**SWF Zoom Meeting 13.1.21**

We got off to a brilliant start this year with the largest ever attendance at our monthly meetings: 39. So welcome back!

This is a summary of the discussion.

**Round up from clubs:**

* There was a fair amount of cautious optimism that we would be playing this season and several clubs have started to think about their league entries
* Although all play is suspended at the moment, quite a few clubs were holding winter competitions – so hopefully they’ll begin again soon
* East Dorset have been nurturing a relationship with a local VI form college which they hope will bear fruit this year – plans to extend this and gain publicity
* Noted that the CA makes no distinction between large and small lawns in terms of restricting the number of players during covid
* Covid grants available but not every club will meet the criteria – check it out for your club: <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/our-funds>

**Coaching:**

Roger summarised what he’s been doing

Vision

* That all players in SW will live within 1 hr drive of a ‘coaching hub’ club
* That every club in the SW will have a qualified coach – at the moment about half our clubs are without one
* Suggested brand name: Coaching South West

Work

* He and Paul have been mapping the data and thinking about clubs that might be used as hubs – thinking about their facilities, the financial implications, their willingness etc
* He will be in touch with clubs but do contact him if your club is interested
* He has been in touch with other Feds who are very interested in this initiative

Needed

* Clubs to offer their facilities as hubs (12 potential identified)
* Coaching team (Roger, Paul, so far)
* Coaching menu
* Coaching liaison officer in each club- doesn’t have to be a coach
  + Assistant coaches to work towards qualification
* He is hoping to attract excellent coaches from across the country to add a coaching session or so onto their visit when playing local tournaments

Questions

* How does the Academy fit into this – they are very open to all these plans
* Noted that this year will be odd – setting framework, running a few courses hopefully
* How do you motivate players to want coaching

**League play:**

Short Croquet

* The Spring Short Croquet tournament at Nailsea has been cancelled.

League play

* Stephen will be contacting all clubs towards the end of the month with entry and fee forms for the Leagues which you will be asked to return by 21st Feb.
* He plans a quick turnaround to let you know who plays who and you’ll have 6 weeks or so to fix the dates and let him know.
* So the assumption is being made that play will continue as normal but clubs will be asked to arrange their games later rather than earlier and there will be no penalties for teams unable to raise a team after they have entered.

Joint teams

* Some clubs have difficulty getting a team together
* There seems no reason for a couple of clubs to pool resources
* Second membership for a zero fee could be offered for the sole purpose of establishing a joint team

Question

* What if covid restricts numbers on lawns – rethink formats – SWF committee will take this on board

And the message from a statistician is: Get vaccinated – statistically it’s a no brainer!

The next meeting will be 9th Feb so put the date in your diary.

Ideas for topics to Paul.

The next Cygnet will be going out towards the end of February but articles are welcome any time – just send them to me.