

Minutes of the South West Federation Zoom Meeting

Thursday 17 September 2026

1 Present

Linda Shaw (LS), Gill Wheeler (GW), Chris Ham (CH), Andru Blewett (AB), David Green (AG), Pauline McAllister (PM), Stephen Custance-Baker (SCB) and Chen Woodward (CW)

2 Apologies

None

3 Minutes of last meetings

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate account.

4 Matters Arising

- a) Proposal from Croquet Academy (Southwick) - on going
- b) Update regarding coaching at local clubs - going
- c) Winter Zoom sessions to be discussed later in the meetings
- d) Rules review and nomination proposals to be discussed later
- e) GDPR to be discussed later in meetings
- f) Pythouse details have been removed
- g) Abbey CC – Brian Wilson aware of situation
- h) New clubs not meeting membership criteria was raised at the Fed Forum -on going
- i) Possibility of Club Coaches course to run in Devon next year – on going
- j) Scope of CqE coaching review – ongoing
- k) Supportive network of handicapping discussed later in meeting
- l) D grade v handicaps discussed later in meetings
- m) Nominations and proposals for AGM – reminder sent and another one will go out shortly
- n) Committee meetings to submit nomination forms by 11 October – on going

5 Finance

PM's report was discussed (Appendix A). PM is keen to ensure that all expenses and costs are submitted to her by the end of year which in this case is the end of October. It was noted that there were no development costs this year. **Action** CW to prompt BW to submit his travel expenses

6 Leagues

GW reported that despite the challenging weather this year, the Clubs did very well to ensure that most of the matches were played in a timely manner, and that most of the matches were closely fought. It has enabled many players to play more matches in more locations – a significant achievement.

It was highlighted that there was an issue with ambiguous wording regarding the location of a match to be played if significant travel was involved for 1 team. It has become apparent that the current wording may be ambiguous – clearer wording will be presented to the AGM. It was that acknowledged that the SWF covers a large geographical area, and if you enter a league, you should expect to have to travel. The Committee's thanks go to GW, all the new and existing league

organisers for their hard work. **Action** LS asked for anyone who represented the Federation at finals to submit their photos and reports.

7 GDPR

This item will be removed from the agenda going forward.

Action LS, GW and PM to discuss amalgamating 3 forms into 1, thereby streamlining membership renewal and league entry processes.

8 Development

Stroud CC is now up and running and has had support from Brian Wilson. Wellington is a growing club and is looking to get support in order to improve its lawns. Monmouth may become a new member in the future. The Committee wished to acknowledge the hard work Brian Wilson has done with supporting these clubs.

9 Handicapping

DG has spent time with Tisbury and other clubs, helping with their handicapping programme and will return there at the end of the month to continue. LS acknowledged the time and effort DG had put into his support of Tisbury.

The Committee then discussed the pros and cons of the proposal to divide the Federation into quadrants and have a handicapper for each quadrant. This may not be the best way forward – we need to know more about what handicappers would find useful. SCB confirmed he would be happy to analyse GC handicap matches reports to identify possible handicapping anomalies. **Action** GW, SCB, DG and Nigel Wolco to discuss.

Lack of fit between D Grade and handicaps was also discussed. It was acknowledged that the communication regarding the introduction of the D Grade system was poor. **Action** DG, SCB to draft a letter to the CqE Handicapping Committee and copy in Andy Dalby-Welsh Ch Exec of CqE.

10 Safeguarding and Welfare

CH has drafted a report suggesting a path to resolving challenging behaviour of members. **Action** CH to distribute report to Committee members

11 Website

LS stated that a search for someone to keep the Website updated has been ongoing for 2 to 3 years. There are 2 distinct issues, keeping the website up to date with what the Committee wishes to publicise and building a new website from scratch which would be more interactive. The potential of AI to assist undertake this project was discussed and discounted at this stage. All Federation websites appear to be on a par. **Action** LS to put an advert in Cygnet to try and get identify a suitably qualified individual who would be able to advise and take on some responsibility to progress this. **Action** LS, GW and Dave to discuss this further

12 Fed Forum

Action LS to send CW the minutes of the last meeting to circulate to Committee

13 AGM

PM confirmed she had made contact with the independent examiner to review the accounts

Action CW to send reminder out re nominations and proposals

14 AOB

SCB gave an update of the future of Taunton – their lease which ends at Christmas 2026 is unlikely to be renewed and their potential onward move to Blackbrook Spots Field has yet to be settled and they are therefore in limbo awaiting further updates as to where and when they will be going post Christmas.

Topics for the forthcoming Zoom meetings this winter were discussed. It was agreed that the meetings would take place on the second Tuesday of each month, starting on 13 October, the last 1 being on 9 March 2027, and would run between 19.00 and 20.00 hrs. **Action** LS to circulate topics from previous years

Schedule of future meetings

Thursdays 19.00 hrs by Zoom

15 October

10 December

AGM to take place on 22 November

Meeting ended at 21.09 hrs.

Appendix 1

Treasurer's Report to Committee 17/09/2026

Currant account £2761.97. 95 day account £7078.21. Total Funds at 17/09/26 = £9840.18

There are still costs of League finals forecast to be £600 plus refreshment expenses and tournament contribution of £600 X 2 = £1200 to come in at approximately £740 plus two months more bank interest to be added at £27.

The year end is expected to be £989 in current account and £7105 in 95-day account total funds £8094 which represents a slight increase from last year.

Judith Moore Bursary. We used only £60.50 for the referee's course in February balance predicted for year end 31/10/2026 £3481

Referees Course.

Income - £510

Costs - £570 only two claimed travel expenses

Net Cost to JMB fund £60.50