

Minutes: SWF Committee Meeting 1.8.23

Present

Tony Mayer, Paul Francis, Stephen Custance-Baker, Andru Blewett, Mike Rice, Peter Kirby, Linda Shaw

Apologies

Brian Wilson

1) Minutes of May meeting

- a) These had been previously circulated and were agreed as correct.

2) Matters arising not covered elsewhere

- a) Any matters arising are included in the agenda.

3) Treasurer's Report

- a) Previously circulated – see below

4) League Secretary's Report

- a) Previously circulated – see below
- b) Update
 - i) 220 matches now played
 - ii) Bath through to GC level play-off
- c) Div 2 Advanced
 - i) Bristol second team is promoted Bristol so Bristol have 2 teams in Division 1.
 - ii)
- d) Trophies
 - i) Should be no problems with trophies engraving
 - ii) Agreed to buy trophy for GC Level 5+ as none offered by clubs
 - iii) **Action: Stephen** will research the options and discuss costs with Peter
 - iv) Plans for all trophies to be taken to their respective finals venues but venue for GC is not yet known
- e) Finals
 - i) SWF reps for all finals sorted
 - ii) Referee need for GC final at Nailsea
 - (1) **Action: Linda** to arrange
 - iii) AC ref needed for the SC final

5) Development Officer's Report

- a) See report below – brief update was given on a couple of clubs
 - i) Gorsley is a new club near the Forest of Dean which has received a lot of support from Brian Shorney and Cheltenham CC – they are in the process of deciding which Federation to join.
 - ii) Noted that Cripplegate CC have joined the CA but they are not currently showing on the database
 - iii) **Action: Linda** to check with CA
- b) Next Generation

- i) Lym Valley is doing excellent work on this and croquet is now on the school curriculum
- ii) Good work being done across the country and there will be a CA Webinar on Jan 24 for any new clubs interested
- c) Zooms
 - i) Dates as set out below and schedule based on suggestions from members
 - ii) The first meeting will be a general catch up and key points for AGM

10 th October	12 th Dec	13 th Feb
14 th Nov	9 th Jan	13 th March

- iii) Subsequent topics: Lawn management, AGC, Fundraising, Dress code, Croquet Eng, GC - AC

6) Coaching Officer's Report

- a) See report below
 - i) The practical part of the course will take place at Bradford on Avon
 - ii) Budget including mileage for everyone is estimated at £500 which is within our budget

7) Handicapping Officer's Report

- a) See report below
- b) Following discussion of the issues this raises, a letter is to be sent to the CA Handicapping Committee highlighting concerns about inconsistently applied guidelines, no provision for friendlies, fast improvers etc
 - i) **Action: Mike** to draft letter for approval by the committee
- c) Re: handicaps in the SW, it is too early to draw any conclusions from match play and discrepancies noted are likely to be due to the lawns rather than incorrect handicaps

8) Safeguarding Officer's Report

- a) Correspondence with Beatrice concerning lack of clarity over aspects of the Safeguarding / Welfare role was outlined.
 - i) **Action: Andru and Linda** will draft a reply to Beatrice and circulate for committee approval.

9) Committee roles

- a) League Secretary vacancy – see further info below
 - i) It was agreed that the role lends itself well to job-share as outlined by Stephen
 - ii) **Action: Stephen** to email to match secs and team captains inviting people who might be interested to contact him, and will write a piece for Cygnet
- b) Development Officer vacancy
 - i) **Action: Paul** to write piece for Cygnet
- c) Refereeing Officer – Brian had brought to our attention discussion about this at CA but in his absence, this was not discussed further

10) AGM preparations

- a) Draft call for nominations and proposals agreed with references to potential proposals to be removed
 - i) **Action: Linda** to send to clubs

- b) Advantage GC consultation
 - i) The number of responses and ambivalent comments combined with a very low level of experience mean that we are no closer to establishing a Federation view on this.
- c) introducing a base for Federation and Intermediate Leagues
 - i) This has been raised with Stephen who asked if they would like to put a proposal to the AGM
 - (1) **Action: Mike** to discuss further with the club
- d) Possible proposal re dress code for League games – feedback requested from League Secs and team captains
 - i) **Action: Linda** to write report for next Cygnet

11) Rep to CA Council Report

- a) None received

12) AOB

- a) On going enquiries about the person who may or may not be a Referee
 - i) **Action: Tony** to investigate further
- b) Is the way of managing conceded matches in Leagues fair?
 - i) **Action: Stephen** to reflect on the rules and consider the issue
- c) Humpty Balls
 - i) These have replaced Dawson balls but are generally found to be not fit for purpose
 - ii) **Action: Linda** to contact other Feds and write item for Cygnet to establish scale of problem and any action that may be being taken by the CA Shop who sold these to clubs.

13) Dates of next committee meetings

- 21st September
- 9th October
- AGM 19th Nov
- Follow up to AGM 27th November

Treasurer's report



South West Federation of Croquet Clubs



Treasurers Report 21st July 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 July 21st, 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 £281 higher than expected in the budget principally due to the distribution from the Bears Residual Fund being higher than anticipated (+£69) and amounts received in respect of compensation from the Bank (+£150) and Bank Interest expected to be received (+£110) both of which were not included in the Budget.

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 £186 vs the expected deficit of £467.

Creditors / Debtors

None

Balance Sheet

At July 21st there was £7,508 cash at Bank excluding the Judith Moore Bursary (see below),

Banking

I refer back to my May report, and can confirm that the overpayment in respect of bank compensation of £20 and over payments of interest over a 2 month period have now both been clawed back by NatWest.

I am not expecting any further transactions to arise from the opening of the savings account.

Judith Moore Bursary

There have been no further payments from the Bursary Fund since my last report.

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.



South West Federation of Croquet Clubs



Cash Reconciliation to 21 July 2023

	2023				
RECEIPTS					
Subscriptions		505.40			
Association league fees		180.00			
Short Croquet league fees		72.00			
Golf league fees		268.00			
Short croquet Tournament fees		829.00			
Adverts		36.00			
Bank Compensation		150.00			
February Referees Course		640.00			
Bank Interest Received		64.69			
Donations / Bursary received		1,075.39			
Sundries		0.00			
			3,820.48		
PAYMENTS					
Subs Refund	0.00				
Cyqnet production	0.00				
Trophies	0.00				
League finals	0.00				
Short croquet	0.00				
February Referees Course	841.37				
Travel expenses	43.20				
Bursary travel expenses	128.00				
AGM Workshops Costs	0.00				
SWF Website	135.00				
AGM	0.00				
Administration	0.00				
Sundries	143.88				
		1,291.45			
RECEIPTS LESS PAYMENTS			2,529.03		
ADD TO OPENING CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE (31/10/22)			9,649.19		
CALCULATED CLOSING CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE			12,178.22		
ACTUAL CLOSING CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE			12,178.22		
PLUS CHEQUES RECEIVED NOT YET BANKED			12,178.22		
CURRENT ACCOUNT BALANCE RECONCILIATION			0.00		
Opening balance at 31/10/22 excludes creditors of £12 (pre-payment of fees)					

League Secretary's report

208 of 290 matches have been played.

5 have been conceded (5 different clubs and 5 different blocks)

The winners of some of the blocks are now known:

Into the play-offs:

- AC Federation Central – Taunton Deane (to play off against Federation North East)
- GC High Handicap South West – Taunton Deane (to play off against High Handicap South East)
- Into the finals:
- AC Federation East Dorset (v play-off winner)
- AC Intermediate Cheltenham v East Dorset
- AC B League Bath (v North)
- Short Croquet Open Exeter (v North)
- Short Croquet Restricted Bristol (v West)
- GC Level Play 5+ Bristol (v South)

The award plaques are about to be ordered.

We still have no trophy for the GC Level Play 5+ league.

Arrangements have been made for most trophies to get to the finals venues. Yet to be organised are:

AC Federation from Winterborne Valley to Budleigh

AC B League from Weston to Cheltenham

GC Level Play from Winterborne Valley to ?

Stephen Custance-Baker

SWF League Secretary

Development Officer's Report

Brian Wilson

- Kington Langley
 - Working in support of their project for a new club house (to be erected on the same footprint as their current one) - they are looking for a CA Grant
 - We have not seen the plans, but we have provided feedback and advice as to enhancing their project application e.g. need at least 2 quotes
 - Although we have offered a number of dates for a meeting with KL, to date none has been arranged
- BW has offered a package of further GC rules/faults coaching (wrong balls, crush and double taps etc) on 31/7/23
- Tisbury
 - We have now had a full report from this new club - there is a need for GC and AC handicapping and coaching
 - PF (AC) and BW (GC) will arrange
- WSM
 - We are supporting WSM with advice on their current and future status as well as coaching
 - PF/SCB/BW attended for a full day of GC coaching
 - BW has offered a package of further GC rules/faults coaching (wrong balls, crush and double taps etc) on 31/7/23
- Other clubs
 - Although all clubs have been notified of the availability of PF/KS/BW - to date BW has had no response from any other club in his 'area' as to their development needs

Klim Seabright

- There is not much development work going on at this end of the Federation. That is to be expected since most clubs are involved in playing rather than planning.
- My own club, Cheltenham, has a sub-committee set up to look at a make over of the clubhouse. I think the actual work is some way off because they will need to present proposals to the main committee and consult the membership. I don't think CCC will be looking to CA or Federation for any input.
- Moreton have contacted me about further CA funding. This is based on increased cost of materials since COVID/Ukraine.
- There was talk of possible coaching at a new club in Worcester and Mumbles but this has not so far materialised.

Paul Francis

- McCarthy and Stone (M&S) Promising progress and several potential partnership links in the SWF.
 - East Dorset with Poole development
 - Budleigh Salterton with Exmouth development
 - Taunton Deane with Cullompton development
 - Swindon with Swindon development
 - Bradford on Avon with Warminster development

Proposal is that clubs attend 'coffee mornings' at these developments and apartment owners can then come to their local club with 'pay and play' vouchers (funded by M&S). Kit and activities for 'coffee mornings' to be provided for clubs.

- Next Generation

- Lym Valley have made tremendous progress this season with multiple sessions for local primary schools and Scout groups. PF has visited the club for two sessions.
- Camerton and Peasedown set to join the pilot.
- Worcester Norton have signed up but little progress.

- Winter Zooms

Themes have been set based on club feedback from the last Zoom.

Coaching Report

- Zoom sessions begin in August, Wednesday evenings lasting for 90 minutes. Five in total.
- Participants have already received pre-course information and one task.
- Zooms to be followed up with one practical day where participants will run a series of coaching sessions.
- Grade 1 participants to attend Zoom meetings and practical day as assistant facilitators
- Seven club level applicants so one hub which likely to be at BOA. (St Agnes, Charlton Horethorne x 3, Cheltenham and Bath x 2).
- In mid-September. Five grade 1 applicants (Bristol x 2, Cheltenham x 2 and Moreton in Marsh)

Handicapping Officer's Report

Just a few thoughts which back up why I got involved in handicapping in the first place. There are areas where I believe that improvements can be made but with little possibility of them happening.

My main concern is players with low golf handicaps playing with high association handicaps.

- In a recent handicap event, one player had a GC handicap of 0 and an AC handicap of 18. He won his first three matches 26-2, 26-0 and 26-0. I see that his handicap has now reduced to 16!
- Last year in the final of the Handicap League [*another Federation*] there was one player with a GC of 1 and an AC of 14, and another with 1 and 18. GC players who play very few AC games need their handicaps regularly reviewed, unfortunately there is little incentive for clubs to do this. I feel that a possible solution is to have a minimum gap of say 10.
- At two events, Managers said that they didn't want handicap cards handed in.
 - Are Managers of events on CA calendar given any training or guidance or work to certain standards they have to meet? Or should we be grateful that they give their time to do it?

League Secretary role

The League Secretary's role can, in theory, be carried out by a single person who does little coaching or competitive playing and has an interest in data handling. This would be the best solution, but it could be very difficult to find such a person. It's not that such a person doesn't exist, but that they are unlikely to be prepared to volunteer so much of their time.

I therefore recommend that we consider dividing the role amongst 3 people with discrete responsibilities, perhaps:

- AC League Secretary (including SC)
- GC League Secretary
- Finals League Secretary

Breaking the role into smaller chunks might make it more palatable, with a greater likelihood of finding suitable volunteers.

The attached file is a summary of the actions required at different times of the year. I will provide copies of, and instructions for using, all of my spreadsheets with their associated macros and I will also write up instructions for setting up and updating the website tables. I will offer face-to-face and/or zoom meetings to show the volunteers how I do the job, though I will certainly not insist that they do it the same way.

We will need to discuss this at our next meeting, on August 1st, but I suggest that I could write to all of the match secretaries to let them know and to ask whether they can suggest any suitable candidates.