

**South West Federation of Croquet Clubs
Minutes of Committee Meeting held 15.9.21 7.00pm by Zoom**

1. Present

- a. Brian Wilson, Peter Kirby, Stephen Custance-Baker, Tony Mayer, Andru Blewett, Linda Shaw, Paul Francis

2. Apologies

- a. Louise Smith – has decided with regret to stand down from the committee due to pressure of other commitments.
- b. It is also noted with regret that Roger Mills has resigned from his position as SWF Coaching Officer but has offered his continuing support as a coach in the region

3. Minutes of last meeting

- a. Previously circulated and agreed as correct

4. League Secretary's report

- a. Report reproduced below
- b. Noted there was a higher level of conceded games than last year
- c. Noted that all League captains should have access to a copy of the rules during a match and know when to refer to them
- d. Agreed the waiver for promotion or relegation (Advanced League) is removed for next year – clubs wishing to avoid either should not enter the League
- e. Stephen was thanked for his report and update on Finals arrangements
- f. *Update: all but GC HH final results are on the website*
- g. *Update: all plaques have been ordered and should be ready for collection before Budleigh SC tournament*
 - i. *Stephen will arrange distribution*

5. Short Croquet Tournament Oct at Budleigh

- a. Update from John Grimshaw reproduced below
- b. Agreed last year's plaques be issued this year but be replaced with the correct versions in the Spring and that plaques for 2022 be ordered now **Action: Stephen**
- c. No further suggestions re manager for the Friday matches
- d. Agreed John select team as appropriate to fill the gap
 - i. Peter has suggestions for an alternative format which he is happy to discuss with John for future years

6. National Short Croquet

- a. The issue of handicap restrictions and doubles games was raised at the Feds' Focus Group meeting by Brian
 - i. Other Feds are not reporting any problem – they perhaps don't play to the extent we do
 - ii. Agreed to keep the dialogue open **Action: Brian**

7. Treasurer's report

- a. Treasurer's report may be found below
 - i. Noted unresolved question of payment of coaching subsidy and coach expenses. **Action: Peter, Paul**
 - 1. Peter is concerned it is going to be quite difficult to put together a reasonably accurate budget for 2022 and therefore also put forward

proposals for fees, due to the uncertainties of coaching income and expenditure.

2. It was agreed he discuss this with our Independent Examiner and his advice will be circulated to the committee Action: Peter

b. Update on Judith Moore Bursary

- i. As there has been no take up of this scheme, Peter Moore was contacted and asked what he wanted to do
 1. He wants the current criteria to continue for one more year and stated: "Beyond that the Federation has my full permission to use any remaining funds in any way it seems most appropriate"
 2. It was agreed that from 2023, if there is insufficient take-up, the criteria would be reviewed in line with the overall aim of promoting competitive tournament play Action: Committee

c. Peter was thanked for his work

8. Development Officer's report

- a. Paul's report may be found below and the following was noted
 - i. Potential topics for winter Zooms: AGM, Crowd Funding, Instagram link with website, IT skills e.g. attachments. **Action: Paul** to develop
 - ii. Wareham – phone discussions indicate they don't want to think about development issues
 - iii. C&P new club house in Spring, irrigation now in
 - iv. Abbey increased from 5 to 17 members – want help with handicapping Action: Paul
 - v. Bude – now have planning permission for a club house but they are only on a 1-year renewable lease although their membership seems to be increasing
 1. *Subsequent update: Bude has now secured a 10-year lease*
 - vi. long term lease – past history now planning permission for new clubhouse but only one-year renewable lease
 - vii. Timer app for phones – nothing back from Eugene
 1. The idea was to augment timers on phones so that it permanently displays the countdown with access to pause and start without having to unlock phone
 - viii. Handicappers' workshop will be arranged for the new year
 - ix. No reply from Ron Carter re Safeguarding
 - x. 28th Sept 7.00 intro eve to Club matters eve Marketing & People with Dave Gunn – Only Lym Valley & Taunton Deane in SW have signed up
- b. Tony noted that Swindon had secured substantial grants for new machine shed, mower, extending fencing
 - i. They have a good relationship with the Parish Council who have overall responsibility for management of the sports club
- c. Situation for The Bears is unclear but it is understood they have no lawn at Cirencester
 - i. Swindon have offered membership but no take up, probably for geographic reasons
- d. Generally noted there is little room for Development issues during the playing season
- e. **Action: Paul** will be monitoring all the situations mentioned

9. Handicapping Report

- a. Paul was to discuss possibility of further workshops in the autumn with Chair of CA Handicapping Committee

10. **Safeguarding**

- a. Policy statement has yet to be sent to Alison for the website **Action: Linda**
- b. Paul has not heard back from Ron Carter re LSOs in the region

11. Cygnet

- a. Three more issues planned for this year – in a couple of weeks, one after next committee meeting then one after the AGM **Action: Linda**

12. Website

- a. David Harrison-Wood wants to discuss issues he has over the website e.g. non-working links **Action: Linda**

13. Coaching

- a. Roger has asked all participants on CTC to get their portfolios to him in time for confirmation by Sarah Hayes before her term of office ends on 16th Oct
- b. CTC – as yet we have not received satisfactory answers to our questions. The CA Coaching Committee meets on 21st Sept and we have been promised responses to outstanding issues (a summary of which was presented to the meeting) by then.
- c. Agreed that we are in favour of submitting a maladministration complaint along agreed lines which will be separately circulated to the committee
- d. Agreed we urgently need to recruit an Examining Coach to support our work Action: All

14. AGM

- a. Nominations to Committee
 - i. None received yet from member clubs
 - ii. Existing members who have not yet submitted their nominations are requested to do so
- b. Draft schedule and proposals so far were presented and discussed and will be circulated separately in draft AGM papers **Action: Linda**

15. AOB

- a. Noted that Brian Wilson has been appointed unopposed as SW Rep to CA Council
- b. Discussed a request from a member club to send an email reminding clubs about a forthcoming tournament
 - i. Agreed to do this as they had already paid for an advert in Cygnet but to monitor how many such requests we receive

16. Next meetings

- Monday 11th October 7.00pm
- Sun 21st Nov AGM – Zoom
- One to be arranged for shortly after the AGM

League Secretary's Report

13 September 2021

The Leagues

League match results submitted so far:

Block games: 181 out of 184

One result has not yet been sent in and two Division 1 games are yet to be played. None of these will affect any block outcome.

15 block games were conceded.

Play-offs and finals: 12 out of 18

There are 6 finals yet to be played.

One final (Advanced Division 3) has been conceded because neither Cheltenham nor the replacement club, Nailsea, were able to raise a team. In both cases their club finals were on the same day.

On the whole, the 2021 season has gone as well as we could have hoped, given the late start and the uncertainties about travel and the Covid regulations.

There was an unfortunate end to today's GC High Handicap semi-final between Budleigh and Dowlish Wake. The match ended with a 10-10 draw and, according to the rules, this should have been resolved by an extra doubles game. However, neither captain was aware of this rule and the match was awarded to Budleigh on the basis of a +7-hoop difference.

As the captains both agreed to this, I have no good reason for requiring a replay. I have therefore confirmed Budleigh as the winners and they will contest the final with Llandaff.

Finals

All finalists have been notified of the date of the final, their opponents and the venue. All trophies are either at the correct location or will arrive there on the day.

Advanced League

Bath, the winners of Division 2, have elected to remain in Division 2 next year.

Budleigh, the winners of Division 3, have decided to accept promotion and will therefore join Division 2 next year.

This is a temporary concession and in future years all clubs should accept promotion (or relegation) without the option.

Short Croquet Tournaments Update: John Grimshaw

I have been working hard getting information from the clubs over the last few weeks. At this stage I have 22 confirmed entries, but I am still awaiting information from Nailsea. The last time I spoke to Peter Dyke, he claimed he had only two players for his three teams. If they leave me a team short, I will have to organise Division 5 to involve only four teams, but I will ensure that they have four games, one way or another.

I do have the problem of management. As you probably know, Julie Horsley has been quite ill and is not prepared to manage it for me. I would really like not to be there on the Friday and I am looking for someone to do it for me on that day. There will only be the one division to cater for. Do you know anyone that might help? I can send order of play and lawn allocations, so I really only need someone to progress play, record the scores and present the trophy.

The other issue is trophies. I have plaques which were purchased for Nailsea in 2020, and of course they are marked 2020. Fortunately, they do not refer to Spring or Autumn so at least that isn't a problem. Can we use these or should I try to modify them? They certainly will not be perfect if I do that. I do not know whether my supplier is still in business, so buying replacements at this late stage will be a problem.

On that subject, if Stephen is organising trophy purchases/engraving, could he include next year's spring and autumn plaques in his purchase? I would hope to have six divisions at each again next year.

Update:

Just a short update on the latest situation.

Nailsea can provide only one team, so that means Divisions 1 and 5 area team short. I have persuaded Wellington to play in Division 5, leaving me with four teams only in Division 1. So far I have been unable to find a replacement, so I will have to devise a programme for four teams only, but still giving them four games each. slim suggested that I tried to enter a SWF select team, but I feel that the clubs most likely to provide players for this, Sidmouth and BS, already have three teams each and I know have been struggling to fill these.

Treasurer's Report



South West Federation of Croquet Clubs



Treasurers Report 14th September 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 September 14th, 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 £639 lower than expected in the budget 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 there is a small projected profit for the year.

Creditors / Debtors

Payment of one Cygnet Advertising invoice amounting to £12 is outstanding.

Balance Sheet

At September 14th there was £6,694 cash at Bank excluding Judith Moore Bursary (see below),

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



Cash Reconciliation to 14 September 2021

	2021				
RECEIPTS					
Subscriptions	551.60				
Association league fees	288.00				
Short league fees	66.00				
Golf league fees	330.00				
Short croquet Tournament fees	420.00				
Adverts	72.00				
AGM	0.00				
CTC Coaching Course	0.00				
CA refund of travel expenses	0.00				
Donations / Bursary received	0.00				
Sundries	0.00				
			1,727.60		
PAYMENTS					
Subs Refund	18.00				
SWAN production	0.00				
Trophies	0.00				
League finals	0.00				
Short croquet	0.00				
Coaching expenses	0.00				
Travel expenses	0.00				
Bursary travel expenses	0.00				
AGM Workshops Costs	0.00				
SWF Website	135.00				
AGM	48.00				
Administration	0.00				
Sundries	66.55				
		267.55			
RECEIPTS LESS PAYMENTS			1,460.05		
ADD TO OPENING CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE			10,234.44		
CALCULATED CLOSING CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE			11,694.49		
ACTUAL CLOSING CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE			11,694.49		
CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE RECONCILIATION			0.00		



South West Federation of Croquet Clubs



Actual and Projected vs Budget for 2021

General Account	BUDGET 2021	Actual Sep-21	Projected 2021	Projected less Budget
INCOME				
Subscriptions	536	552	552	15
League Fees	864	666	666	-198
Short Croquet Tournament Fees	900	420	420	-480
Coaching Income	0	0	0	0
SWAN Adverts	60	72	84	24
	2360	1710	1722	-639
EXPENDITURE				
SWAN production	0	0	0	0
Trophies	128	0	128	0
League finals	396	0	264	-132
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	115	158	0
	2511	250	1578	-933
SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	-150		144	
Peter Kirby				
SWF Treasurer				

Peter Kirby

SWF Treasurer

September 14th 2021

SWF Development Report September 2021

New clubs

- Work in Progress
 - Bradford on Avon Bowls Club
 - Good progress after Foxy Hoops were trialled at the club.
 - The croquet section will be launched in Spring 2022. Interest from the town is strong and we can expect a club of up to 40.
 - How can we take this further – also Foxy Hoops great for pop-up croquet – some in CA shop £400
- Up and running
 - Moreton in Marsh had its official opening in June. The lawns still need considerable work but there are already 40 members.
- Struggling clubs/ in need of support
 - Newton Abbott - The club seems to be virtually run by one person and he is feeling the pressure? Despite this he has grand plans for the club either in its current home in a council park or a new home. I plan to visit in the next few weeks to find out more.
- Good news
 - Bude -The club has finally been given planning permission for a new clubhouse. I will be helping them to secure a CA grant for £5 k
 - Camerton and Peasedown - The new clubhouse is coming over the hill!
- No News
 - Wareham?

Zoom meetings

- Monthly meetings to resume in October. Schedule to follow.

Further afield

- Project with the GMA is progressing and a bid to SportEngland will be submitted this month.
- Croquet Matters Zoom meeting on September 28th.