**SWF Zoom Meeting 9.3.21**

**Key Topic: Child Safeguarding**

35 people attended

A recording of this session may be accessed:   
<https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/-oP8Xt8FIVpwQalz-nQNxvJxU8LNb_1c0oWogqjyoR9ywPeauz0rNi_ZhYbljT0M.z0beQzCdCO3AZf1i>

Passcode: 9YqL6Ki@

We welcomed Ron Carter, the CA’s newly appointed Safeguarding Officer who introduced us to the newly adopted CA Safeguarding Policy.

This is a comprehensive policy with accompanying guidance and pro-formas which may be found on <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding>

Ron’s presentation is attached and the key points are:

* Safeguarding is everyone’s responsibility
* It’s not only about sexual abuse but awareness of other reasons for vulnerability
* Emotional abuse is one possibility – this can happen to anyone: how often have we felt uncomfortable / anxious / threatened when playing doubles with some people?
* Focus on prevention – think about what might stop children enjoying croquet?
* Tie in with risk assessments – anticipate difficulties
* Be comfortable with reporting concerns
* Look out for vulnerable adults and general welfare later in the year

Why should a club with no under 18s have policy?

* Because CA wants to attract more children
* Because they may have visiting teams or tournaments involving U18s and need to understand who to liaise with and what their responsibilities might be
* Remember that good safeguarding procedures also protect members from unfounded and malicious allegations.

Discussion points

* Important to bring club members on board – be positive and talk about progress rather than change
* Pay as you play initiative will bring its own issues because people aren’t known – sign up of the webinar on this [webinar on Pay and Play sessions](https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=press/news&NewsID=7022&pup=y)
* Could be an issue if unaccompanied U18s turn up e.g. on an Open Day
* Remember track and trace responsibilities are still in place

Please find below a pro-forma that you might find helpful to record your club’s adoption of the CA Child Safeguarding Policy.

Feedback

* This is the first time Ron has given this presentation and he would welcome feedback. Please send your comments to Paul [paulwfrancis@icloud.com](mailto:paulwfrancis@icloud.com) or Linda [lindawithani@hotmail.com](mailto:lindawithani@hotmail.com)

**Coaching**

* Roger urged everyone to look out for the email that will be arriving shortly which outlines the Coaching SW plans
* Bath, Budleigh and Camerton have signed up to be hub clubs – many thanks
* Clubs will also be receiving a link to a Zoom session for would-be coaches on 18th March: your club will receive details of this
* Brian urged people to attend this pointing out how much you can learn about your own play by becoming a coach

**Leagues**

* Stephen reported that everything is on schedule at the moment
  + 27 clubs have entered and will be fielding 111 teams
* Blocks are slightly smaller than usual so fewer matches will be played
  + Just as well as the playing season will be shorter than usual
* No B League this year but there is no reason why it should not resume next year
* Finals will be held over two weekends: 18/19th Sept and 25/26 Sept

**Development**

* Paul asked all clubs to complete the survey about Club Matters that was sent out by the CA on Paul’s behalf
  + He plans a seminar for interested clubs in due course
  + Please note a Return to Play grant is available from Sport England <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/coronavirus/return-play>
    - You can check your chances by entering your postcode – but do apply anyway
    - Many Bowls clubs have already received these
* Active Partnerships exist across the country and incorporate an activity finder – you can get croquet listed there
  + There are Active Partnerships for Cornwall, Devon, Cornwall, SASP (parts of Somerset)
  + They are very helpful and will signpost you if they can’t help

**Future**

* Our April session will be held on 13th April, and we are delighted that Jonathan Toye from the East Anglia Federation will be attending to give SWF clubs an insight on accessibility issues for members and visitors. Jonathan will explain what can be achieved in the short to long-term.
* Dave Kibble volunteered to run a Zoom session on the new AC Laws – date to be arranged and circulated

**Policy Adoption Pro-forma**



Child Safeguarding Policy

Club logo

Name of Croquet Club

Date

As a member of the Croquet Association, name of club Croquet Club accepts that the club Committee and its officers have lead responsibility in this area and has established checks and procedures to ensure the following are implemented:

* CA Child Safeguarding Policy: <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding>
* Safeguarding Codes of Conduct: <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding/conduct>
* Child Safeguarding Processes: <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding/processes>
* Child Safeguarding Guidelines: <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/schemes/safeguarding/guidance>

The name of club Committee will ensure:

1. A Local Safeguarding Officer (LSO) is appointed and their details registered with the CA
2. All members of name of club are informed on joining, and annually thereafter, of their responsibilities:
   1. Be aware of the need to safeguard children (i.e. those under 18 years)
   2. Be good role models both in play and other croquet activities
   3. Be aware of, and comply with, the CA Codes of Safeguarding Conduct
   4. Know how to contact their Local Safeguarding Officer (LSO)
   5. Report any safeguarding concerns they have to the LSO at the earliest opportunity
3. Those whose responsibilities will, or may, include Safeguarding responsibilities liaise with the LSO to ensure they are undertaken properly. These include:
   1. Membership Secretary
   2. Those with access to personal data
   3. Coaches
   4. Team Captains
   5. Tournament and event organizers
4. Our adoption and implementation of this policy, and LSO contact details are available:
   1. On our website
   2. Clearly displayed posters on our premises
5. Implementation of this policy is monitored at each committee meeting and an annual report is presented to AGM.
6. This policy is reviewed at least every three years

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| This policy was adopted by the Club Committee on date |
| It will be reviewed date in 3 years time |

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| Our Local Safeguarding Officer is:  Name and contact details | The CA Safeguarding Officer is:  Dr Ron Carter  [dr.roncarter@gmail.com](mailto:dr.roncarter@gmail.com)  079 732 393 19 |

This could be made a more attractive poster for the noticeboard by the addition of a suitable graphic.

Advise keeping it fairly simple as people get fed up printing docs with lots of background colour.