs with only one lawn:

- B. No one player shall play in more than one doubles and three singles games, and no game shall be repeated (except as allowed under Rule 13e).

Workshop

The SWF Committee would like to develop a much closer working relationship with our club members.

We are concerned the Croquet Association seems to concentrate on the rules, national tournaments and elite players. They do not appear to be supportive of 'social' croquet play

We recognize that many croquet club members want regular social contact and it is the experience of (at least) one of our member clubs that social members can be encouraged to enter club competitions and maybe League matches but that very few take part in local, never mind regional or national tournaments.

The SWF committee believes it should work towards involving all these types of club and understand individual requirements.

We have several ideas about how we might take this forward but want to ensure we are reflecting our members' views and aspirations.

So please find a little time and encourage your members to reflect on the following - and come up with their own ideas - that we can discuss at the workshop.

- Yearly visits to each club by a SWF committee member to discuss successes and failures, ambitions and ideas for how the Federation can help
- Regular reports from each club on what they are trying to achieve and how they are progressing
- How in particular the committee roles of Development Officers, AC & GC Advisors might be modified / combined to these ends
- Dividing the Federation into smaller areas to make travel less of a problem
- Creating hubs around bigger clubs for support