

South West Federation of Croquet Clubs Minutes of AGM	
Date	18 th November 2018
Venue	Batch Country House Hotel, Batch Lane, Lympsham, Weston super Mare, BS24 0EX
Present	See list on p8
Apologies	See list on p8

1) Welcome

- a) Chair, Marcus Evans, welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the schedule for the day
- b) Members of the committee were introduced

2) Minutes of last meeting

- a) David Harrison-Wood (East Dorset) noted that Item 11 d) should read: *David Harrison-Wood (East Dorset) asked what the best lower limit for high handicap GC would be*
- b) The minutes were agreed subject to this amendment and duly signed

3) Matters arising

- a) There were none

NB: The following reports had been circulated but not seen by all so committee members outlined the key points. Additional points are minuted below.

4) Chair's report (Appendix 1 9)

- a) Marcus expressed his thanks to the committee for their support and noted particularly those who are retiring from their posts this year
- b) There were no questions

5) Treasurer's report (Appendix 2 10)

- a) Neil Morrison presented the accounts (p11) noting that a small deficit has been incurred, largely due to re-building of website
- b) League games are cost neutral
- c) He remarked that the committee wants to invest in clubs as much as possible so we may anticipate small deficits in the future
- d) Peter Dyke (Nailsea) queried the sundry expenditure of 2p
 - i) This is due to two clubs who checked the correct on-line banking details by depositing 1p which was subsequently re-funded
 - ii) Brian Shorney (Kington Langley) drew delegates' attention to the CA's free tool for clubs to build their own websites and noted this is being trialled for use by Federations
 - (1) Klim Seabright noted that by his calculations, around 50% of SW clubs have their own website
- e) The report was presented by Neil, seconded by Marcus and accepted unanimously

6) Membership Fees

- a) The committee proposed no increase in membership fees
- b) This was passed *nem con*

7) League Secretary's report (Appendix 3 p12)

- a) Retiring after 14 years in the role, John Grimshaw outlined his report and presented the following trophies:
 - i) Parkstone trophy - Bristol
 - ii) Advanced League Div 2 - Taunton Deane
 - iii) Advanced League Div 3 - Sidmouth
 - iv) Federation - Kington Langley
 - v) Intermediate - Taunton Deane
 - vi) B League - Wellington, with their first ever league win
 - vii) GC level play - Taunton Deane
 - viii) GC Handicap - Abbey
 - ix) GC High Handicap - Broadwas
- b) John thanked Camerton & Peasedown for hosting the Short Croquet in the spring as Nailsea's lawns were not ready.
 - i) The Spring tournament winners were Nailsea Trendlewood
 - ii) The Autumn tournament held at Budleigh was won by Sidmouth Fortfield
 - iii) John mentioned certain discrepancies between team handicaps and results and any clubs where this is a concern will be contacted to discuss further
- c) Mike Tracy (Nailsea) asked if the power to decline entries from teams failing to meet their match commitments had ever been invoked
 - i) John replied it was used in 2017 and 2018
- d) He noted the SWF have taken action to address apparent handicap discrepancies including the series of handicapping workshops.
 - i) The report on p13 gives further details of Richard's work on this and a similar exercise will be undertaken with the 2018 results
- e) Marcus thanked John for his outstanding work over 14 years and presented him with a token of our appreciation
 - i) Jane Hull (Kington Langley) thanked John for his outstanding work - a sentiment that was wholeheartedly endorsed by the meeting

8) Regional Coaching Officer's report (Appendix 4 p16)

- a) Richard Jackson briefly summarized his report
- b) Klim Seabright noted he had also received a CA diploma
- c) There were no questions

9) Publicity Officers' report (Appendix 5 p17)

- a) Maureen Smith presented her report
- b) There was a question concerning accuracy of team contact details and queried if they could be sent to the contacts for proof reading prior to publication
 - i) Maureen acknowledged there had been a few of these but generally it was felt impractical to send them out to all contacts
 - ii) John Grimshaw apologized he had not time to thoroughly check these

10) Youth Officer's report

- a) The achievements of young players in the region were highlighted in the Chair's report
- b) Marcus would appreciate any ideas for developing young people's play in the region

11) Development Officer (North) report (Appendix 6 p17)

- a) Robert Moss, retiring from the role at this, his 11th AGM, said how much he had enjoyed the role, meeting enthusiastic people and helping clubs develop
- b) Paul Francis will be succeeding him in the role and Robert welcomed him *in absentia* wishing him well and promising support
- c) Robert asked for feedback on handicapping workshops and related issues
 - i) Dave Kibble (independent) queried whether the reference to CA handicappers in GC rules 4e should actually be included
 - (1) Action: Committee to review
 - ii) Klim Seabright noted that Robert's work on the handicapping workshop booklet has been presented to the CA Handicapping Committee and is likely to be used as an exemplar
- d) John Grimshaw noted he was very disappointed that Dyffryn has to move - it has found a possibly temporary site but may be able to move to a site near Penarth in a couple of years
 - i) Their grounds will not be available for League play in 2019 so have requested all their games be played away
 - ii) They will still be known as Dyffryn
 - iii) A potential new club (Llanidloes) would be outside the SW area and in the West Midlands
 - (1) Brian Shorney was concerned that if we encouraged clubs outside our area to join us it could have a serious effect on the neighbouring federation which is struggling.
- e) Marcus presented Robert with a token of our appreciation of his work over the past 11 years
 - i) Mike Tracy (Nailsea) thanked Robert for all his work supporting the club with large grant applications

12) Development Officer (South) report (Appendix 6 p)

- a) Budleigh CC have some old Barlow Balls which they are issuing to new clubs and still have a few available
- b) Adam noted he plans to retire from this role at the end of 2019 - it is a great role and he encouraged people to undertake this role covering the area Taunton and southwards

13) GC Advisor's report (Appendix 7 p20)

- a) Keith Southern (Swanage) asked what the role of the SWF will be in helping clubs understand and implement the new GC rules which will be implemented from March 2019
 - i) Marcus replied that we hadn't heard anything officially but that we would support initiatives to do this
 - ii) Neither Klim nor Brian Wilson recall passing this at Council meeting but Brian Shorney assured them this had been the case and that the original initiative lay with the WCF
 - (1) however there had been no discussion about disseminating this to members although it had been noted in the Croquet Gazette
 - iii) It was noted that information was posted on the Referees' forum
 - iv) Stephen Custance-Baker noted it was important they are implemented
 - v) Ros noted there are a large number of changes and Stephen commented they should make certain rules simpler

- vi) George Lang (Plymouth) expressed concern that this was the first he had heard about it and their competitions are due to start in March
- vii) Linda Shaw expressed concern at the lack of information from the CA
- viii) **Action: Klim will contact CA requesting specific support for the SW**
NB: subsequent to this meeting, there has been much discussion and we hope to hold local events on this topic - watch out for emails with further details

14) Federation Representative's report (Appendix 8 p21)

- a) Klim Seabright reported that Commonwealth Games 2022 committee had agreed to accept a proposal to consider Croquet as demonstration sport there - support has to come from WCF and they are being lobbied on this
- b) CA Governance - Council considers Feds to be important part of new structure and the Council itself will be reduced in size
 - i) The SWF would have 3 representatives in this process
- c) Klim is preparing a light-touch leaflet for coaches which he plans to distribute over the winter - ideas for this would be welcome
- d) The new CA data base system seems to be causing confusion
 - i) Ray Ransom (Bristol) noted that club members are automatically enrolled as standard CA members but must give their GDPR consent to sharing their details
 - (1) Bristol have made this a condition of club membership
 - (2) Mike Tracy (Nailsea) agreed this is the direction the CA should be moving in and compared this with other similarly-structured groups e.g. The English Bridge Union
 - (3) Brian Shorney said he had urged this at Council but had been outvoted
 - ii) Brian Wilson understood that a significant number of clubs have not submitted their membership returns
 - iii) David Harrison Wood (East Dorset) noted there is no additional charge for becoming a CA standard member

15) Election of Officers 2018 - 2019

- a) It was proposed and unanimously agreed to elect the committee *en bloc*
- b) John Grimshaw clarified that he would continue to run short croquet for the time being but would not remain on the committee
- c) The following were elected unanimously

Chair	Brian Wilson	Camerton & Peasedown CC
Nominated: Robert Moss		Seconded: Klim Seabright
League Secretary	Stephen Custance-Baker	Taunton CC
Nominated: John Grimshaw		Seconded: Richard Jackson
Development Officer North	Paul Francis	Bath CC
Nominated: Robert Moss		Seconded: Adam Wimshurst
Treasurer	Neil Morrison: Swindon CC	
Development Officer South	Adam Wimshurt: Budleigh CC, Exeter CC	
Secretary	Linda Shaw: Nailsea CC, Bristol CC	
Coaching Liaison	Richard Jackson: Bristol CC	
GC Advisor	No nominations received	
AC Advisor	No nominations received	
SWAN Editor	Maureen Smith: Budleigh CC	
CA Rep	Klim Seabright: Cheltenham CC	

Youth Officer	Marcus Evans: Nailsea CC
Committee member	Robert Moss: Budleigh CC
Webmaster	This is being undertaken in a paid capacity by Alison Jones - she is not a member of the Committee

16) Proposals (Appendix 9 pp 24 - 25)

Proposal 1	Budleigh Salterton CC
Seconded	Marcus Evans (Chair)
Defeated <i>nem con</i>	

- David Harrison-Wood (East Dorset) asked why team entry fees would need to be increased if this were adopted
 - John replied it is because extra lawn fees currently incurred only for finals
- It was noted that 'appropriate standard' is not defined - although there is a definition in Tournament Regs
- Stephen Custance-Baker said Taunton would be opposing this as it reduces the number of potential clubs and increases the load for the few
- George Lang (Plymouth) said though in principle this was sound, in practice it would be more difficult to implement

Proposal 2	Bristol CC
Seconded	Stephen Custance-Baker (Taunton)
Carried	
For: 14	Against: 1
Refers to Division 2 to 1	

Proposal 2a	Bristol CC
Seconded	Stephen Custance-Baker (Taunton)
Carried	
For: 12	Against: 4
Refers to Division 3 to 2	

NB: It was noted that this proposal was in fact submitted for both divisions and it was agreed to present this twice

- David Harrison-Wood drew attention to incorrect nomenclature - the second and third divisions are the League for Advanced Play - only division 1 is the Parkstone trophy
- Dave Kibble reminded the meeting that the current ruling was introduced because at the time there was a wide difference in standard between divisions one and two so that a promoted team might struggle in the higher division.
- Philip Harris (Sidmouth) felt the ruling should be applied to both divisions
- Martin Leach (Bristol) noted that in any other sport if you win the division you automatically get promoted

Proposal 3	Bristol CC
Seconded	Peter Dyke (Nailsea)
Carried	
For: 11	Against: 3

- John Grimshaw queried what would happen if all lower division matches were played first
- He also remarked that teams should be declared at beginning of season but this doesn't always happen - so the first team you play for is your first team
- Ray Ransom noted that it can be unfair on a rapid improver if they are not allowed to progress

Proposal 4	East Dorset CC
Seconded	Keith Southern (Swanage)
Defeated <i>nem con</i>	

- Noted that the terms lawn and court are used interchangeably although new rules refer to 'court'

Proposal 5	East Dorset CC
Seconded	Pamela Branley (Abbey)
Carried	
For: 24	Against: 4

Proposal 6	East Dorset CC
Seconded	Peter Dyke (Nailsea)
Defeated	
For: 15	Against: 21

- Statistics concerning timed out games for 2017 and 2018 were noted
- George Lang noted that time limits can be agreed by captains - including having no time limits
- Abbey only have one lawn but noted that fewer home games went to time than away games at clubs with more lawns

Proposal 7	East Dorset CC
Seconded	Peter Dyke (Nailsea)
Defeated <i>nem con (vote took place after the amendment below)</i>	

- Ray Ransom (Bristol) were not in favour of this proposal as it provides no benefits and the provision to reduce the number of sessions already exists
- Jonathan Powe (Kingston Maurward) is concerned it could significantly extend the playing day
- John Grimshaw would not like to see the size of teams reduced as we should be encouraging as many people as possible to play
- Peter Dyke (Nailsea) is generally in favour but expressed concern at reducing the number of players
 - He proposed an amendment to the proposal to have a minimum of 4 players
 - This was seconded by Keith Southern (Swanage) and agreed:
 - For: 27 Against: 1

Proposal 8	Kingston Maurward CC
Seconded	Peter Dyke (Nailsea)
Carried <i>unanimously</i>	

Proposal 9	Kingston Maurward CC
	Now not relevant so withdrawn

17) South West Croquet Academy

- a) Jack Smith, standing in for Roger Mills, outlined the role of the SWCA and circulated the courses scheduled for 2019
- b) It is based at Budleigh but thinking about touring
 - i) Richard Jackson noted that Southwick had found this a useful thing to do
- c) Delegates asked about lawn maintenance courses - they are scheduled for 2020
- d) George Lang (Plymouth) had made contact with a national firm who have undertaken to contact SWF
 - i) Action: information will be circulated when it is received
- e) Bob Whittaker drew attention to the resource on the CA website - Croquet Lawns: their care and maintenance by Harrison

18) AOB

- a) Brian Wilson informed the meeting that Eugene Chang is now Chair of the Marketing committee
- b) He also reminded the meeting that National Croquet Day 2019 will be 12th May
- c) Stephen Custance-Baker circulated the graphic results of analysis he had undertaken on GC Handicap League results in 2017. Work is still being undertaken on these and findings will be circulated in due course. Key findings to date include
 - i) There is a tendency for low handicapped players (0 and below) to win their handicap games and for high handicapped (10-12) players to lose theirs, despite the extra turns.
 - ii) A home advantage which appears to be related to the quality of the lawns
 - iii) Exeter was not included in the analysis because Exeter did not enter the GC Handicap League in 2017.
 - iv) Dave Kibble thanked Stephen for his work on this
- d) Keith Southern (Swanage) asked what the SWF ruling would be on the one-minute play rule
 - i) Action: League Secretary / Committee to consider and issue guidance
- e) Pamela Branley (Abbey) asked if league fees include catering costs for finals
 - i) John replied they do not and is left to the preference of the host club negotiating with the visiting teams
- f) John Grimshaw reminded all clubs to return League entry forms by the deadline 2nd December
- g) John Grimshaw thanked Marcus for his work as Chair over the past three years and presented him with a token of our appreciation

19) Date of next meeting

- a) Sunday 17th November 2019

Minutes agreed as a correct record of the meeting	
Signed	
Name	
Date	

Those present

Pamela Branley	Abbey	Jack Smith	Independent
Chris Spray	Abbey	Pat Seabright	Independent
Irene Fane	Barnstaple	Bob Whittaker	Independent
Hester Henebury	Bath	Klim Seabright	Committee
Lynne Passfield	Bath	Linda Shaw	Committee
Bob Honey	Beckford	Marcus Evans	Committee
Martin Leach	Bristol	Neil Morrison	Committee
Ray Ransom	Bristol	John Grimshaw	Committee
Frances Ransom	Bristol	Ros Key Pugh	Committee
Margaret Brett	Budleigh Salterton	Richard Jackson	Committee
John O'Gorman	Budleigh Salterton	Adam Wimshurst	Committee
Brian Wilson	C & P	Robert Moss	Committee
Mo Boys	C & P	Maureen Smith	Committee
Russell Barter	Cheltenham	Apologies	
Rhona Foster	Cornwall	John Guy	Broadwas
Keith Wakeford	Cornwall	Richard Cousins	Lym Valley
David Harrison Wood	East Dorset	Nicky Davey	Palace Wells
Mark MacNair	Exeter	John Evans	Llanderovy
Jane Hull	Kington Langley	Paul Pristavec	Dyffryn
Brian Shorney	Kington Langley	Paul Francis	Bath
Jonathan Powe	Kingston Maurward	Anne Woodford	Wellington
Ian Blaby	Kingston Maurward	Tim Lacy-Hulbert	
Peter Dyke	Nailsea	Jean Cording	Dowlish Wake
Mike Tracy	Nailsea	Liz French	Swindon
Sue Marples	Plymouth	Roger Buckley	Weston super Mare
George Lang	Plymouth		
Brian Martin	Plymouth		
Linda Lang	Plymouth		
Philip Harris	Sidmouth		
Julie Horsley	Sidmouth		
Ivan Corbett	St Agnes		
Andru Blewett	St Agnes		
Keith Southern	Swanage		
Wendy White	Swindon		
Tony Tomlin	Swindon		
Stephen Custance-Baker	Taunton Deane		
Sue Baker	Taunton Deane		
Martin Pollard	Worcester Norton		
Denise Pollard	Worcester Norton		
Jeanette Stuchbery	Weston s Mare		
John Stuchbery	Weston s Mare		
Dave Kibble	Independent		

Appendix 1: Chair's Report

Here we are again and I can hardly believe three years have passed since I was honoured to be elected your Chairman. I am pleased to report that despite the loss of some stalwart members, thanks to the hard work of the committee (and not at all to do with me) I believe I leave my post with the Federation in a stronger position than ever. I am delighted that Brian Wilson has put himself forward to follow me as I believe he will be able to devote more time and energy to the role than I have.

As usual I would like to share some of the individual achievements of our members in the last year. CA Diplomas were awarded to the following for sterling service to their clubs:

- Mo Boys (Camerton & Peasedown)
- Tess Burt (Kingston Maurward)
- Phillippa Fortescue (Lym Valley)
- Ron George (Cornwall)

Eileen Magee of Cheltenham went one better with the award of the British Empire Medal, in part for her long service to Cheltenham Croquet Club.

On the courts:

- Roger Mills of Budleigh Salterton and the SWCA was awarded the prestigious title of national coach of the year 2017
- Jonathan Powe of East Dorset and Kingston Maurward won the English National Doubles Golf Croquet Championship with partner David Nicholson (that's Winchester's David Nicholson rather than East Dorset's)
- Daniel Gott of Bath won the Student's Championship (AC)
- James Galpin from Nailsea won the Junior Championship (AC), as well as the National Golf Croquet B-Series final and a selection of local tournaments
- Dave Kibble (Bristol/Cheltenham) won the Spencer Ell Cup, played for by the third best eight available players in the country.

It is also appropriate to note the sad loss of Richard Griffiths (Cornwall) and Roy Edwards (East Dorset), both of whom were stalwarts of the game both in the SWF and nationally.

We are also disappointed that The National Trust have effectively evicted Dyffryn CC from their longstanding home at Dyffryn Gardens. However, the club already have plans in place for alternative venues and will continue to compete in our leagues next season, playing all their matches 'away' for the time being, like The Bears did before them.

On an administrative front, in the CA Office at Cheltenham one SWF member in Liz Larsson was replaced as CA Manager by another in Mark Suter.

Speaking of the CA, I know some people remain concerned that the CA is trying to take over or abolish Federations. I would like to reassure you all that nothing could be further from the truth and as far as I can see, the CA and the SWF should be able to work positively to secure the future of croquet in the region and nationally for many years to come.

Appendix 2: Treasurer's Report

Accounts for 2018

The Federation Accounts for 2018 are shown on the next page. There is a small deficit of expenditure over income which is mainly due to the cost of our new website.

The Federation League and Short Croquet fees are set to be cost neutral with the expenditure for Lawn Hire fees for finals and the Short Croquet tournaments. The fees paid to clubs are in accordance with the Croquet Association recommendations.

The Federation has only a limited income and reserve but our policy is to invest in our clubs, especially new clubs to expand the game of croquet wherever we can even if we make a small loss for the next few years.

Banking

The Federation has successfully transferred all its banking to Online Banking which makes transactions easier and quicker for both the Clubs and Federation. We urge all clubs to make all future payments to the Federation by this method to eliminate the use of cheques which are becoming harder to deal with due to the closure of many local banks.

Club Membership Returns

32 Full membership Club Returns have been received this year showing a total of 1781 club members.

- 6 Full Clubs have 100+ members

- 10 Full Clubs have 50 to 99 members

- 16 Full Clubs have up to 49 members

7 Affiliated Club Returns were completed with a total of 136 club members (of which 2 Clubs did not enter their membership count)

- 2 Affiliated Clubs have between 42 and 53 members

- 3 Affiliated Clubs have between 4

- and 24 members



South West Federation of Croquet Clubs



Balance Sheet to 31st October 2018

	2018		2017	
INCOME				
Subscriptions	849.60		824	
Association league fees	456.00		408	
Golf league fees	396.00		390	
Short croquet fees	1,020.00		800	
SWAN Adverts	120.00		204	
AGM	720.00		657	
CTC Coaching Course	10.00		280	
CA refund of travel expenses	0.00		280	
Donations	10.00		20	
Sundries	100.02		0	
		3,681.62		3,863.00
EXPENSES				
Subs Refund	16.80		0	
SWAN production	710.00		645	
Trophies	186.15		100	
League finals	448.00		384	
Short croquet	800.00		640	
Coaching expenses	0.00		82	
Travel expenses	129.60		684	
Bursary travel expenses	211.60		165	
Workshops	148.07			
SWF Website	495.00			
AGM	720.00		658	
Administration	0.00		98	
Sundries	0.02		0	
		3,865.24		3,456.00
CURRENT ACCOUNT				
B/F from 31/10/17		5,871.35		5,464.00
Income		3,681.62		3,863.00
Expenditure	3,865.24		3,456.00	
Closing Balance		5,687.73		5,871.00
		Neil Morrison		
		Treasurer		
I confirm that this statement of accounts is prepared from records and information available, and that I consider it to be a true representation of the South West Federation assets as at 31st October 2018				

Appendix 3: League Secretary's Report

Year 2018 saw 141 teams enter league competition from 29 clubs, although four teams withdrew after the fixtures had been prepared, but before any matches had been played. This left a schedule of 397 matches (2017 = 351) of which 21 (11) were conceded. The concession number was disappointingly high after a reduction in previous seasons. A further concern is that another 7 matches were not played, as far as I know, because the results or outcome was not advised to me, despite a number of reminders. This is the first time, I believe, that this has happened in my tenure. The Intermediate league was a particular problem with 8 concessions and three no results in 48 games, almost 25%! The AC/GC split was 75/66 (67/63) in team numbers and 196/201 (164/172) in number of matches. 723 (706) different players took part in league competition, 222 (219) in AC only, 366 (351) in GC only and 135 (136) in both.

Over the years, there have been mutterings about handicaps, and I suppose there always will be. But the SWF have taken action and the handicap conferences, organised principally by Robert Moss, were a step in the direction of attempting to ensure a consistent approach from club handicappers in setting handicaps. Further work has been undertaken by Richard Jackson. He has looked at all the results of the 2017 season, and using statistical analysis, has concluded that the situation is not as bad as the grapevine would have us believe.

Assuming handicap play gives a 50% chance of winning, any deviation from this standard can be measured statistically, and probability established of the actual results. The outcome of this shows that only two teams were outside what might be considered an acceptable range in 2017, one whose handicaps appeared too generous, and one whose handicaps appeared too low. These clubs were advised of this and were asked to look at their handicapping procedures accordingly. A similar exercise will be undertaken with the 2018 results.

Parkstone Trophy

Bristol were winners once again, but this time only just. The deciding match was played in mid-September when Bristol beat Nailsea 5-4, the final game ending +4 at 6.45, almost dark.

Dyffryn were bottom and went on to lose the play-off game with Division 2 champions Taunton Deane and are thus relegated into Division 2 in 2019, and conversely Taunton Deane are promoted to Division 1.

The higher number of entries to Division 3 meant that we had to split it into two regional blocks. Bristol A won the northern block and Sidmouth A the southern, and Sidmouth then beat Bristol to win the division. They also beat Budleigh Salterton, the bottom team in Division 2, to gain promotion, and Budleigh are relegated.

41 matches scheduled, 23 home wins, 13 away, and 2 conceded, 2 games not played. 93 players took part.

Federation League

Kington Langley won after a closely-contested final against Taunton Deane. 3-0 up at lunch, Kington Langley appeared to have it in the bag, but Taunton thought otherwise and looked to be on their way to victory in all four afternoon games, but finally Kington Langley got over the line to win 4-3. Earlier Taunton had beaten Nailsea Central in the semifinal. In block play, Kington Langley lost their first match, but won all others, Nailsea

Central had a clean sweep in their block, and Taunton lost one when they had already secured the block.

65 matches scheduled, 37 home wins, 23 away, 3 conceded, 1 no result. 144 players took part.

Intermediate League

Taunton Deane beat The Bears 4-1 in the final to cap a remarkable season for the club. They won their block after winning their first three matches, all away, 3-2, and then winning all their home games 5-0. The Bears, now at their new home in Cirencester, played in this league for the first time, and won all their block games. East Dorset won the Central block, but were narrowly defeated 4-3 by Taunton in the play-off.

48 matches scheduled, 19 home wins, 17 away, 8 conceded, 3 no results. 103 players took part.

B League

A first-ever league competition win for Wellington, who beat Weston Super Mare North in the final. WSM had beaten East Dorset 3-2 in the play-off to reach the final. In the North block, WSM qualified by beating Cheltenham in their last match in a winner-takes-all match. East Dorset won all their matches in the Central block, whilst in the South it was very close. The last match between Wellington and Cornwall could have gone either way, and Cornwall, who finished fourth in the block, would have won it if they had won, but the result was 3-2 to Wellington.

42 matches played, 26 home wins, 13 away, 1 draw, 1 conceded. 104 players took part.

Golf Croquet Level-Play League

The same finalists as last year, but this time Taunton Deane comprehensively turned the tables with a 14-6 win over Nailsea. It is quite amazing how often the deciding matches are played between the teams in contention, right at the end of the season. On 20th August, both Nailsea and Bristol were unbeaten in the North block, and Nailsea won 10.5-9.5. Similarly, in the South block, Taunton met Kingston Maurward on 6th August and again won 10.5-9.5 in the deciding match. By such small margin is success achieved.

50 games played, 26 home wins, 16 away, 3 drawn, 3 conceded, 1 no result.. 136 players took part.

Golf Croquet Handicap League

Abbey came through a programme of 8 matches with only 5 players, to win the league with a final win over Swanage. The five-block competition means that 2 teams have to play a quarter-final and this year Budleigh Salterton SW came through against Dowlish Wake CS, but then lost to Swanage in the semifinal. In the other semifinal, Abbey beat Swindon. The closest block was Central North where Abbey had to play Nailsea in their last match and drew 10-10. A half point fewer in that match would have given Camerton and Peasedown the block.

117 matches played. 73 home wins, 29 away, 10 drawn, 4 conceded. 350 players took part.

Golf Croquet High Handicap League

It was Broadwas' year, beating Dowlish Wake 15-5 in the final. Dowlish Wake, having won their block comfortably, beat Budleigh Salterton in the play-off. Budleigh had also won their block comfortably, being unbeaten. Broadwas had more of a contest in the North, but overcame Swindon with a vital 12-8 win close to the end of the season.

34 matches played. 22 home wins, 10 away wins, 1 drawn. 147 players took part.

Short Croquet

Demand for Short Croquet continues to grow, and this year we had sufficient entries to run a fifth division at both the spring and autumn competitions. The demand for lawns means that Division 5 has to be played on Friday, so we now have a three-day competition. Perhaps a Division 6 in the future, which we could also stage on the Friday.

Spring Competition

This was held at Camerton and Peasedown this year as Nailsea's lawns had been relaid and were not yet ready. It will return to Nailsea in 2019. Thanks to C&P for stepping in. Nailsea Trendlewood continued the Nailsea domination of this competition replacing their Nailsea club colleagues as champions. As last year, Kington Langley A needed to win their final match against the potential champions with a 4-0 score, to triumph, but they could only win 3-1. Sidmouth Fortfield, last year's Division 2 winners, finished bottom and are relegated. Promoted from Division 2 are Kington Langley B, with Dyffryn relegated to Division 3. Swindon won Division 3 and Nailsea Avening won Division 4 and both are promoted for 2019. WSM A are relegated from Division 3 after losing a three-way shoot-out and Llandaff are relegated from Division 4. New entrants, East Dorset are the Division 5 champions and are promoted.

Autumn at Budleigh Salterton

Sidmouth Fortfield turned their Spring nightmare into a triumph when they retained their Autumn trophy. This time, Kington Langley turned the tables on Trendlewood by winning the last match 3-1 and leaving Trendlewood one point behind Fortfield, who were sitting out the last round. Nailsea Club team were relegated. Division 2 was won by Budleigh Salterton Roquets and Exeter A were relegated. The last round in Division 3 was very exciting. Kington Langley B, who had to sit out the last round, had 10 wins, and Exeter B, Taunton B and Bath could all catch or pass them depending upon their last round matches. In the event, Exeter B won 3-1 to give them 10 wins also, and Taunton B and Bath drew 2-2, to leave them both on 9. So a shoot-out at the peg to decide the winners, and Exeter B won in sudden death. Sidmouth Connaught were relegated. WSM A won Division 4 and Parkstone won Division 5, despite having only three players. Both are promoted and Taunton B are relegated from Division 4 after losing a three-way shoot-out.

Once again, I would like to thank all the clubs who made their facilities available for tournaments and finals, and to the people who gave up their time to prepare the lawns, provide teas, referee and report on these matches.

Finally, and this time it really is finally from me, I have decided to stand down from the role of League Secretary after 14 years. Looking back to my first season in 2005, we had no GC leagues and 134 fixtures in the AC leagues. Short Croquet was a one-day, once a year event with 10 teams. I am extremely proud to have been part of the magnificent growth in competition in our region. This year there were 397 matches, and two SC

competitions with 25 teams, 100 players, in each. Much of this growth has come about through the introduction of competitive Golf Croquet. Our first GC league in 2006 saw 10 teams taking part, this year we had 66 across all GC leagues.

My successor, if elected by you at the AGM, has asked that I continue to organise the SC at least for 2019, and I have agreed to do this.

I would like to thank all those who have helped me through the years, the club fixtures' organisers who have been diligent in providing me with fixture dates on time, and the team captains for sending me the results. But most of all, I need to thank Sue Mackay, who, in my dark days of getting to grips with IT, posted all the results for a number of years on the Internet, and also gave me support, by checking my fixtures lists and league tables and keeping the net up to date with these.

Appendix 4: Coaching Liaison Officer's Report

The new General Data Protection Regulations have forced me to remove from my list of active croquet coaches in the SWF all those who did not opt in specifically to remain on the list. This has reduced the number of coaches in the SWF on my contact list to 38, concentrated in only 16 of the croquet clubs in the region. Many of the other clubs may not have a formally qualified coach; I shall approach all these clubs to see if they can provide me with a contact to discuss their needs and let me know about informal coaching activities.

More than half the clubs who responded have run beginners courses this year with a typical intake of about six. Seven of our coaches have provided outside coaching for six clubs and also provided coaching for other clubs at their own club. We have been able to respond to all but one request for outside coaching. GC and AC pods for A/B class players have run on a slightly smaller scale than last year - more material is being produced; we hope for greater activity next year. Roger Mills will report separately about the coaching provided by the South West Coaching Academy.

We congratulate Roger Mills for his award of (National) Coach of the Year for his outstanding work at Sidmouth, Budleigh and the SWCA. Mike Russ of Cheltenham has been awarded a CA Diploma; coaching has been one of his many contributions to his club.

Seven new Club Coaches qualified at a SWCA course at Budleigh in April. Four coaches have achieved AC Grade 1 status this year, one GC1, two AC2, and one each GC3 and Examining Coach.

In 2019, I commend to players who would like to improve their skills and enjoyment of the game: the coaching available within your club if available (please speak to your club coaches - they cannot read your thoughts!), coaching offered by individual clubs to other clubs, the wide range of courses offered by the SWCA, and the GC and AC pods for A/B class players. For clubs without a qualified coach, please consider sending an aspiring coach to the SWCA course at Budleigh next April. CA subsidies and SWF travel grants are available to help with expenses!

Appendix 5: Publicity Officer's Report

This year the SWAN was published within time but there was a problem with distribution - Snow, Snow and more Snow! Most of the postal ones were sent before it arrived but we had arranged for many bulky parcels to be collected at the two Handicapping venues. Rare to see snow at Budleigh but in 2018 it arrived in bucket loads on their Handicapping Day.

In 2019 we are hoping to upload the SWAN's publication to the SWF's new website. This will enable members to view it early and overcome any late deliveries. However it is appreciated that many members like to have a hard copy especially those participating in the Leagues, not forgetting the few who don't use the internet.

And now to my requests (the asks)

Publication of the SWAN has become an increasingly large cost to the SWF and we are hoping that access to it via the internet will reduce the number needed. I would therefore like all the clubs' secretaries/contacts to update me on the number of SWAN's now needed.

I also ask that you send me the up-to-date contacts for the League Captains so I can compile a fresh list for 2019. I will also send out a request to all the Club secretaries. Some of these come to me via the League entry lists but the number of changes or late submissions is quite high. Our secretary Linda Shaw's continued production of the excellent Cygnet allows updates to be accessed electronically.

We still have not had all the payments for the adverts the 2018'SWAN. These go in part to offset the printing and distribution costs. However, a major change this year is the facility to pay for these online. Although cheques will be accepted, this is our preferred way of payment. There are fewer banks now and access for the Treasurer to the SWF bank is a long circuitous route. I will, this coming year, send out an invoice to each advertiser, after receipt and acceptance of the advertisement, confirming the amount due from each club and the SWF's online banking details.

Finally, the SWAN needs content. Please send me any articles e.g. notable achievements, interesting events at your club, croquet-related poems and odes, short quizzes, obituaries, pictures and coaching tips. Anything that makes for good, light reading on a wet day in the clubhouse!

Contact me by email: editor@swfcroquet.org.uk

Appendix 6: Development Officers' Reports

Robert Moss' report: North

This has been a particularly quiet year for grant applications but we are delighted to welcome two new clubs in our area: Cardigan CC and Mumbles CC (both in south Wales).

Grants

Although grant applications must be submitted and approved before any work takes place, payment is only made at the completion of a project.

- Cardigan CC and Mumbles CC have each received a start-up set of equipment.
- Nailsea CC and Kington Langley CC have completed their construction work and have received the grants negotiated last year.
- Charlton CC received a grant to help them make the side of their ground safe. This was the final stage of a development programme with the club funding all previous work themselves and relying on members volunteering to do most of the work.

Equipment

Development Officers are in possession of a set of mallets, balls and hoops for use in promoting the game and helping emerging clubs. One is currently held by Robert until it can be passed to the new Development Officer (North). The other is held by Adam until it can be passed to the new Development Officer (South).

Handicapping Workshops

Although not part of the remit of Development Officers, we organised a series of workshops for club handicappers this year.

Workshops at Cheltenham and Nailsea were well attended and, as hoped, generated a healthy discussion. The third workshop at Budleigh had to be abandoned owing to deteriorating weather conditions but a further workshop in the south of our area is being planned for early 2019.

These workshops were only one part of a continuing process to improve the quality, reliability and consistency of handicapping across the Federation. We wish to remind clubs that continued support and advice is available and that it is essential to have at least one active club handicapper in every club.

Other federations are considering running similar events and work on this is already underway.

Adam Wimshurst's report: South

A very quiet year with no Grant Applications initiated in this period apart from the small one by **Charlton** which Robert Moss has kindly fielded.

Bude

- A Grant application of £4,530 towards a new Dennis mower was agreed to by the C A Development Committee in the December 2017 with certain provisos which the Club were addressing when a second-hand Toro machine became available and the Club switched to requesting only £1,250 which was granted.
- Considerable effort was put into promoting the CA's National Croquet Day which the club, having a very prominent location, had hoped to gain from. Unfortunately it coincided with the town's annual classic car show as well as a Recreation of Wartime activities and they received NO visitors.
- Tony Trump, the founder of the club in mid-2016, moved to Somerset in July and so relinquished his day-to-day activities. A number of very capable and motivated members remain.

Henstridge

A private Golf Club at Henstridge, situated on the South Somerset/Dorset border, has shown interest in setting up a Croquet facility. Barry Dench, the FDO from the Southern region, has visited but there has been little interest from local clubs other than offering advice to what is really a private commercial venture. Jonathan Powe who lives close by is keeping contact.

Equipment

- The FDO's starter kit of mallets, balls and hoops etc. has now been returned by Bude and is temporarily held by Adam until it can be passed to the new Dev Officer (South).
- We have been filtering out from Budleigh some spare Barlow ball sets to start-up clubs such as Barnstaple, Bude and St Agnes. A few more sets remain which have been ring fenced for emerging clubs.

The two positions of FDO

There has been one nomination for a new FDO who, it is planned, will take over the North, but we also need a replacement for the South.

Adam has indicated his intention to retire from the post and a replacement FDO is sought. The position is a very interesting one of helping along new clubs and particularly obtaining grants from the CA for development both for new and established clubs. These have mostly entailed personal visits, but more and more can be done by phone and email.

There are some 23 clubs in the southern part of the SWF area and, together with others who may be only members of the CA, amount to some 37 "clubs" that have been contacted during the last 9 years.

If anyone is interested, please contact Adam or Robert for further information.

Appendix 7: GC Advisor's Report

During 2018 I sadly decided I would have to withdraw from the SWF Committee at this AGM as I was expecting to have an operation on my right knee and would be out of action for a few months. The pressures on the NHS have delayed this for at least a further 9 months but after consideration I have decided to step down anyway.

I looked back to 2008 when I was invited by Roger Buckley the then Chairman of the SWFed to stand for the new position of Golf Croquet Advisor. Being naïve but keen on this new sport I had taken up in my retirement I felt honoured to accept and find out what was needed. It has given me the greatest pleasure to meet numerous players from a wide variety of clubs all over the Federation from Cornwall to Broadwas and try to help them and answer their queries.

The needs have been varied - coaching at various levels, refereeing queries, practical financial issues to be discussed, recruitment, handicapping, fund raising etc. Many of the enquiries I could redirect to the appropriate Committee member to field and I thank all the Committee over those years for their support, advice and assistance in helping those clubs who have contacted me with requests or problems.

Looking forward to the future my initial thought was that we needed a Committee member as an AC Advisor in addition to my role particularly as the CA is keen to reverse the trend of numbers of players of AC across the country decreasing. However, the Committee is well aware of the strains imposed by the very large geographical area of the Federation.

There is a need to assist the development of new groups of players sprouting up and forming new clubs in both GC and AC all over the Federation so some suggestions have been put forward which we are asking you to consider this afternoon in the Workshop. If these principles are agreed the individual role of Golf Croquet Advisor will not be needed. Instead each area will look after the clubs within it using members from amongst them with the needed experience in whatever field GC or AC is required. This could be more effective as more experienced players would be involved directly with helping to grow and develop the game. I leave it to you all to say what you want and need and agree how to achieve it.

As I step down can I thank you all for your support over the 10 years and look forward to keeping in touch during future seasons when visiting your clubs just to play croquet! I hope to be able to continue in a Coaching Capacity when needed.

Appendix 8: CA Rep's Report

It has been an honour to once again serve as your Federation Representative on the Council of the Croquet Association. It is probably worth noting that the CA regards the South West Federation as one of the most active (possibly the most active) Federations in the CA.

Committee Work (in addition to Council)

I was nominated to serve on the Marketing Committee under the Chairmanship of Brian Wilson. Brian has been particularly active in respect of National Croquet Day. He has to stand down as Chairman, having served for four years, but I am pleased to report that he remains on the committee. Dave Kibble is also on this committee and so we are well represented. Please let me have any of your marketing ideas and I will feed them into the Marketing Committee.

I have also been invited to sit on the Handicap Committee but have yet to attend my first meeting.

Commonwealth Games 2022

I spotted the fact that the Commonwealth Games is coming to Birmingham in 2022 and the CA gave me permission to attempt to have Croquet included. I formed a small Action Group which includes Chris Williams from the South West/Wales.

It quickly became apparent that to be included as a substantive sport an application would have to come via the World Croquet Federation (WCF). I think (?) we have the WCF on side, but they will need to adopt the WADA policy in respect of drugs. Last time the WCF considered this it was turned down but I have yet to find out the reason. I suspect that, even if the WCF agreed tomorrow, there is no chance of being included for 2022 but I will keep pressing for the future.

I am therefore pursuing the idea of having croquet recognised as a Demonstration Sport. There are some important meetings between the time of writing this report and the AGM and I will give you a verbal report at the AGM. If successful Edgbaston Croquet Club will need support from other nearby clubs.

CA Membership

The CA was looking to scrap Primary Club status, leading to a charge applying for each club to which a person belonged. Council agreed to withdraw this suggestion and "give it more thought". My position was helped by the fact that the CA had received 13 letters of protest on the subject.

Future of CA

This has been a long and complicated subject but I need to start by making two things clear. The chairman pointed out the positive efforts of the original working party and stated that this work has very much been taken into account in what follows. It is also the case that the final proposals will be put to the membership and a vote will be taken.

It is therefore becoming increasingly important for clubs to persuade as many members as possible to become CA members (Premium or Standard). This is not only to gain the benefits which were listed some while ago, but also so that they are not disenfranchised when a vote is called for.

The following are proposals, but they met with the approval of Council at its meeting on the 20th October:

- Council will reduce in size to 12 plus 3 officers of the CA and will concentrate on policy/strategy.
- Each constituency (mainly Federation areas) will have places on Council depending on the size of membership.
 - The SW Fed will have 3 places (only one other Fed has so many). The Federation can nominate as many candidates as it likes to fill its number of places. The CA will then administer the election.
- Council members will elect their own Chair.
- An Executive Board will be formed to implement the strategy of Council.
 - During the interim period the current Management Committee (mainly the Chairs of the Principal Committees) will act as the Executive Board.
 - The Executive Board will report to and carry out the wishes of Council.
- Very little was said about the eventual make-up of the Executive Board except that the aim would be (for both bodies) to attract the required range of skills to run the CA and there would be the opportunity to adopt non-voting members to provide any missing skills.

The changes will be put to either the next AGM or an EGM/Electronic vote. I hope this will be before the next AGM.

The Hon Sec is to set up a working party to sort out any required constitutional changes. The working party will reconvene to work out an implementation plan to be presented to the January Council meeting.

Charity One Ball

The CA Council gave a “*big shout out” to Kevin Cater for his charity one ball event which has raised around £30,000 for charity over the years.

The 2019 event (supporting Alzheimer charity) will be advertised in the Fixture Book and it will be it easy to enter. I would encourage as many clubs to enter as possible. Details will follow but I think the basic idea is that each club runs its own One Ball event and winners are invited to a grand final. Why enter? It reminds me a bit of that scene from the Mikado when advice is being sought from the Lord High Executioner who wears “lots of Hats”.

- As an individual I would enter because I lost my Father in Law to dementia a while back.
- As a coach I would enter because it improves my game, especially in the placement of the forward ball an
- d/or GC placement and hoop running.
- As a former club Publicity Officer I would enter and send a press notice to my local paper/radio station.
- As an xxxx I would enter because - you fill in the blank.

*well no... Council didn't exactly use those wordsbut that's what they meant...you could always ask your grandchildren for an interpretation.

Lawn and Ball Hire.

Council felt there were some flaws in the suggested lawn hire rates and that some circumstances had been overlooked e.g. a tournament taking place at more than one club. Further work is required. No-one suggested any kind of reduction. In my view the suggested amendments failed to take into account any knock-on effect in respect of the money paid by a federation for the finals of league competitions and /or tournaments to be played at more than one club (which I would like to see encouraged).

Appendix 9: Proposals

Proposal 1

"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.

Proposal 2

"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."

Proposal 2a

"Bristol Croquet Club proposes that the play-off game between the top team in Parkstone Division 2 and the bottom team in Parkstone Division 1 is abandoned from 2019 and that these two teams are promoted and relegated as a matter of right."

Proposal 3

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.

Proposal 4

Change "Lawn" to "court" wherever appropriate in AC and GC rules

Proposal 5

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

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.

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

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

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.

Proposal 7

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

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.

Proposal 8

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

Proposal 9

Withdrawn

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.

Appendix 10: Workshop Summary: Looking to our clubs' future

Thank you everyone who took part in this lively session. It arose from discussions within the SWF Committee as they reflected on the respective but interlocking roles of the Development Officers, Coaching Liaison, GC Advisor and AC Advisor. This last role had been unfilled for some time.

The SWF Committee wants to develop a much closer working relationship with clubs and recognizes the social aspect of the game and club life. It believes it should work towards involving all types of club and understand individual requirements.

The workshop presented an opportunity to reflect on some of these issues and the role of the SWF in this.

We started out by posing the following questions:

- Where do you want to 'be' in 1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 years' time?
- What are the main barriers / problems you face?
- How can the South West Federation support your club?

Numerous issues that need to be addressed were mentioned and many clubs shared examples of actions they had taken to make improvements:

- Recruitment and keeping members - there are differing needs and markets across the region
- The perceived public image of Croquet - rich, posh people who wear whites!
- How to reach, attract and keep 'younger' players
- Using Taster Days to attract new members
- Increasing participation in club activity and competitive play
- Guidance as to how to introduce AC to GC players
- Developing more integration between AC and GC players within clubs
- Finance
- Maintenance/improvement of lawns
- Availability of coaching
- Competitive play - it's not for everyone
- Using publicity and the media effectively e.g. creating interesting stories
- Use of the internet and social media, including web sites

There was widespread interest in exploring ways that clubs might achieve their goals:

- Working together and learning from other clubs
- Identifying ways of supporting geographically isolated clubs
- Learning from other sports

It was also noted that clubs would benefit from more effective marketing at a national level e.g:

- Effective targeting of potential croquet players e.g. croquet 'it makes you think'
- It is a sport that welcomes everyone
- It is an affordable sport

Clubs were urged to enthuse their members to take up standard membership of the CA - this costs them nothing as it may be done through their membership of their own club.

Delegates were reminded that under forthcoming CA governance changes, local representatives to Council would be elected by CA members - no membership: no vote

The way forward:

We only had time to scratch the surface of these complex issues and the SWF committee would be very pleased to receive further thoughts and ideas on this.

Our next meeting is on 2nd February 2019 so if you have any further thoughts, ideas, suggestions, experiences to share - please send them to us. We can try to get a Cygnet out in January to share these more widely.

Some things to think about:

- Would a visit from someone with relevant experience be helpful?
 - What would you wish to explore with them?
- Would it be helpful to divide the Federation into smaller areas?
 - Perhaps there is scope for creating more local hubs

We look forward to hearing from you.

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