

SWF Zoom Meeting 12.3.24

Attended by 17 people representing 15 clubs

We remembered **Brian Shorney**, a supporter of so many croquet clubs in the South West and further afield who died recently.

He was Chair of the CA from 2016 – 2018 and a mentor to many clubs, most recently to Garway. Tributes received will be shared in the next issue of Cygnet – please send your memories to Linda lindawithani@hotmail.com

Committee updates

- Noted Croquet England AGM is on Saturday 16th March – all voting members are encouraged to attend
- CqE are increasing the top-level amount of their 5-year loans to £20k with the first repayment not due til year 3
- The amount of the CqE bi-annual club awards is being increased to £1k
- A new CqE award for clubs that were set up in the last 5 years is being introduced – there are a couple of clubs in the SW who could well apply for this
- Tisbury CC now has players with an assessed AC handicap and welcomes friendly matches with other clubs

We considered aspects of the amended **CqE Safeguarding policy and procedures** which now include Vulnerable Adults.

Noted that all Coaches of Under-18s now need to be Licenced by CqE by undertaking the on-line awareness raising training. Both this and the equivalent training for adults at risk awareness have been found to be a helpful background.

However, some clubs are experiencing prolonged delays in having DBS checks processed. This should not be happening **Action: Paul** to take up with Beatrice McGlen, Chair of the CqE Executive Committee. *Note – he has now done this and is expecting a prompt reply*

Some concerns were also expressed about clubs' responsibilities with regard to vulnerable adults. While Adults at Risk are clearly defined by legislation, the recognition that all adults may be vulnerable at some stage and that clubs have some duties of care in this respect, presents a raft of issues and could be seen to assume a high level of skills required to manage such issues effectively and sensitively.

Action: Paul to raise with Beatrice

Action: Tony to raise at Feds Forum

Noted that the CqE webinar on 17th April will be focussing on Safeguarding issues:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87368093494?pwd=QzQwTXVUbFgweVVJMGd0ejVaTE1MUT09>

Meeting ID: 873 6809 3494

Passcode: 245315

Coaching

There will be an information webinar on March 25th at 7.00pm for anyone interested in learning about our next Club-Level Coach course. Please share this information with anyone in your club who is interested in taking this step.

It will take place over two days and will start with two Zoom sessions and include the preparation and delivery by participants on two 50-minute coaching sessions, working with a partner and mentor on this.

It will be suitable for both AC and GC potential coaches and will focus on learning with no formal examination.

Ffi: paulwfrancis@icloud.com

The coaching pages on the CqE website provide really helpful information about the structure of coaching. www.croquet.org.uk/?p=games/coaching

Noted there will be another course for Referees but there are no immediate plans to run this.

SWF Club Volunteer of the Year

SWF is proposing the introduction of a Volunteer of the Year award and has come up with the following framework to start us off:

- Clubs can nominate its volunteer of the year and submit application with testimonies etc.
- All nominations to receive a certificate
- Short List of four or five. All short listed will receive a trophy or equivalent
- Volunteer of the Year will receive trophy or equivalent and SWF to promote to CqE and regional news channels and papers, social media etc

This seemed to be a well-received suggestion and volunteers are clearly highly-valued in the clubs. It was noted it may be possible to engage a sponsor for the trophies / certificates etc.

Action: SWF committee to develop and implement for this year.

Risk assessment / irrigation

This was raised by Nailsea & District CC member Paul Arbos who unfortunately could not be here tonight. Nevertheless, useful information was exchanged and no doubt we will come back to this soon.

NDCC have had an irrigation tank installed and the potential for Legionnaires' Disease has been raised as a H&S concern. Paul A approaches this in terms of risk management and business planning and would like to share and learn from other clubs' experiences in these areas and avoid re-creating the wheel.

Paul F has identified resources with Sport England and is happy to do further research including with other Federations about their approach to this. **Action: Paul**

Several clubs have indeed experience of installing irrigation systems e.g. Camerton & Peasedown, Plymouth and various points were raised:

- The importance of not spraying when people are present because of the risk of legionella
- Potential for reduced water charges e.g.
 - Applying for agricultural tariff
 - Separating water for irrigation supply from ordinary supply

- Duncan Hector is a good source of support and Dennis Mowers (who are coming to the area soon) may also have helpful things to say
- Plymouth have found the Ofwat site <https://www.ofwat.gov.uk/> - (go to the section on Reducing Your Surface Water Draining Charges) and their own water company extremely helpful – he writes of his experience starts with Ofwat stating in respect to Plymouth’s situation:

" we would expect it to apply the rebate ... from the date at which it knew..... I specifically asked the water Company (SW Water in our case) to consider this.

I then contacted SW Water who were helpful and told me to complete their form C6 "Request for Sewerage charges to be removed from your account".

I did this taking some time over answering "why do you believe you should not be charged for this service.

The came and inspected and agreed to fit an additional meter just for the outside tap

End result was we only pay sewerage charges on water through sink - AND got a credit on our bill for charges over past 30 years (over £1,000) so that cheered our club treasurer up! Took some time to compose the request but time well spent.

Other points

- East Dorset do not appear to have been receiving info about the SWF SC tournaments and were advised to contact John Grimshaw to ensure he has the right contact details
- Noted that the dates of the SC Tournaments will be added to information on the website
Action: Linda
- The promotional leaflets distributed by CqE with sponsorship from the National Trust have not been found to be helpful – the QR code links to NT sites and not to CqE clubs. Generally the SW has not enjoyed hugely positive partnerships with the NT and some clubs have decided not to use them
 - **Action: Paul** will feed back to Communications Committee