

South West Federation Clubs' Zoom Meeting 11.10.22

Around 18 SWF clubs were represented at this, our first Zoom of the winter season.

Next Generation

We welcomed Hope Bourton who is working for the CA as the Next Generation Development Officer.

Her remit is to establish pathways for young people (technically under 25 but in practice the project appears to be developing for 7–14 year-olds), into croquet.

She plans to work with schools, scouts and similar, Duke of Edinburgh awards etc and to create links with local croquet clubs.

As a pilot she is looking to work with around two clubs in each region who have the necessary resources – enthusiasm, time, facilities etc – to work with the project which plans to offer a planned introduction to croquet through GC into AC.

Teaching and practical (Foxy hoops, mallets etc) resources are being developed or secured to support this with a view to starting in April 2023.

She was asked about Safeguarding arrangements and said these would be in place.

In addition to Bath – already committed - Worcester Norton CC is interested in taking part in the pilot. Any club who would like to find out more should contact Hope on: ngdo@croquet.org.uk

Thanks to Hope for talking to us tonight.

AGM

This will be held on 20th November by Zoom.

The deadline for nominations to committee and proposals for debate is midnight tonight.

So far, all the committee are standing for re-election but there are no new candidates. We would love to hear from people who would like to support the work of the committee more actively – please contact us to discuss further with perhaps a view to co-option.

An outline of proposals submitted so far was presented. Full details will be circulated with other papers after the committee meeting on 19th October and before the constitutional deadline of 23rd Oct.

Club issues

Lawns

- Several clubs have been badly affected by drought – although Lym Valley were actually flooded and have since installed flood protection measures
- Some clubs plan to continue to play through the winter

- Lawns are being scarified and generally cared for at the moment creating ideal conditions for leatherjackets for which there is no legal treatment in the UK

Development

- Bude CC are playing on two lawns and are hoping to be playing on 4 in the future
 - However, the provision of a pavilion is more problematic
- Swanage are engaged with their cricket club hosts over charges

Play

- East Dorset reported good competition results
- Swanage reported a lot of improving handicaps
- A few clubs are having difficulty attracting players willing to play competitively which limits their capacity to enter Leagues
 - Some of this is due to the travel that is sometimes involved
 - Stephen tries to minimise this but some travel will be inevitable
- Some concern at the apparent inconsistency of handicaps in League play
 - The last two years have made this difficult and it may be something we could usefully address in a future Zoom
- Dowlish Wake won the CA Federations GC Shield

Advantage GC

- Mixed and inconclusive verdicts on this so far
- Nailsea CC have withdrawn their proposal to replace GC handicap leagues with Advantage GC and the SWF committee are keeping this under review – feedback and experiences very welcome

Next meeting

- Tuesday 8th November