

**South West Federation of Croquet Clubs
Minutes of AGM held on 17th November 2019**

1. Welcome

- a. Brian Wilson, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting

2. Present

- a. List of delegates may be found in Appendix 1

3. Apologies

- a. List of apologies may be found in Appendix 2

4. Minutes of last meeting

- a. These had been previously circulated
 b. The following amendment to Proposal 2 was agreed:
 The following point is written a amended at the AGM held on 17.11.19:
 “David Harrison-Wood said he was dismayed by the increasing prevalence of the term “Parkstone Trophy” in place of “League for Advanced Play”
 c. Agreed this be rectified in all relevant documents and minutes be amended accordingly

Proposed: that the minutes be agreed as a correct record		
Proposed	Stephen Custance-Baker	Committee
Seconded	Keith Southern	Swanage
Agreed: <i>nem con</i>		

5. Matters arising

- a. There were none

6. Chair’s report

- a. This was presented and may be found in Appendix 3

7. Treasurer’s report

- a. This was presented and may be found in Appendix 4
 b. It was noted the report contained two versions of the Balance Sheet - this was an administrative oversight and the correct version may be found in Appendix 4
 c. However, it was noted that there is not sufficient time to prepare fully accurate annual accounts for the AGM with the present time scale
 d. **Action:** It was agreed the Committee review this - any proposed change would be brought to the next AGM

Proposed: that the accounts be accepted		
Proposed	George Lang	Plymouth
Seconded	Chris Donovan	Sidmouth
Agreed: <i>nem con</i>		

8. Membership fees

- a. The Committee is not proposing any increase in fees for 2020
 b. Chris Donovan (Sidmouth) suggested a small annual increase would prevent a large increase every few years
 c. Neil Morrison (Treasurer) replied that anticipated income and expenditure is sufficient for the next year or so not to require this
 d. **Action:** This will be subject to continual review by the committee

9. Lawn fees

Proposed: that the principle of paying the CA rate (currently £40 per lawn per day) be adopted		
Proposed	Neil Morrison	Committee

Seconded	Peter Dyke	Nailsea
Agreed: <i>nem con</i>		

10. League Secretary's report

- a. This was presented and may be found in Appendix 5
- b. Stephen presented the League awards:

Parkstone Div 1	Bristol	B League	Sidmouth
Parkstone Div 2	Sidmouth	GC Level Play	Nailsea
Parkstone Div 3	Bristol	GC Handicap	Weston-super-Mare
Federation	Nailsea (South)	GC High Handicap	Llandaff
Intermediate	Wellington		

- c. Stephen conclude by thanking everyone who offered facilities for finals matches and recognized the amount of work that went into this in terms of lawns, facilities and catering

11. Short Croquet

- a. The report submitted by John Grimshaw was presented by Stephen and may be found in Appendix 6

12. Coaching Liaison Officer's report

- a. This was presented and may be found in Appendix 7
- b. Additionally, Richard noted
 - i. Adam Wimshurst co-ran the Handicapping Workshops referred to in the Chair's report, along with Robert Moss
 - ii. Work continues on looking how to better manage handicaps of Rapidly Improving Players

13. Publicity Officers' report

- a. This was presented and may be found in Appendix 8

14. Youth Officer's report

- a. The report submitted by Marcus Evans was presented by Brian Wilson and may be found in Appendix 9
- b. It was additionally noted that there is a very skilled young player, Harvey Smith, who is a member at The Bears and at Swindon

15. Development Officer's report

- a. This was presented and may be found in Appendix 10

16. Federation Representative's report

- a. The CA Rep had notified that he had no report to give

17. Election of Officers 2019 - 2020

Proposed: that the nominations for committee positions be accepted	
Proposed	As per Appendix 11
Seconded	As per Appendix 11
Agreed: <i>nem con</i>	

18. Resolutions for Constitutional changes

- a. The overall objectives for the Constitutional changes proposed were to
 - i. Bring the Constitution up to date

- ii. Rectify anomalies / confusions
- iii. To keep it simple and robust thus minimizing the need to change too frequently
- b. It was eventually agreed that
 - i. proposed changes in the first 7 sections were agreed
 - ii. the Committee reconsider the remaining sections
 - iii. an amended constitution will be put to the 2020 AGM for approval
 - iv. David Harrison-Wood ensures the final version reflects the decisions and is correct in terms of grammatical and formatting detail
- c. Summary of changes
 - i. Minor grammatical and clarification changes in several clauses
 - ii. Simplification of Clause 4, Activities
 - iii. Greater clarity of Clause 5 Membership
 - iv. No significant changes to Clause 8, Executive Committee
 - v. It was confirmed that there is now no provision for elected CA Representatives to be members of the SWF committee
- d. Noted that any part of the Constitution (or League Rules) requiring further amendment may be proposed at next year's AGM by the Committee or any Full Member Club
- e. **Action:** Task descriptions for each post will be written and disseminated
- f. **Action:** Dates of the Financial Year will be reviewed by the Committee for approval at the 2020 AGM
- g. **Action:** Any future amendments proposed by the Committee will be identified as having either unanimous or majority Committee consent
- h. Thanks were expressed to David Harrison-Wood for his work to date on our Constitutions, League Rules and his commitment to further support this aspect of our work

Proposed: that Constitutional amendments be agreed and the actions listed above will be completed		
Proposed	Brian Wilson	Committee
Seconded	Stephen Custance-Baker	Committee
Agreed: by majority vote		

19. Proposals for changes to League AC rules

- a. A number of changes were proposed, largely in response to situations that have occurred during the year when guidance has not been clear.
- b. The aim of these changes is to clarify the situation and to minimize the need for case-by-case arbitration by the League Secretary and / or Committee.
- c. Points raised during the discussion:
 - i. Broadwas noted that players are required to ensure their handicap is correctly recorded on the CA database. However, there is no requirement for a player to be a CA member or to have their data visible to others. They suggest the wording in both AC and GC League Rules should read: 'Where a player has his/her data available for view on the CA website, then they should ensure their handicap is correctly recorded on this website'.
 - ii. Dave Kibble (CA Rep and Database manager) said that a player's name and handicap are available to all other members and are not considered confidential data.
 - 1. Several people queried the accuracy of this and Dave Kibble undertook to investigate further. He subsequently sent the following information: *"I can confirm that name and handicap are visible to anyone logged in to the database, as is list of club members with their handicaps. I have changed the display so that it now shows a missing handicap with a dash rather than not showing it at all (to avoid the source of this confusion).*

2. *Point of clarification: people don't have to be a member of the CA to be recorded on the database as a member of their club (as long as the club is a CA member)."*
- iii. Issues concerning amending individual / team scores if penalties are applied for playing off the wrong handicap were unresolved.
- d. **Action:** Section 4(Eligibility) Clause f will be further considered by the committee, to reflect the general views of the meeting and will be reviewed for 2021
- e. **Action:** Section 4 Clause G will be considered for removal next year due to insufficient time for full discussion.

Proposed: that League AC rules be changed as per discussions		
Proposed	Stephen Custance-Baker	Committee
Seconded	Brian Wilson	Committee
Agreed: by majority vote		

20. Proposals for changes to League GC rules

- a. The reasons for these proposals are similar to those for the AC League rules.
- b. During discussion the issues included:
- i. Section 12 (Final Block Positions)
 - ii. Agreeing format when doubles are played - it was clarified that if the Captains do not agree, then the Home team makes the decision
 - iii. Giving out of 'advice' by spectators (which should be discouraged by the Captain) - reference was made to the role of sequence umpires and the idea of all players undertaking this
 - iv. **Action:** situation to be clarified.
 - v. State of play concerning extra strokes - the meeting was referred to a helpful article in Cygnet - August 2019
 - vi. Resolution from Dowlish Wake Rule 13 para (b) be modified to read 'The Host Club must offer the visiting team two dates on which the play-off match could be played'. Swindon proposed to amend the resolution to read that 'play-offs dates should be fixed at the start of the season by the League Secretary' - DEFEATED
 - vii. The League Secretary proposed to amend the resolution to read 'three dates'. The amended resolution was ACCEPTED
- c. **Action:** Changes agreed for AC League Rules will be amended in GC League Rules where they are equivalent.

Proposed: that League GC rules be changed as per discussions		
Proposed	Stephen Custance-Baker	Committee
Seconded	Brian Wilson	Committee
Agreed: by majority vote		

21. Proposal to introduce Short Croquet League

- a. This is being proposed in response to a survey undertaken during the year by Stephen Custance-Baker, following concern about the falling participation in B League.
- b. It is proposed as a popular and testing game in its own right and as a helpful way of developing competitive play for players with high handicaps.
- c. The committee had considered introducing this to replace the B League but agreed this would be premature and the impact of a SC League would need to be assessed.
- d. Sidmouth CC expressed some concern that it might affect participation in the SC Tournaments.

Proposed: that a Short Croquet League be introduced		
Proposed	Keith Bryant	Dowlish Wake
Seconded	Stephen Custance-Baker	Committee
Agreed: by majority vote: 5 against		

22. Proposal for League SC rules

- a. With little time remaining for discussion it was agreed to use the presented version of the rules for 2020, during which time feedback will be sought and the rules will be reviewed for 2021.
- b. Points raised during discussion included:
 - i. Range of eligible handicaps - would this discourage high handicaps
 - ii. It was pointed out that it has its own handicapping rules and evidence
 - iii. suggests it this works against those with handicaps at either end of the range
- c. It was agreed that teams of 3 should not be allowed - but that in a team of 4, substitution is allowed

Proposed: that rules presented be adopted for 1-year pilot period		
Proposed	Stephen Custance-Baker	Committee
Seconded	Brian Wilson	Committee
Agreed: By majority vote: 4 against		

23. AOB

- a. Tom Weston (East Dorset) proposed that CA rules should be changed so no draws were allowed in GC.
 - i. This is beyond the scope of this meeting

24. Date of next meeting

- a. Provisionally agreed for Sunday 15th November 2020

Signed as a correct record	
Name	
Signature	
Role	
Date	

Appendix 1: Present

Brian Wilson	Committee	Ian Blaby	Kingston Maurward
Neil Morrison	Committee	Margaret Murray	Kington Langley
Linda Shaw	Committee	Jane Hull	Kington Langley
Stephen Custance-Baker	Committee	Ken Wilcox	Lym Valley
Richard Jackson	Committee	Elizabeth Gibbs	Lym Valley
Maureen Smith	Committee	George Lang	Plymouth
Paul Francis	Committee	Sue Marples	Plymouth
Dave Kibble	CA Rep	Chris Donovan	Sidmouth
Peter Nelson	CA Rep	Peter Nelson	Sidmouth
John Tapfield	Abbey	Julie Horsley	Sidmouth
Hildy Kinsel	Abbey	Keith Southern	Swanage
Irene Fane	Barnstaple	Andru Blewett	St Agnes
Mella Wright	Barnstaple	Ian Monro	St Agnes
Philip DeGlanville	Bath	Tony Mayer	Swindon
Bob Honey	Beckford	Sue Baker	Taunton Deane
Ray Ransom	Bristol	Pauline McAllister	Weston super Mare
Frances Ransom	Bristol	Jeanette Stuchbery	Weston super Mare
Margaret Brett	Budleigh Salterton	Frank Roffe-Sylvester	Wellington
John O’Gorman	Budleigh Salterton	Non-voting attendees	
Mo Boys	Camerton & Peasedown	David Enticknap	Bristol
Roger Pocklington	Camerton & Peasedown	Pat Jackson	Bristol
Naomi Whitehead	Cheltenham	Roger Mills	Budleigh Salterton
Jean Cording	Dowlish Wake	Jack Smith	Budleigh Salterton
Keith Bryant	Dowlish Wake	Linda Lang	Plymouth
Tom Weston	East Dorset	Sue Norfolk	Weston super Mare
David Harrison-Wood	East Dorset	Doug Norfolk	Weston super Mare
Graham McCausland	Nailsea	Guest	
Peter Dyke	Nailsea	Dave Gunn	CA Development Officer

Appendix 2: Apologies

Marcus Evans	Committee	Keith Wakeford	Cornwall
Robert Moss	Committee	Guy Arnoux	Palace Wells
Klim Seabright	Committee	John Grimshaw	Individual
John Guy	Broadwas	Ros Key-Pugh	Individual
Rhona Foster	Cornwall		

Appendix 3: Chair's Report

First of all, a warm welcome to the SW Fed AGM - especially those who have had a long journey

This is my first Chairman's report and what an eventful year it has been.

Just look through the year's issues of Cygnet

Here's some highlights - I'll not steal the Committee's thunder

Handicap seminars

- We began the year by running the last of a series of Handicapping seminars with lots of positive advice for clubs
- I know there's still a lot more to do
- Thanks to Robert and Richard

An eventful season both for AC and GC - more people taking part in SW Fed matches

- I know that many of you appreciate the hard and detailed work carried out by Stephen Custance-Baker
- It is a considerable task to arrange all the matches and to deal with the many questions and queries that arise
- Speaking personally; I did not appreciate all the hard work that goes into being League Secretary - so much goes on behind the scenes that you never see and Stephen glides like a swan - but is often paddling like hell under water!
- More from Stephen later

Changes to Wrong Ball rules

- These came out very late from the CA and initially the CA seemed to be short on support and advice
- So the SW Fed led the way by organising a series of well-attended seminars on these changes
- Thanks go to Jay Dyer, Kevin Ham and Stephen Custance-Baker and others - who all were asked to produce well-received presentations at a short notice

New CA Council

- The SW can be proud that we had 5 candidates for our 3 allotted places
- 26% of CA members took part in the election - this may seem low but bear in mind that it was substantially above the participation in other Federations (14%), this surely reflects the quality of the candidates. But let's not forget the SW Federation Committee who arranged for the personal profiles of all candidates to be published in Cygnet, sending letters out to clubs to encourage people to take part and even chivvied the CA into sending out reminders to members
- The Result was that our 3 CA Council members are - Dave Kibble - Peter Nelson - Klim Seabright
- We look forward to working with them in the near future and meeting them later today

New Clubs and help for Clubs who have to move

- We'll hear from Paul Francis about all his work including the developments to create a new club in Moreton in the March and the support to KM to find a new home

A Short list of National winners

It's great to be able to list so many local successes

A Short list of winners

- Murphy cup - East Dorset
- GC County Championship winners Somerset: Jim Gregory (npc), James Galpin, Stephen Custance-Baker, David Goacher, Colin Britt, Ryan Cabble
- National Seniors AC Handicap Doubles: Tim Jolliff & Roger Mills
- National GC Doubles Championship: Jonathan Powe & Stephen Custance-Baker

Looking back

- This year all clubs have lost good friends and stalwart members of their club
- The SW Fed were very saddened to hear of the death of Norman Connor - a member of Bath CC for many years and South West Federation Treasurer for 7 years
- Our thoughts are with their families - we will remember them

Looking ahead

Who knows that the future has in store?

- Exciting times ahead as we all develop our relationships with our CA reps and help ensure the voices of grass roots croquet are heard
- This afternoon you'll will be hearing about the continuing to work on Croquet Matters from Paul and many others
- We'll be keeping you informed about it all through Cygnet (7 issues this year so far) - we really appreciate the increasing number of items we're receiving from clubs so do keep those coming in
- We are planning a re-formatted SWAN which will take on a new role as our handbook with lots of reminders about sources of information and advice
- But one thing is certain your SW Fed will be supporting clubs and players in the region
- An Advert for National Croquet Day. As many clubs commented that a Sunday was not a good day, or that they had already arranged for an 'activity', the CA Marketing Team will be trialling a NCD on a week 11th to 17th May. The CA will be in touch, so why not, over the winter, think of what your club could do on any day during this week
- 2020 will be yet another fantastic season of croquet - so watch this space

Changes are a foot

A number of SW Fed officers are standing down

- Maureen Smith - Swan Editor
- Marcus Evans - Youth Officer
- Neil Morrison - Treasurer - but he will continue as our Bookkeeper

Many thanks on behalf of the SW Federation

But others will be taking over

- New Swan Editor - Rhona Foster from Cornwall CC
- Ask for a Treasurer to support Neil
- As you can see the SW Fed has many calls upon its time and you want us to do more - the SW Federation relies upon people happy to help - whether it is serving on the Committee or just being happy to lead on a particular task - I invite you to chat to me if you are thinking of getting involved

Your Committee

- Believe you me, they do so much for the SW and croquet - without their tireless work, often late into the night, the Federation would not reach the heights it does
- There's one person I've not mentioned - Linda Shaw, your Secretary - who spends hours keeping us all on the right track and making sure that croquet in the SW is alive and well
- So please thank your Committee all of whom do so much unsung work on your behalf

Brian Wilson

Appendix 4: Treasurer's Report

Accounts

The balance sheet for the accounts up to the 31st October 2019 is shown on the next page. Over the year there has basically been a balance between income and expenditure. The League and Short Croquet entry fees cover the hire of lawn cost for the finals and the short croquet tournaments. The club subscription fees have covered the other costs. The financial Reserves for the SWF is therefore expected to be approximately £5,600 held at the Westminster Bank.

Budget for 2020

The Budget is designed to be neutral income over expenditure as shown below with a one-off additional expenditure of £500.00 from reserves for the upgrading of the SWF website to improve speed and access to new content for members and visitors.

Neil Morrison

Appendix 5: League Secretary's Report

I would like to start with a tribute to John Grimshaw. He did this job for 14 years and, having done it for one year I am lost in admiration for his endurance, and I didn't even do the Short Croquet tournaments. Thank you, John, for all your efforts over those years.

127 teams were entered in the league competitions in 2019 from 29 clubs, down from 137 the previous year. The reductions were in the Federation and B League (both down 4), the GC Level Play (down 3) and GC Handicap (down 2). These were partly offset by an increase in the GC High Handicap, which was up 3.

This left a schedule of 344 matches compared with 397 in the previous year. Of these, 9 were conceded, which is much better than the 21 conceded in 2018.

A further 5 matches were unplayed. 3 of these were block games and were cancelled rather than conceded because both sides made good, but unsuccessful, efforts to find compatible dates after the weather had interfered with the original fixture.

The other two unplayed matches were in the play-offs and finals. The GC Handicap quarter-final was not played as the home team were unable to offer any dates outside the Bank Holiday weekend, even with an extended deadline. As their opponents were available for a wide selection of dates the match was awarded to them. The final of the Parkstone 3rd Division was not played as the two highest clubs in the south block were both unable to assemble a team on the scheduled date.

The breakdown between the codes was: AC 8 conceded, GC 3 conceded, 3 cancelled. The AC/GC split in team numbers was 64/63 (72/65 in 2018) and 169/175 (196/201 in 2018) in number of matches.

There were a few disagreements between clubs that needed to be resolved by the committee. The decisions that were made in these cases have resulted in some of the rule changes that are to be discussed later. The most important points are:

- No-one is ever allowed to play off a handicap other than their correct handicap.
- All captains are responsible for knowing the eligibility rules for their league.
- If any player plays for a team for which they are not eligible then all of their games become wins for the opposing team.

I would like to put in a plea for better submission of the results. I recognise that not all team captains are IT experts but some of the results I was sent were actually indecipherable. First of all, please would everyone use the proper form for their league and fill in the full names of the players, not just surnames or initials. If you must send in a photo of the form then please make sure that it's clear; I received one or two that were very blurred, taken at an angle and at very low resolution so I couldn't even zoom in.

The last column on most of the forms should show the actual net hoop score to the home team in each game, i.e. 26-18 is shown here as +8 and 3-7 is shown as -4. Drawn games in GC can be shown simply as 0. In AC, the home team match score is therefore the number of pluses and the away team score is the number of minuses. This is the same in GC

except that each team's score is increased by $\frac{1}{2}$ for each drawn game. There is no need to put a 'T' for uncompleted games as that is clear from the hoop score.

Parkstone Trophy

Bristol were the winners yet again, but it came down to the last match. Just like last year, the deciding match was played between Bristol and Nailsea, with Bristol winning 7-2. Cheltenham came bottom of the table and, as there no longer any promotion play-offs, they are automatically relegated to Division 2 next year.

Division 2 was a very tight affair with both Sidmouth and Bath on 4 wins and 2 losses. In the matches between them, however, Sidmouth beat Bath 5-2 at home and lost to them 3-4 away. Sidmouth are therefore the division winners and will be promoted to Division 1 in 2020. This is an excellent result for them as they had only just arrived from Division 3. The bottom of the Division 2 table was also close with Dyffryn and Nailsea both on 2 wins and 4 losses, but Dyffryn's 5-0 home win compared with their 2-3 away loss kept them safe and it will be Nailsea who are relegated to Division 3 in 2020.

Division 3 was again split into two regional blocks with Bristol winning the northern block and Budleigh Salterton the southern. Bristol and Cheltenham both had 3 wins and 1 loss, but Bristol were marginally better in the matches between them. Budleigh, on the other hand, were undefeated in their 6 matches. It was unfortunate that Budleigh were unable to raise a team to compete the final and the same was true of Exeter, who came second in the south block. Bristol are therefore the winners of Division 3 and will be promoted to Division 2 next year.

41 matches scheduled, 21 home wins, 19 away, and 1 conceded.

Federation League

Nailsea Central won the final 6-1 against Nailsea South at Nailsea in a postponed match. The lawns were unplayable on the scheduled date and the final was played a month late with rather a lot of surface water.

Earlier Nailsea South had beaten Broadwas 6-1 in the semi-final between the North and South blocks, both having been clear winners in their blocks. In the Central block, Nailsea and Taunton both had 3 wins and 1 loss but Taunton had made the mistake of losing to Nailsea and therefore lost out on the who-beat-who rule.

Nailsea and District CC will represent the South West Federation in the national Secretary's Shield knockout in 2020.

42 matches scheduled, 28 home wins, 12 away, 1 conceded.

Intermediate League

Wellington won the Central block undefeated and then had a play-off against Nailsea, who had won the North block undefeated. Playing at home, Wellington won the play-off 5-0. To prove that it wasn't all down to home advantage they managed to win the final 3-2 against East Dorset away at East Dorset.

48 matches scheduled, 26 home wins, 19 away, 1 draw and 1 conceded.

B League

The B League this year produced 5 whitewash results, two in the north, two in the south and one in the final. In the block matches the 4 whitewashes were all at home but involved 4 different home teams and 4 different away teams and therefore did not indicate that any one team had unfair handicaps.

On June 26th Bristol beat Camerton & Peasedown 7-0 and on the same day Sidmouth beat Lym Valley 7-0. The final was between Bristol, who were undefeated in the North block, and Sidmouth, who had won 5 out of 6 in the South block. However, Sidmouth were definitely the in-form team on the day of the final and won with another 7-0.

There was nearly a miscarriage of justice in deciding the winner of the South block. Sidmouth, Wellington and Weston-super-Mare all had 5 wins and 1 loss. I was unable to identify a winner by the who-beats-who rule or by the nett games in the matches between these teams. The committee agreed that we should therefore draw lots between them and the winner was Sidmouth.

It was only after this that I went through the rules to clarify them and found that Sidmouth should have won anyway using the average of nett hoop points in the matches between the teams. In the rules the word 'hoop' was missing; this has been corrected in the version we'll be looking at later.

37 matches scheduled, 17 home wins, 15 away, 4 conceded.

Golf Croquet Level-Play League

Nailsea and Kingston Maurward were both clear winners in their blocks but the final was a comprehensive win 15-5 to Nailsea.

Kingston Maurward were unlucky that their -4 player, Jonathan Powe, was away on international duty but the notable player for Nailsea was James Galpin. He started the season as a 0 then went to -2 then -3 and finished the season in this match as a -4.

31 games scheduled, 15 home wins, 11 away, 3 drawn, 1 conceded.

Golf Croquet Handicap League

In the north, Swindon and Beckford won their blocks and were scheduled to play the quarter-final at Beckford. This gave rise to one of the more difficult decisions in the season. Despite having more than 2 weeks for this match, Beckford were, at first, only able to offer a single date, Bank Holiday Monday though they later also offered the Bank Holiday Saturday as well. Swindon could offer several dates but not over the Bank Holiday. I allowed an extension by 7 days and then offered to accept a result from a team of 3 players.

Both of these were acceptable to Swindon but not to Beckford. I consulted the committee and after a considerable exchange of emails the consensus was that the match should be awarded to Swindon. Not only did they offer far more dates but they would also be more available to play the semi-final.

We then had two very tight semi-finals. The Weston-super-Mare - Swindon game finished 10-10 and it needed a tie-break doubles game to give Weston the win 11-10. The other semi-final, between the winners of the southern blocks, also went to the final game with St Agnes winning 11-9 against Swanage.

The final was also close with Weston-super-Mare beating St Agnes 11.5-8.5 and Weston will therefore represent the South West Federation in the national GC Federations Shield in 2020.

103 matches scheduled. 62 home wins, 31 away, 5 drawn, 2 cancelled, 2 conceded.

Golf Croquet High Handicap League

The final game in the North block (Llandaff-Broadwas) was cancelled as the two clubs could not find a feasible date. This could have caused a problem because it left Llandaff and Swindon both on 3 wins. However, Llandaff had beaten Swindon and were therefore declared the block winners. They played Dowlish Wake in a very tight play-off, only winning 11-10 after a tie-break. That took them into a final against St Agnes, which they won 11-9.

42 matches scheduled, 30 home wins, 7 away wins, 3 drawn, 1 cancelled.

Finally, I am very grateful to all the clubs who made their facilities available for the league finals, and to the people who gave up their time to prepare the lawns, provide teas, referee and report on these matches.

Stephen Custance-Baker

Appendix 6: Short Croquet Report

Spring at Nailsea

27 teams entered so I decided that, rather than refuse two entries, I would accommodate them all by putting 7 teams in Division 5.

After years of Nailsea domination, Kington Langley Braves took the trophy by winning 12 of their 16 games, winning with a round to spare. It was not all joy for Kington Langley though, as the Apaches finished last and were relegated.

Camerton and Peasedown A won Division 2 and are promoted, whilst Swindon are relegated back to Division 3 from whence they came in 2018.

Divisions 3 and 4 required shoot-outs in both to determine the winners, and were won by Nailsea Avening and Bristol Boys respectively.

Dyffryn and Sidmouth Connaught were last in Divisions 3 and 4 respectively and are relegated.

The seven teams in Division 5 played a very competitive competition. Going in to the last round, four teams could still win, but Taunton Deane B came from fourth to tie with WSM B, who had a bye, and then went on to win the shoot-out.

Autumn at Budleigh Salterton

A magnificent entry of 30 teams meant a full six divisions for this competition. Diabolical weather over the whole weekend, disrupted the programme somewhat, but we were at least able to achieve an outcome on each day.

Friday was completed successfully in light drizzle for most of the day, but when we arrived on Saturday, the lawns were flooded. Eventually we managed six playable lawn and the programme was completed after some shuffling of playing order and abandonment of lunch.

Sunday was another story. Heavy overnight rain had left all lawns unplayable at 9.30, but play eventually got underway at 11.00 on 5 lawns. Clearly the scheduled programme was not going to be completed, so reduced time limits were played and a decision was made to take the results of each team's first four matches to determine the final placings.

Huge thanks must go to Julie Horsley, for her unflustered management over the weekend and the fact that she was able to achieve satisfactory outcomes on each day, deserves the highest commendation.

In Division 1 normal service was resumed with Nailsea Trendlewood triumphing. Sidmouth Fortfield and Budleigh Salterton Roquets tied in last place, and were due to play-off on another occasion to see who should be relegated. I believe this has not yet happened. Nailsea won Division 2 and will be promoted. There will be no relegation from any of the other divisions as I had a late withdrawal from Division 2. I am grateful to Kington

Maurward for standing in, but they did so on the understanding that if they wished to play in the future, they would have to start at the bottom of the pyramid.

Other division winners were

Division 3 - Taunton Terriers

Division 4 - Sidmouth

Division 5 - Taunton Tiggers

Division 6 - Budleigh Salterton Mallets

John Grimshaw

Appendix 7: Coaching Liaison Officer's Report

The year started with two coach training courses, one at the SWCA at Budleigh Salterton, the other at Nailsea. Of those who qualified, two have completed the extra coaching activity to earn their Club Coach badges in the SWF area: we welcome this fresh input of coaches.

In principle, there are more than 100 coaches qualified to at least the club coach level in the SWF area. These are concentrated in 21 of the 42 Federation Clubs. Some have retired from active coaching, and only 42 have responded to emails from myself, representing 17 of the SWF clubs.

It would be nice to have at least a club coach in each club; next spring there will be SWCA courses for qualification as club coaches on 21-22 April 2020 and for qualification as graded coaches on 29-30 April 2020. It is also hoped that there will be a club coach course further north. SWF travel grants are available for attendees; we hope that all clubs without a CA qualified coach will respond.

From my replies from Federation coaches, most report courses for beginners or individual coaching where numbers do not justify a course. A few report intermediate level coaching, and more advanced coaching has been available at the separate AC and GC Pods.

The Pods, originally intended to bring on aspiring A class players have extended their remit to include B class players who would like to improve their game. The SWCA are disappointed that they had to cancel 4 of their scheduled 16 courses and the remaining courses ran at 77 % of capacity.

To end on a positive note, our coaches were able to respond to a significant number of requests for coaching outside their clubs at all levels, from beginners to the national level, and I am not aware of any unsatisfied request. The supply is there; let us hope that demand strengthens in 2020!

Richard Jackson

Appendix 8: Publicity Officer's Report

This year I managed to distribute a large number of the SWANs via the delegates attending various courses run by South West Croquet Academy at Budleigh early in the year and a little later at the Short Croquet Tournament at Nailsea. The rest were then posted. This saves quite a substantial cost of postage.

The new payment facility for Adverts seemed to work well. Thank you for your prompt payments.

Because of the GDPR Privacy Policy we unfortunately have not uploaded the SWAN onto our website. The contact details of many members would be there for all to see - not a good idea.

Maybe we could get around this by just be leaving them off?

It has been a difficult decision for me, but unfortunately - because of illness this year - I have decided to step down, after being the SWAN editor for the last 4 years.

The SWAN is now likely to change and provide more focus for those who participate in the various leagues. News items and current updates are now largely covered via the Cygnet.

Luckily, we have a New Editor waiting in the wings to move this forward. Rhona Foster from Cornwall has offered to take up the position and I wish her all the best in this role.

Maureen Smith

Appendix 9: Youth Officer's Report

I make no apologies for once again mentioning James Galpin as the main success story in youth croquet this season. Not only did he successfully defend his National Junior Championship title, he won two other open tournaments in AC. In GC his accomplishments were even greater, reaching the final of the under 21 world championship at his first attempt and coming very close to pulling off a huge upset. He was also a key member of the Somerset team that won the Inter-County Championship in GC for the first time ever, against all expectations.

James will be jetting off to Melbourne in February for his first AC World Championship and will certainly be one to watch. Another excellent player (and very nice young man to boot) thanks to Peter Dyke and the Nailsea club.

A special mention too, for Daniel Gott from Bath who has been awarded the CA Apps Memorial Bowl for 2018 for the most improved GC player.

I know there are many other dedicated individuals and clubs in the region helping to develop youth croquet; I won't name them all but I must apologise for not being able to give more of my own time to assist, now that I have two children of my own (one of whom already loves to hit a few croquet balls around when he can!).

That is the only reason I am standing down as Youth Officer; I am still working on a long-term strategy for youth croquet across the CA and as such I am happy to be a point of contact for anyone who has any questions or ideas to share.

I would like to thank everyone who has supported youth croquet and me personally over the years, very little of what has been achieved has been down to me, it doesn't happen without your time and energy. I hope to be able to return to a more active role in the future.

Marcus Evans

Appendix 10: Development Officer's Report

2019 has been a challenging year in the SWF with challenges for several of our clubs. One disturbing development was the change in policy by the National Trust with regards to its tenants. Both Chastleton House (near Moreton in Marsh) and Lytes Cary Manor (near Yeovil) are in the most perilous position.

However, the largest of the National Trust clubs, Dyffryn has been successful in finding a new home. Dyffryn members have strived for many months to secure a new home and it now seems that its future is now confirmed in a new location in the Vale of Glamorgan. Glamorgan Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club offered a site in Merthyr Mawr that required work to start up this season.

Dyffryn are trying to cost the replacement of the surface for next year and this has been somewhat fraught. Things are developing slowly. They should be in a position to become full members at GLTCC for 2020, under a 2 parts - tennis and croquet club.

A similar fate has befallen Kingston Maurward (KM). Their landlord of 34 years, Kingston Maurward College served a short period of notice to the club earlier this year. This meant the club would have no home for the 2020 season. Again, after a wide-ranging search the club has secured a new location (Winterborne Stickland Sports and Community Club) and work on improving the quality of the existing site has already started. Kingston Maurward have made a development grant application to the local authority to assist with this project.

They have also applied for a CA grant to support their plans. The CA Development Committee meets on November 30th. KM's application is very strong and I am confident it will be supported.

So, on several fronts, it has been a year not so much to do with 'development' for our clubs but holding on to their very existence. All these clubs have shown great tenacity and imagination in looking towards keeping their clubs going but it is inevitable that their number of members will decline in the short term and so put increasing pressures on their financial positions.

On a much brighter note, there is every chance that a new club will be formed in Moreton in Marsh. A committee has been formed and a large site adjacent to the town's thriving bowls club is about to be rented from the town council. Moreton in Marsh is about 30 minutes by car from Cirencester and so it is hoped that croquet players in the Cotswolds will have at least one club within travelling distance.

CA News

Awards

Five applications had been received for the Townsend Award and it was decided to move straight to a vote without drawing up a shortlist. Tattenhall received the greatest number of first preferences. Kington Langley who had also applied were up against a really strong application.

Nine applications were received for the Apps Heley award and a short list of Canterbury, Guildford, Nailsea, St Agnes and Taunton Deane was agreed.

Lawn Levelling Equipment

It was agreed that the CA should advise clubs on the equipment to hire and where it could be found. The club would hire the equipment and the CA would reimburse the club by a set amount of £75. George Noble pointed out that the CA has a computer program which will convert the raw data into a map of the site showing the low spots requiring remedial action.

Youth Development

On the development of young players, the SWF has had a notable year with James Galpin (Nailsea) and Daniel Gott (Bath) continuing to make an impact on a national and international level. However, the scale of young player development is still a trickle rather than a steady stream of new talent and this has to be addressed in the SWF during 2020.

Appendix 11: Election of Officers

Role	Nominee	Proposed	Seconded
Chair	Brian Wilson	Ros Key-Pugh Camerton & Peasedown CC	Robert Moss Budleigh CC SWF
Treasurer	Vacant	Neil Morrison (Swindon CC) is not standing but will undertake functions on interim basis	
Secretary	Linda Shaw Nailsea CC	Mike Tracy Nailsea CC	Pat Long Nailsea CC
League Secretary	Stephen Custance- Baker Taunton CC	Dave Kibble Bristol CC	Linda Shaw Nailsea CC SWF
Development Officer	Paul Francis Bath CC	Linda Shaw Nailsea CC SWF	Robert Moss Budleigh CC SWF
Youth Officer	Vacant	No nominations received	
Publicity Officer	Vacant	Rhona Foster (Cornwall CC) has volunteered to take on the role of SWAN editor but this will not be a committee post	
GC Advisor	Vacant	No nominations received	
Regional Coaching Officer	Richard Jackson	Chris Frew Bristol CC	Pat Jackson Bristol CC
General Member	Robert Moss	Klim Seabright Cheltenham CC SWF	Linda Shaw Nailsea CC SWF