

Minutes of the SWF Committee Meeting 5th December 2024 held by Zoom

1. Present

- a. Paul Francis, Stephen Custance-Baker, Tony Mayer, Peter Kirby, Andru Blewett, Gill Wheeler
- b. Gill was welcomed to the Committee

2. Apologies

- a. Mike Rice, Chris Ham

3. Confirm co-option of Chris Ham

- a. Chris' application for co-option to the post of Welfare Officer has been agreed by email – welcome *in absentia*, Chris

4. Minutes of last meeting

- a. Sept minutes agreed as correct

5. Matters arising / update on actions not included in the agenda

- a. None

6. Draft AGM minutes

- a. One further amendment noted **Action: Linda** to submit to website

7. Actions and issues arising from AGM

- a. See appendices 1 and 2 below
- b. Proposals 1 – 6: Stephen continues to work with DHW on the final adjustments
Action: Stephen to put on website when complete
- c. Proposal 8: **Action: Linda** to speak to Dave K about setting up a working group to address this
 - i. Noted that if amendments to the Rules are needed, this is likely to be an annual task **Action: Linda** to find out what other Feds do
- d. Proposal 9: working group has been established
- e. Election of Officers:
 - i. Paul agreed to continue to lead the Development team
 - ii. Identified Secretary tasks that might be shared if no one is found to take on the role **Action: Linda** to put article in Cygnet
- f. Volunteer of the Year
 - i. Agreed to run this for another couple of years to gauge participation
 - ii. Criteria to be kept as simple as possible so we will not include any stipulation about nominating previous nominees
- g. SC Tournaments
 - i. The issue of whether or not these are SWF events is unresolved **Action: Linda** keep under review
- h. Size of the SWF
 - i. Noted we are a large Fed geographically and number of clubs – this is of great value but can cause practical difficulties with e.g. League travel – but clubs re free to make their own decisions about which Fed Leagues to participate in
 - ii. Brian said that CE are reviewing the constituency boundaries but this is distinct from Fed boundaries
 - iii. **No action** needed at the moment
- i. Policies

- i. Noted we have no complaints policy Action: Brian will see if CE policy can be adapted for our use
 - 1. **Action: Linda** will raise at Feds Forum – maybe a shared policy can be developed
- ii. **Action: Linda** will compare our policies with those of CA to see if we need formally to adopt / adapt these

8. Treasurer's Report

- a. No formal Treasurer's report for this meeting, as we are so close to the deadline for submitting League Entries (December 4th) and the picture is constantly changing. I have reconciled the League Entries that Gill has sent to me with the payments received, and for most clubs this reconciles but there are the following outstanding issues
 - i. 3 clubs paid the wrong amount. Email sent to clubs to query.
 - ii. 1 Club with a League Entry, but no membership form or payment received - email sent to chase, with a grace period of December 11th to pay the discounted fee rate.
 - iii. 1 club with the membership form returned but payment not received but promised shortly, No action required currently.
- b. Agreed that clubs would be supported to pay in a timely fashion – as yet, no club has failed to pay before the start of the season
- c. **Action: Peter** will provide an update next week

9. League Secretary's Report

- a. Entries are up a little bit on last year but B League and SC Restricted have very few entries but they should be viable
 - i. The biggest move so far is in the GC Level Play league, up from 14 to 18.
 - ii. Thanks to Peter for these figures (last year's figures in brackets):
 - 1. High Handicap 23 (23)
 - 2. Handicap 24 (24)
 - 3. Level Play 5+ 13 (12)
 - 4. Level Play 18 (14)
 - iii. What would the entry have been if we hadn't switched to AGC, we don't know, but the amounts above indicate the impact is small enough to not be of great concern
- b. Confirmation that League Results Secretaries will continue as last year – Wendy will take on the Leagues previously covered by Dom
- c. Guidance to league team captains on refereeing, handicaps etc to be re-issued March 2025 **Action: Gill**
- d. Noted Peter is co-ordinating the AGC working group and Gill is happy to be a part of this

10. Short Croquet Tournaments

- a. 11th – 13th April at Nailsea
- b. 3 – 5th Oct at Budleigh
- c. One member had asked if it would be possible to create a large scoreboard as at the Inter-Counties but it was agreed this is out of proportion with what's needed
 - i. **Action: Linda** to ask John and Chris if they can display results of all the divisions played throughout the weekend
- d. **Action remaining - Linda** to see what John G wants to do with SC Tournament records – destroy them?

11. Development Report

- a. **Action: Paul** will pull the Development team together with (probably) geographical areas of responsibility
 - i. It is possible these could link in with handicapping support. **Action: Paul and Mike** to discuss
- b. Club awards – we might put out another call for these **Action: Paul / Linda** but one SWF club will be applying – thanks to Brian for all his support with that
- c. VoY medal is being engraved – Paul will present it
- d. Zooms
 - i. Second Tuesday of the month at 7pm
 - ii. December 10th - GC rules refresher Christmas quiz - sorted
 - iii. 2025 - January 14th
 1. Note this is 14th not 7th as previously circulated
 2. New Year resolutions – headings sorted
 3. Agreed not to include Tournament management but to remind people of Chris Roberts' YouTube in Cygnet
 - iv. February 11th
 1. Advantage GC review – update
 - v. March 11th
 1. Handicapping- getting ready for the new season.
 - vi. Agreed not to plan one for April but *ad hoc* ones could be held during the season

12. Coaching Report

- a. GC Refs' refresher 15th Feb – very low demand for this so it will become an additional GC Refs' qualification day (16th Feb) to meet high levels of demand
- b. Club coach course will be held in April
- c. Two people became GC Coaches at Budleigh

13. Handicapping Report – carried forward to the next meeting as Mike is not present.

14. Welfare Report

- a. Nothing to report

15. Feds Focus Group update

- a. A momentum to redefine and reinvigorate this Forum appears to be building up
- b. The relationship between the Forum and CE needs to be established and the role of the Forum beyond this.

16. Rep to CqE Report

- a. The various CE strategy implementation groups are seeking working group members and would like Feds to become involved
- b. Noted that Stuart Smith is no longer a SW Rep
 - i. The Trustee membership is being reviewed so no vacancies are being advertised at the moment

17. AOB

- a. None

18. Schedule of committee meetings

- a. Schedule agreed – note changes in red

January 16 – apols Brian
March 13
May 8th
July 17
Sept 18th – apols Brian
Oct 16th - must be between 14th and 24th – AGM preparation
AGM 23rd November
December 11th – after deadline for league entries

Appendix 1: Actions and issues arising from AGM

- Proposals 1 – 6 inclusive
- Proposal 8 - That SWF League Rules should align with Croquet England Regulations
 - **Action:** SWF Committee will explore this with a view to improving the situation
 - Set up working group
- Proposal 9 – AGC
 - **Action:** SWF will review Rules and provide guidance to clubs
 - Working group established – progress?
- Election of officers
- Volunteer of the Year
- Size of region
- Not directly related to AGM
 - Policies – see appendix 2

Appendix 2 Policies review

Policies review scheduled

GDPR – May 2024
Expenses – may 2024
Development Grant – may 2024
Qualifications Bursary – May 2024
Judith Moore Development Grant: November 2025
Fees and Cygnet rates – Sept annually

Succession planning – March annually