

SWF Committee Meeting 23rd March 2023 7.00pm: Minutes

Present

Tony Mayer, Brian Wilson, Stephen Custance-Baker, Paul Francis, Linda Shaw
Mike Rice joined the meeting after item 2.

Apologies:

Peter Kirby, Andru Blewett

1) Application for co-option

- a) Mike Rice replied to a request in Cygnet for a handicapping officer. He met with several of the committee by Zoom and submitted an application for co-option.
- b) It was unanimously agreed that he be co-opted and Stephen will support with analysing handicaps as demonstrated through League games.
- c) Mike was then welcomed to the meeting

2) Minutes of last meeting – these were agreed as correct

3) Update and Matters Arising - not covered elsewhere

- a) There were none

4) Treasurer's Report

- a) See reports in Appendix 1
- b) Noted the difficulty that Peter (and other clubs) are experiencing with amending or opening accounts
- c) Peter to be asked if The Bears financial assets have been transferred yet. **Action: Linda**

5) League Secretary

- a) No League play has yet started
- b) Arrangements for Referees and SWF reps at finals matches will be arranged by mid-season.
Action: Stephen
- c) Dave Kibble (Bristol) has asked the committee to consider how clubs fielding more than one Advanced League team might manage themselves differently
 - i) He was asked to develop a workable proposal – this might be done in conjunction with other clubs in the same situation.
 - ii) No response yet. **Action: Linda** to follow up

6) Development Officer

- a) See report Appendix 2 for report
- b) Klim is still away and has not made contact with Beckford yet
- c) Brian has contacted all the clubs in his area and received replies from two. An information sheet has been created to promote the SWF.
- d) Swindon expanding to 5 lawns from 3 – new lease will be issued once all the work at grounds has been completed
- e) Next Zoom

- i) April 11th will be last Zoom for this season
 - (1) Stephen on using extra strokes
 - (2) Paul – coaching info
 - (3) CE is now a charity – implications for clubs
 - (4) Discuss views on dress code for whites
 - (5) Update from David Warhurst on BS Croquet College. Can SCB do something – using extra strokes
- f) Weston super Mare continue to be supported – site visit to be offered in April **Action: Paul**

7) Coaching

- a) See Appendix 3 for report
- b) Congratulations to Paul for his success on becoming a Grade 2 Examining Coach
 - i) This means we can now run hybrid courses again so the next step will be to establish the level of demand for coaching qualifications and identify the hub clubs and volunteers
 - ii) Referee's qualification course locally would be helpful. **Action: Linda** to ask DK
- c) **Action: Brian** offering his GC refs services via Cygnet

8) Handicapping

- a) There appear to have been no developments on the GC / AC handicap conversion front but Brian Fisk will be at next weeks' CE webinar when there will be a Q&A following the presentation on handicapping
 - i) **Action: Mike** will endeavour to attend

9) Safeguarding

- a) Andru now has details of 13 LSOs in the region and clubs continue to be contacted – there will be an article in the next Cygnet
- b) There appear to be moves at CE to redefine the Safeguarding role as Club Welfare Officer but no details on this have been issued.

10) Feds' Focus Group

- a) Reports of the last meeting have been circulated
- b) Noted the group seems to be developing a bit more of a sense of direction but there is a way to go – e.g. to make it more focussed and effective
- c) Discussed how we might improve the quality / amount of input from SWF clubs e.g. Cygnet, Survey Monkeys but no definite actions agreed.

11) Update from Rep to CA Council

- a) CA is now a charity and will be making the transition to Croquet England
 - i) look out for further news as the transfer takes place – look out for elections for Trustees – representation will change – constituency areas may change – fewer on Council
- b) Watch out for safeguarding updates

12) Committee membership

- a) We still have vacancies – there will be a further item in Cygnet and can everyone please keep the sensors out for new people

13) AOB

- a) At Bristol CC's AGM one member asked why whites were compulsory in competitions. Apparently, there is something of a movement pointing out this could be discriminatory vis a vis e.g. menstruating women, people with urinary or bowel incontinence. They requested this be discussed by SWF in the first instance.
 - i) SWF is supportive of this and also concerned that the current dress code may be affecting recruitment and will raise it at next Feds Forum. **Action: Paul / Tony**
- b) C&P CC new club house is functioning and they are considering having open play day by invitation to neighbouring clubs
- c) Stephen – invite for reps and refs at finals going out soon
- d) Stephen – notice of forthcoming coaching pods at Taunton will go in Cygnet
- e) Stephen will be circulating his AGC paper to those involved in its development and is considering submitting an article to the Gazette
 - i) We will be surveying our members on their views again in the autumn after a season's play

14) Dates of next meetings

- i) 25th May
- ii) 13th July
- iii) 21st September
- iv) Oct tba – Stephen will be away a lot – requires careful planning nearer the time
- v) AGM 19th Nov
- vi) Follow up to AGM tba

Appendix 1



South West Federation of Croquet Clubs



Treasurers Report 16th March 2023

Summary of Expected Income & Expenditure for 2023

I refer to the table on page 3, this shows the budget for 2023, the actual income & expenditure for the period up to March 16th, 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 £62 lower than expected in the budget principally due to a slightly lower than anticipated entry in the Nailsea & Buldleigh Short Croquet Tournaments (55 entries vs expected 60).

Expenses are currently expected to be in line with the forecast, although it is early in the financial year to be confident of the final outcome.

In summary the net impact is that there is a projected deficit for the year of around £529 vs the expected deficit of £470. This slightly higher deficit can be adequately covered by reserves.

Creditors / Debtors

Debtors – c. £1,000 payment from the Bears Residual Fund

Balance Sheet

At March 13th there was £6,223 cash at Bank excluding the Judith Moore Bursary (see below),

Judith Moore Bursary

The February GC Referees Course was supported by the Judith Moore Bursary Fund with a net payment from the fund amounting to £201, and the cash balance is now £4,799.

It is anticipated that payments from the Fund of c. £1,000 will be made in the current year to support coaching projects as outlined at the AGM. It is too early to give an updated estimate.

Banking

A Savings account has now been opened with Nat West and this will pay a modest interest rate on a portion of the reserves held by the Federation.



South West Federation of Croquet Clubs



Cash Reconciliation to 13 March 2023

RECEIPTS		2023				
	Subscriptions		497.40			
	Association league fees		180.00			
	Short Croquet league fees		72.00			
	Golf league fees		268.00			
	Short croquet Tournament fees		829.00			
	Adverts		6.00			
	AGM		0.00			
	February Referees Course		640.00			
	CA refund of travel expenses		0.00			
	Donations / Bursary received		0.00			
	Sundries		0.00			
				2,492.40		
PAYMENTS						
	Subs Refund	0.00				
	Cygnets production	0.00				
	Trophies	0.00				
	League finals	0.00				
	Short croquet	0.00				
	February Referees Course	841.37				
	Travel expenses	0.00				
	Bursary travel expenses	0.00				
	AGM Workshops Costs	0.00				
	SWF Website	135.00				
	AGM	0.00				
	Administration	0.00				
	Sundries	143.88				
			1,120.25			
RECEIPTS LESS PAYMENTS				1,372.15		
ADD TO OPENING CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE (31/10/22)				9,649.19		
CALCULATED CLOSING CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE				11,021.34		
ACTUAL CLOSING CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE				11,021.34		
PLUS CHEQUES RECEIVED NOT YET BANKED				11,021.34		
CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE RECONCILIATION				0.00		
Opening balance at 31/10/22 excludes creditors of £12 (pre-payment of fees)						



South West Federation of Croquet Clubs



Actual and Projected vs Budget for 2023

General Account	BUDGET 2023	Actual Mar-23	Projected 2023	Projected less Budget
INCOME				
Subscriptions	480	497	497	17
League Fees	528	520	520	-8
Short Croquet Tournament Fees	900	829	829	-71
Bears Residual Fund	100	0	100	0
Cygnets Adverts	42	6	42	0
	2050	1852	1988	-62
EXPENDITURE				
Trophies	288	0	288	0
League finals	774	0	774	0
Short croquet	1056	0	1056	0
Travel expenses	120	0	120	0
SWF Website	135	135	135	0
Sundries	144	144	144	0
	2517	279	2517	0
SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	-467		-529	
Judith Moore Bursary Fund				
INCOME				
February GC Referees Course	n/a	640	640	n/a
EXPENDITURE				
February GC Referees Course	n/a	841	841	n/a
SURPLUS / DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	-1000		-201	-1000
Peter Kirby				
SWF Treasurer				

Appendix 2

Development Report

New Club

Cripplegate Bowls Club (Worcester) were visited in late February to discuss the introduction of a croquet section.

The club is about to register with the CA and SWF with Klim Seabright ready to support this Spring. They will have one court dedicated to croquet, it's in pretty good condition and perfectly flat.

Next Generation

Bath, Bradford on Avon, Nailsea and Worcester Norton will be taking part in this summer's pilot programme. This is equivalent to over 50% of the national programme.

Swanage: Re-location

The club's negotiations with a local builder have stalled.

The back up option, to play temporarily on a school field has been agreed.

In 2023, all Swanage league fixtures will be away matches.

Appendix 3

Coaching Report

Examining Coach

In mid-March, PF attended/assisted at a two day coaching course at Southwick.

As a result he has been recommended to become an Examining Coach. Official confirmation to follow from the Chair of the Coaching Committee.

Implications for the SWF

This means we can now offer hybrid course in 2023. PF will be qualified to deliver club level and grade 1 courses for GC/AC.

Next steps

- Invite interested players to a Zoom introduction
- Establish level of demand
- Approach hubs for day 2 of the programme
- Set dates for Zoom sessions and practical days
- Liaise with hub clubs with regards to facilities and volunteers