

Minutes of SWF Committee Meeting: Tuesday 16th February 2021

Present

Brian Wilson, Peter Kirby, Paul Francis, Stephen Custance-Baker, Tony Mayer, Linda Shaw
NB: Peter left the meeting following the Development item.

Apologies

Roger Mills

1) Minutes of last meeting

- a) Agreed as correct

2) Action points / matters arising

- a) Winterbourne Valley were awarded Apps Healey
- b) Tony Mayer has been appointed Federation Handicapping Officer as agreed by email discussion during December
- c) Roger Mills has been co-opted as Federation Coaching Officer

3) Treasurers report

- a) Previously circulated - see below
- b) Peter confirmed the position is stable
- c) The change to the presentation format is appreciated
- d) Noted an anomaly in the membership fee structure for small clubs joining as Full Member when they are not entering League play
 - i) Agreed that a proposal will be put to the AGM for a £6.00 minimum fee to take effect from next year **Action: Linda / Peter**
- e) One club has entered the Leagues but no fees have been received
 - i) This was followed up and action is being taken with the expectation that fees will be received this week
- f) Extensive discussion about the action to be taken if fees were not received. It was noted that withdrawing them from the Leagues would cause significant organisational problems but it probably would need to happen
- g) Peter will establish an Assets list **Action: Peter**
 - i) Everyone who knows anything about any of our assets to inform Peter asap **Action: all**
- h) Risk assessments - Peter will be attending a CA briefing on Saturday but at this stage is advising caution in our role and will feedback **Action: Peter**
- i) Cygnet advertising fees
 - i) Following extensive discussion, it was agreed the current fee structure remain and that it provides good value for money
 - ii) Rhona's suggestion of a diary dates column with brief details about forthcoming events be established for those who have taken out a paid advert at no further charge to them **Action: Linda / Rhona**

4) Leagues

- a) Report previously circulated - see below
- b) Although there will be no B league this year this should not be seen as a future omen
- c) The government's current Covid Roadmap suggests we should be able to play freely from 21st June
- d) With the smaller number of teams in each block, this should not present too many organizational problems for clubs
 - i) Stephen will be contacting clubs shortly with a deadline of 11th April for returning match dates
 - ii) He will circulate the fixtures list a week later

- e) Agreed that clubs will be advised to undertake self-catering only for this season
- f) Clubs will be reminded they could invite members of other clubs to play in their League teams with the necessary membership arrangements Action: Stephen
- g) Individual tournaments / awards Agreed we are not in a position to discuss this. Postponed indefinitely

5) Development

- a) Report previously circulated - see below
- b) Schools tournament - Paul is sceptical about achieving this but is working on getting it onto the approved activity list for GCSE and A level P.E.
 - i) It is already approved by the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme, he noted that this is how Rachel Rowe started playing
- c) He will be meeting with Bowls England on Thursday

6) Safeguarding

- a) CA Safeguarding Officer has been invited to the next Zoom meeting
- b) He has been in communication with Paul and with Fed Secretaries - various issues identified to raise with him at Zoom meeting **Action: Paul and Linda**

7) Coaching

- a) Update presented by Paul - see below
- b) A couple of clubs have expressed interest in being a Hub and others will be approached
- c) With 50% of clubs in the region not having a qualified coach, the initial focus will be on increasing the number of Coaches in the region and will start off with a Zoom for those who might be interested.
- d) Roger, Paul and Peter met to discuss the financial aspects of this and a daily charge of £15 is likely for players
 - i) Ways of avoiding those undertaking qualifying courses (coaches, referees) will be explored **Action: Roger, Peter**
- e) Noted that other Federations are impressed by this model which does raise the question: whither the Academies?
- f) Roger was thanked for his innovative approach to the topic

8) Handicapping

- a) There will be nothing to report until play resumes
- b) The possibility of running further workshops will be re-visited in the autumn
- c) Noted that Brian Fisk has produced a power point presentation on the topic which is to be launched shortly
- d) Noted that there is no direct link between Tony and the Handicapping Committee **Action: Paul to explore**

9) Cygnet

- a) Noted there is no further interest in helping produce this, so ambitions for a monthly issue are on hold
 - i) However, agreed that a Coaching special edition be produced
- b) Discussed how frequently we should be contacting clubs - and the extent to which information is circulated appropriately within the clubs
 - i) Key interest areas are highlighted in the accompanying email
- c) Zoom invitations and notes are circulated separately
 - i) Zoom notes will also be included in the following issue of Cygnet

10) Succession planning

- a) Tony introduced his discussion paper which helpfully focussed our thoughts
 - i) Agreed we need to make people more aware of how they can contribute in practical ways and to become more aware of the barriers people experience
 - ii) The report will be amended in line with our discussions and circulated in Cygnet
Action: Tony
- b) A potential new Chair was identified - to be confirmed
- c) Two people were identified as having skills to offer and will be approached. **Action: Paul, Stephen**

11) Federations Review Group

- a) Brian felt little progress was being made in dialogue with the CA but Paul felt significant actions were taking place
- b) It may be these are not clearly being communicated

12) Federations Focus Group

- a) This continues to be a useful forum for the exchange of ideas which Brian and Paul attend.

13) Website

- a) There are still no offers of help with this
- b) Discussed the role of the website and agreed it
 - i) Is a repository of information
 - ii) Provides up to date information about League play
 - iii) Could provide information / booking potential for coaching - need to consider how to manage what could be 700 transactions a year **Action: Paul, Roger, Peter**
 - iv) Is not a forum for news
- c) A review of other Feds' sites will be undertaken **Action: Brian**
- d) We could consider using the CA's suggested format

14) Policies review

- a) Agreed to put out a call for help with these in Cygnet inviting the constitution review group and others who might be interested **Action: Linda**

15) Meetings schedule

- a) Tue 29th June 7.00pm - note change of date
- b) Thurs 7th October 7.00pm - note change of date
- c) Sun 21st Nov AGM - Zoom



South West Federation of Croquet Clubs



Treasurers Report 22nd February 2021

Summary of Expected Income & Expenditure for 2021

I refer to the table on page 2, this shows the budget for 2021, the actual income & expenditure for the period up to February 22nd, the expected income & expenditure for the full year and in the last column the difference between the expected position and the budget.

Income is forecast to be £666 lower than expected in the budget, principally due to the cancellation of the Nailsea Short Croquet Tournament and the B League. There has been an associated fall in expenditure due to the cancellation of these events of £506.

Travel expenses are anticipated to be lower than forecast due to the move to hold all committee meetings in 2021 on zoom, in addition there has been a re-statement of the 2021 budget.

In summary the net impact is that projected loss for the year is broadly similar to budget.

Club Membership Returns

38 Club Returns have been received showing a total of 1713 club members and League Fees are in accordance with the League Secretary's team entries. There are 32 Full members and 6 affiliated members.

Two clubs (one full member, and one affiliate) have fees still due to be paid.

Creditors / Debtors

None

Balance Sheet

At February 22nd there was £6,294 cash at Bank excluding Judith Moore Bursary (see below), and a further £324 of uncleared cheques.

Judith Moore Bursary

There have been no payments made from the Judith Moore Bursary Fund, and the cash balance remains at £5,000



South West Federation of Croquet Clubs



Actual and Projected vs Budget for 2021

General Account	BUDGET 2021	Actual Feb 22nd	Projected 2021	Projected less Budget
INCOME				
Subscriptions	536	520	549	12
League Fees	864	630	666	-198
Short Croquet Tournament Fees	900	405	420	-480
SWAN Adverts	60	12	60	0
	2360	1567	1695	-666
EXPENDITURE				
SWAN production	0	0	0	0
Trophies	128	0	128	0
League finals	396	0	330	-66
Short croquet	920	0	480	-440
Coaching expenses	21	0	21	0
Travel expenses	753	0	392	-361
SWF Website	135	135	135	0
Sundries	158	48	158	0
	2511	183	1644	-867
SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	-150		-51	
Peter Kirby				
SWF Treasurer				

Peter Kirby

February 22nd 2021

League Sec Report 23/2/2021

League entries have now been received from 28 clubs. Two others (Weston-s-Mare and The Bears) have decided not to play any fixtures this season and Fowey have entered the autumn Short Croquet only. (This now has 28 teams entered and will therefore have the full 3-day, 6-division structure.)

The only serious issues with the entries were:

- The limited B-League entries (four). Two of these have transferred to other leagues and 2 have withdrawn. Three of the four, Llandaff, Bristol and Bath, may arrange some friendlies.
- I have had to tell Cornwall that their entry for the Short Croquet has to be cancelled. There are 11 entries but the nearest to St Austell is 2 hours away (Taunton) and the next is nearly 3 hours away. I couldn't see any way of including them and I've discussed it with Dorianne Forsdick, who agreed.

Altogether, we have 111 teams entered in 7 leagues. The spread around the region is shown in the attached maps. The enclosed areas are my proposed blocks, with the dashed lines showing those blocks where the teams will play each other twice. All blocks in all leagues will involve 3 or 4 matches per team.

I will send the block lists, with the Home and Away allocations, to the Match Secretaries next week, with the contact details as required. As the blocks are so different from previous years, I will not attempt to set match venues to the opposite of the last time played. I will, however, as in other years try to get a balance of Home and Away for each club.

Stephen Custance-Baker
League Secretary

A series of maps was presented which are not included here.

SWF Development Report February 2021

News from the CA

Development Committee

The new development committee has met and the following priorities have been agreed :

1. Explore additional sources of grants/funding from national and local organisations.

Locally: FDOs will contact Active Partnerships as a first step (each county has an Active Partnership).

Nationally: FDOs to develop knowledge of Sport England funding options.

2. With the increasing drive for good governance, a national re-launch of Club Matters. Plan to do a national webinar.
3. Develop strategies to attract, encourage and retain young players. Linking with GCSE and A level PE qualifications (this will take time-DfE needs to approve the addition of croquet to the list of sports). Develop work with D of E. Explore the development of wheelchair croquet and croquet for the visually impaired.
4. Establish partnership with Bowls England to explore the setting up of croquet clubs at bowls clubs. PF meeting Bowls England in late February.

Funding Committee

The new funding committee has met and the following has been approved.

1. A total grants pot of £30,000. Relaxation of the limit of a grant based on the number of lawns at a club. Approval of grants will be focused on specific criteria and will include a club's commitment to the CA indicated by the number of standard and premium CA members.
2. A new loan scheme (the amount of funds available to be agreed). Interest free over five years with no repayments required until year three

News from the SWF

1. Moreton in Marsh

As previously reported, they are about apply for a second phase grant and loan (£5,000 and £5,000) to help them with the infrastructure for the clubhouse.

2. Bude

As Roger will be reporting, Bude is actively engaged with the SWF on coaching. They also need to replace their clubhouse (the existing one has been leased to another organisation). We are exploring the options and it is likely that the club will be applying for a £5,000 grant.

3. Zoom meetings

The number of clubs attending continues to be encouraging. There are regular attendees and regular non-attendees. I would like to discuss how we might encourage the non-attendees. The clubs in question are: Broadwas, Cornwall, Llandaff, Exeter, WSM (these are the main clubs I have noted).

Future meetings apart from our usual topics

March: Ron Carter from the CA on Introducing Safeguarding

April (provisional): Jonathan Toye (East Anglia FDO) Introduction to Accessibility and what can be achieved in the short to long term.

Finally on the Zoom Meetings, I am pondering how to tighten up 'news from the clubs'.

Coaching

For Club Coaches the offer is:

- Regular virtual meetings to exchange news and ideas.
- Regional refreshers to develop best practice e.g. use of video recording to analyse a player's swing etc.
- SWF Annual Coaches Meeting to include presentation of SWF Coach of the Year.

For players the offer is:

- Regular Zoom modules on tactics, rules, laws, winning the mind game, your first tournament, improving stroke play, introduction to AC etc.
- Regional training days at designated coaching hubs.
- One to one coaching for fast improvers