

Minutes of SWF Committee Meeting 14.5.26

Present

David Green, Pauline McAllister, Chris Ham, Andru Blewett, Stephen Custance-Baker, Linda Shaw

Apologies

Gill Wheeler

1. Minutes of last meeting

- a. Agreed as correct

2. Matters arising

- a. All included in the agenda

3. Finance

- a. See Treasurer's report Appendix 1
- b. Should we put our bank details onto the website
 - i. Agreed that our bank details should go onto the website **Action: Pauline / Linda**
- c. Assets inventory – agreed that any assets we may have had would have been depreciated and written off by now – so there are no tangible assets
 - i. If we do secure any, an assets register will be started.

4. Leagues

- a. Gill and results co-ordinators were asked for feedback – some minor issues which are being managed and all seems to be progressing well – see Appendix 2 for summary
- b. Zoom meeting on recording GC Level Play results seems to have paid off!
- c. David queried what would happen if players had been given the wrong Target Scores at the beginning of the game
 - i. It was felt it would have been the Captains' responsibility to check this but that the player too has a responsibility to check they are correct
 - ii. In the event of this still happening the current Rules applying to playing off the wrong handicap would be applied.

5. Leagues Rules updates and review process

- a. A zoom meeting agreed action plan for eliciting feedback from clubs on changes but the first deadline for draft has not been met
 - i. **Action: Andru / Linda** to progress this asap

6. GDPR and communications

- a. No further action to report – ongoing **Action: Linda / Gill**

7. Development

- a. Update from Brian – summary report in Appendix 3 – thanks to Brian for all his work in this area

- b. Noted the enquiry from Teffont House – agreed to explore further Action: Brian / Linda
- c. Stephen reported that there is a possibility of a new venue for Taunton Dean – it would be expensive but has huge potential for engagement with a wide range of people

8. Coaching

- a. Proposal from the Croquet Academy (Southwick) – see Appendix 4 via Paul noted and discussed – agreed this was a positive step and that further discussions proceed bearing in mind our concern that coaching is delivered locally as much as possible
Action: Linda / Paul
 - i. Chris noted Bude's interest in hosting courses and has good facilities for this
- b. Noted positive comments on Club Coaches course from one member – this will be passed on to Paul **Action: Linda**
- c. Work on making a list of local coaches more accessible is still in the pending file.
Action: Linda

9. Handicapping

- a. David reported that the low rate of response to the questionnaire was disappointing and suggests the possibility that there are less than ideal handicapping processes happening across the region and that we might be failing to reach those who would benefit most from support with this.
 - i. Many clubs do not have a club handicapper listed on CqE Directory
 - ii. Initial GC handicaps seem generally to be set by the 3-times round the court method – the alternative method being developed by CqE doesn't appear to have progressed much but there are some skills sheets which are a useful tool – but there are inconsistencies in how this is set
 - iii. Agreed further approach be made to clubs **Action: David / Linda**
- b. Support is being given to a couple of clubs in particular with this
- c. Discussed lack of support from CqE Coaching Committee to clubs and the long-standing frustrations of trying to engage with them – a renewed approach to them might be timely **Action: David / Linda**

10. Safeguarding & Welfare

- a. Chris reported on positive feedback from the Zoom meeting on Safeguarding
 - i. Noted that discussion focussed on adults and particularly on welfare rather than safeguarding
- b. Noted lack of information re club safeguarding officers on CqE Directory and that Club Chairs have this role by default
 - i. Hopefully the new NSO will begin to address this
- c. Linda reported that the new National Safeguarding Officer has met with the Feds' Forum – see Appendix 5
 - i. We hope to hear from him in due course and will contact him ourselves in a few weeks if we do not **Action: Chris**

11. Website

- a. Gill was following this up so will revisit at next meeting

12. Feds' Forum

- a. See Appendix 6

13.AOB

- a. Stephen informed us he will not be standing for re-election at the AGM as he wants to devote his time to supporting Taunton Deane with the move
 - i. He has served long and hard on this committee and will be sorely missed
- b. Linda reported she will be meeting with 2 potential committee members next week
- c. The lack of information from clubs on CqE Directory was noted and ways of addressing this were discussed
 - i. We will continue to take a supportive approach e.g. reminding clubs of their responsibilities and maybe asking for info on SWF membership renewal / League entry forms
 - ii. Making the completion of these details on Directory was considered not helpful at this stage
 - iii. Being able to access group details (e.g. all Treasurers) via the Directory would be really helpful
 - 1. We understand work is in hand on this – to be followed up **Action:**
Linda

14.Schedule of meetings

- a. Thursdays 7.00pm by Zoom
 - i. July 23
 - ii. Sept 17th
 - iii. Oct 15th
 - iv. Dec 10th
- b. AGM 22.11.26

Appendix 1 Treasurer's Report

Current account	£2,747.97
95 day account	£7,021.02
Total Funds at 14/05/2026	£9,768.99

HMRC

- Letter sent declaring inactive. To comply - qualifying income needs to be monitored and should not exceed £500.
- At half year qualifying income was Advertising - £30 Bank interest - £96.68. **Total £126.68.**
- No further action at this time needed.

Referees Course.

Income - £310 plus Croquet England subsidy £200.00

Costs - £570 - only two claimed travel expenses

Net Cost to JMB fund £60.50

JMB fund stands at £3481

Appendix 2 Leagues feedback

- GC LP5+
 - Weston have had to withdraw as they can't field a team.
 - Captains seem to be getting on okay, especially after the Zoom Mtg, with the submission of singles game results for Gradings.
 - So far 4 SWCF matches shown for 2026 on the Gradings System.
- GC Level Play
 - Nothing really. One club sent in results with +4 or -3 for the final scores column when they should just be + for a home win and - for an away win. Pointed out to team concerned. No real biggy.

Appendix 3 Development

Pythouse

- Discussions and a visit to the club
- Further support will be available if they get back to us

Teffont House

- Initial discussions but they are unlikely to join SWF and they are probably planning a purely recreational facility for their guests
- Discussing with CqE and exploring if Tisbury might be interested in working with them

Appendix 4

Coaching

The Academy Proposal 2027

To work in partnership with the SWF to deliver a full range of AC,SC and GC courses for players, coaches and referees.

Although Southwick would be the centre for courses, other clubs in the SWF would be invited to host courses.

The driving forces for the Academy include:

- Better participation rates
- Access to a wider group of coaches and expertise
- Economies of scale

Driving forces for the SWF:

- Access to a complete range of courses.
- Administration to be carried out by the Academy.
- Meeting our clubs needs.

Clearly, there are also several issues to explore including the distances involved for many of our clubs.

Appendix 5

Safeguarding

Colin Perkins is the new National Safeguarding Officer and comes with experience as a Probation Officer and a key safeguarding role in the Church of England – he worked in the Diocese of Chichester where Gabriele was his boss for many years.

He came to the Feds' Forum meeting at the beginning of the week and seems keen to continue working with us as he gets into his role.

He is currently familiarising himself with the policies and documentation and getting a grip on how CqE communicates and make decisions.

He is aware of our concerns about the difference between welfare and safeguarding – he wants to focus more clearly on Safeguarding and ensure clear advice to everyone – I anticipate significant changes to the current pathways of communication and responsibility.

He doesn't want to comment specifically on Welfare at this stage but I feel this is a topic we need to keep pushing on once he has his feet under the table.

Appendix 6

Feds' Forum

Meeting 11.5 – discussion with Colin Perkins as reported above.

Andy Dalby-Welsh also presented plans for implementing the goals of the strategic review – I will circulate his presentation when I have received it.

It is developing into a very useable document – identifying action plans and time scales etc. I'm sure there will be lots of debate about the detail but I think it's all going in the right direction.

He is talking in terms of 'One Croquet' and one aspect that really resonated for me was making the link between accessibility and adaptability.

I think we have seen this with the rise of SC and while I don't have the imagination to suggest adaptations, I can see the potential for thinking about different approaches e.g. for introducing working people to the game in a meaningful way as well as making adaptations for people with declining skills or stamina.