

## SWF Committee Meeting 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022: Minutes of Zoom meeting

### 1. Present

- a. Tony Mayer, Paul Francis, Peter Kirby, Andru Blewett, Linda Shaw

### 2. Apologies

- a. Stephen Custance-Baker, Brian Wilson

### 3. Minutes of last meeting

- a. Attached and previously circulated
- b. Agreed as correct

### 4. Matters arising / Update on Actions

- a. Linda: revised policies in Cygnet and on website
  - i. Covered in the agenda
- b. Stephen: discuss Open League trophy with Stuart Smith
  - i. This has been acquired and is now being engraved
- c. Tony: letter to GC Committee re C League
  - i. Covered in the agenda
- d. Linda: Cygnet article on attracting and encouraging beginners
  - i. done, no feedback
- e. Linda: raise Safeguarding process and support concerns at Feds Focus meeting
  - i. Done – covered in agenda
- f. Linda: follow up on promised website feedback
  - i. Done – covered in the agenda
- g. Linda: Cygnet article re CA Diploma scheme
  - i. done
- h. Paul: devise Survey Monkey poll re hosting regional Charity 1 Ball final
  - i. Outstanding – needs sorting for next year – **Action: Paul** to contact 4-lawn clubs and 3-lawn clubs if needed
- i. Linda: arrange new date for meeting scheduled for 20<sup>th</sup> Oct
  - i. Covered in the agenda

### 5. Youth Development

- a. Due to circumstances beyond her control, Hope Bourton, the newly appointed Youth Development Officer, was unable to join us
- b. Agreed Paul contact her with a view to inviting her to one of the winter Zoom sessions
- c. Paul identified some of the emerging issues
  - i. Programme of activities
  - ii. Communicating with clubs
  - iii. Links with Safeguarding issues
  - iv. **Action: Paul** will write an item for the next Cygnet

## 6. Treasurer

- a. There have been no financial transactions since the May report
- b. Peter will not be available for the AGM so ways of presenting the financial information and answering queries was discussed.
- c. Agreed action
  - i. **Peter** will record his presentation which will be shown at the AGM
  - ii. **Peter** will ask Bob Whiffen (examiner of our accounts) to be present to help answer queries
  - iii. A **committee** briefing session will be held on 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7.00pm
- d. We have received the following request from Bristol CC:
  - i. Might the SWF buy, then lend out, some sets of Ultra hoops, for member clubs to borrow for their CA tournaments? Bristol would use three sets, three times a year.
  - ii. Discussion focussed on
    1. Whether these represent value for money
    2. Whether there was sufficient demand in the region
    3. That there are more productive uses the money could be used for e.g. coaching
- e. It was therefore agreed not to purchase the hoops
  - i. **Action: Linda** will respond to Bristol CC
- f. **Action: Paul** to contact Guernsey CC to establish if they would like to join SWF

## 7. Leagues

- a. Stephen's report had been previously circulated and was noted - see p5
- b. Agreed: suggested change to Expiry of Time Limit in AC Rules **Action: Stephen**
- c. Proposed GC Level Play League
  - i. Tony confirmed he had received no reply from anyone to his follow up letter
  - ii. The GC Tournament Committee's comments on travelling long distances was noted as disappointingly unencouraging and not inclusive seeming to justify wholesale discrimination against a group of players
  - iii. Agreed we propose a new league at the AGM and will take advice from Stephen on where the lower handicap limit will lie – 5 seems popular and was also independently suggested by Dowlish Wake CC
- d. B League
  - i. Noted that this was originally designed for Beginners but many teams consist of long-standing players whose handicaps remain high
  - ii. We need to reflect on whether this is helpful to new players especially in the light of Short Croquet
  - iii. Should we just rename it as a high handicap league?
  - iv. **Action: Stephen** please consider and advise
- e. Finals arrangements
  - i. **Action: Linda** to liaise with Bristol CC re referee
  - ii. **Action: Tony** to ask Klim if he can act as referee at Cheltenham

## 8. Development

9. Pauls' report had been previously circulated and was noted – see p7
10. Noted that across the country there have been several enquiries about establishing new clubs
  - a. Locally there is a group near Ross on Wye and another at Paignton
    - i. Paul is ensuring support
  - b. Linda and Dave K enjoyed a lovely day at Moreton in Marsh's celebrations and fundraising – they have achieved an impressive amount

## 11. Coaching

- a. Nothing we can do til next year when various improvements hopefully agreed
- b. Noted we need to budget for this – it will be possible to use the Judith Moore Bursary for this next year **Action: Peter & Paul**
- c. Noted lack of interest in Dave K's Referees' course – may be more successful in the autumn **Action: Linda** to discuss with DK
- d. Coach of the year – nominations must be submitted by Oct 30<sup>th</sup> – **Action: Linda** article in Cygnet

## 12. Safeguarding

- a. Andru's report was previously circulated and noted – see p8
- b. Our previously expressed concerns have not been addressed
- c. **Action: Andru and Linda** to draft further letter to Ron C, Beatrice and Samir, with SW Reps on copy

## 13. Website

- a. Noted the helpful feedback from Jayne Ellery at Budleigh CC but there is little we can do until we have a volunteer for this role
- b. Noted that list of regional tournaments is now available on individual Fed pages on CA website and will be promoted in Cygnet
- c. Agreed suggested format for presenting policies on website **Action: Linda** liaise with Alison

## 14. Update from SW Rep to CA Council

- a. Brian's report was previously circulated and noted – see p9
- b. Noted the SGM has taken place and the change to CIO Croquet England agreed
- c. One person has expressed an interest in standing as SW Rep to replace Dave Kibble **Action: Linda** will contact him again

## 15. AGM

- a. Schedule for actions was presented and noted and are in hand **Action: Linda**
- b. Various meetings agreed – see below

## 16. AOB

- a. Zoom meetings will resume in October **Action: Paul** to arrange the schedule

## **17. Dates of next meetings**

- a. Next committee meeting Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Oct 10.00 am
- b. Financial briefing session Wed 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 7.00pm
- c. AGM – 20<sup>th</sup> November
- d. Follow up meeting to be confirmed – Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Nov 7.00pm
- e. 2023 schedule – to be confirmed – all scheduled for Thursdays 7.00pm by Zoom
  - i. 19<sup>th</sup> January
  - ii. 23<sup>rd</sup> March
  - iii. 18<sup>th</sup> May
  - iv. 20<sup>th</sup> July
  - v. 21<sup>st</sup> September
  - vi. Oct tba
  - vii. AGM tba
  - viii. Follow up to AGM tba

## League Secretary's report: 13<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Matches completed 180 / 325, of which 3 have been conceded (in different blocks and clubs.)

### SWF AC League Rules

Change required in Appendix 4 'Expiry of Time Limit'. There is a reference to the CA Tournament Regulations but these have changed. I suggest we simply refer to the relevant regulation, rather than quoting it.

### Advantage GC

I keep being asked about whether we have decided to have Advantage GC in next year's GC Handicap leagues.

My stock answer is: *The simple answer is "no, not yet".*

*It's not my decision; the committee will discuss it this autumn and make a recommendation to the AGM.*

*I am personally in favour of Advantage, in principle, but I have concerns about the table that has been published. I believe that it is not suited to the South West Leagues as it is too coarse for wide handicap differences, which we have in our leagues. There is the added complexity of timed games, but we may simply say that all games are untimed.*

*However, I will wait until I have seen the report from the Southern League before making my own mind up.*

### Level Play GC

There are two potentially major changes in the GC Level Play leagues in 2023.

1. A new league, identical to the current GC Level Play league except that no player with a GC handicap below 5 is allowed to play. (Usual exemption for players who play the whole season and qualify for a play-off.)
2. A proposal (from Nailsea) may be put to the AGM for the GC Level Play league to be reformatted to match the AC Advanced league, i.e. three blocks at different levels, with a single promotion / relegation between them each year.

If this happens, we will need to decide (A) whether it's a good idea and (B) how we assign teams to divisions for the first season.

The benefit is that the teams will meet others of a similar level but there may be a problem with increased travel times.

We currently have 13 teams in 3 blocks in this league, but this seems likely to rise. At present, Glamorgan and Winterborne Valley have the widest geographical spread.

(In the AC Advanced, Division 1 has Cheltenham and Sidmouth, Division 2 has Glamorgan and Budleigh, Division 3 has Bristol and Sidmouth.)

### Handicap GC Timed Games

There have been some complaints of ambiguity in the rules about timed games. I think they're clear, but we could change the phrasing.

The list of reps and refs at the final is:

Venue	Date	League	Rep	Ref
Swindon	Sat 17/Sep/22	B League	Tony Mayer	Tony Mayer
Nailsea	Sat 17/Sep/22	Short Croquet Open	Stephen C-B	Stephen C-B
Sidmouth	Sun 18/Sep/22	Intermediate	Paul Francis	Richard Wood
Bristol	Sun 18/Sep/22	GC Level Play	Linda Shaw	Bristol will provide
Cheltenham	Sat 24/Sep/22	Federation	Tony Mayer	Klim to be asked
Camerton	Sat 24/Sep/22	GC High Handicap	Brian Wilson	Brian Wilson
Budleigh	Sun 25/Sep/22	Short Croquet Restricted	Paul Francis	Paul Francis
Bath	Sun 25/Sep/22	GC Handicap	Andru Blewett	Andru Blewett

I have started the process of gathering the trophies together so that they can be taken to the proper venues or given to the rep who will be going.

Stephen Custance-Baker

## **SWF Development Report**

### **New clubs**

#### Enquiries

- Ross on Wye: PF has had an initial Zoom meeting to discuss the options. Hope to use Moreton in Marsh to give them advice.
- Paignton: Zoom to be arranged for late July

### **First year clubs**

- Tisbury:
  - PF and BW - 2 visits to support this developing club who share grounds with an existing bowling club
  - Some of their members have played AC, but at the moment they do not use the pivot ball i.e. try to go round with 2 balls!!
  - In June BW visited them to support the club and Tisbury's Jubilee celebrations where James May opened the croquet celebrations and spent plenty of time taking part
  - On-going support
- Bradford on Avon:
  - Up to 22 members but there is a regular stream of enquiries. Some testing problems but overall progress is good.
  - Evening for local secondary school teachers was a big success. There were 24 participants and the P.E. curriculum for year 11 start next April.
  - This week we play a short croquet friendly against Kington Langley.
  - July 25th we are running a short session for Ukranian children living in BOA, there are about 15.

### **Existing clubs**

#### Bude:

- PF visited in early June to advise on their CA grant application (club house). They have just submitted this for approval.

#### Lym Valley

- Principally an AC club - but they are looking to introduce GC
- BW offered support and awaits further information

#### Weston super Mare

- Some worrying news - their lease ends in December and they cannot get an answer from the landlord (a local farmer)
- BW contacted Jan Scotchmer and discussed the options - with ideas of avenues worth further investigation
- Awaiting to hear more

#### Paul Francis

## **Safeguarding Officer Report to SWF Committee**

I have recently spent some time trying to get my head around the substantial volume of material contained in the CA Child Safeguarding Policy and have also read through the CA Safeguarding Adults at Risk Policy now on the CA website.

I have also notified Ron Carter that I have taken over the role of SO for SWF.

I had a very helpful conversation with Linda on the subject and looked back over various notes Linda had prepared for a SWF committee meeting 31.3.21. Following the meeting these notes have been added to and now run to some 14 pages.

Below I have extracted what I feel are some of the salient points and issues raised. In essence there seems to have been very little lead, information or support coming from the CA.

- The new policies were put on CA website a few weeks ago but still there has been no direct communication with clubs or LSOs
- There has been no feedback from the Feds' Forum on their action to progress this
- There is no register or list of LSOs
- There is no eye-catching poster for clubs or events
- The CA SO is slow to respond to communications and his replies lack clarity

Andru Blewett 21/07/2022



## **SW Rep to CA Council**

### **CA - Charitable status**

- The SGM (using zoom) is on 18th July - vote on line on the day
- There has been some email and postal votes
- Assuming the vote is in favour, the CA will be presenting the revised Constitution to the Charity Commission asking to become a CIO
- Assuming that's passed by the Charity Commission then, over the next year, the CA will move from its current status, to a CIO and the name changed from Croquet Association to Croquet England
- Thanks to the SW Fed for reminding clubs about the SGM - so they can remind their members

### **CA scrutiny**

- The Council Working Group (Dave Kibble, Peter Allan and myself) have found that Policies and Schemes are not all in one place and some documents need to be reviewed by Council and Executive Board
- The Working Party will then proceed to consider all Policies and Schemes to identify measurable targets for monitoring and evaluation

### **CA Council Rep**

- Dave K is not standing (he will be missed) - so the SW Fed constituency is looking to fill this vitally important post - after all, it is highly likely that the CA will become a Charity and there will be much important work to carry out
- Whilst the SW Fed has sent details to the clubs - I would encourage everyone to talk with people who would be able to fill this post

Brian Wilson