

**South West Federation of Croquet Clubs
Notice of AGM**

Date	19 th November 2017
Time	10.30
Venue	Batch Country House Hotel, Batch Lane Lympsham, Weston super Mare, BS24 0EX If necessary, you may contact the Secretary, Linda, on: 077 857 861 47

Please be aware of the following constitutional requirements:

5b. Affiliated ... are empowered to appoint two voting delegates (who are not members of the Federation Committee) and any number of observers to attend any General Meeting.

5c. Associated clubs are entitled to receive three copies of each edition of the Newsletter, but may not enter teams in Federation competitions and are only entitled to observer status at General Meetings.

7d. (*at an AGM*) at least one third of the Delegates and Committee entitled to attend shall form a quorum.

8e. Members of the Committee shall have their own vote at a General Meeting and, if required, the Chairman shall have an additional casting vote.

12. No provision of this Constitution shall be amended, save by a Resolution voted for by a two thirds majority of those present and entitled to vote at a General Meeting.

Agenda

Apologies

Minutes of last meeting

These may be found on the SWF website: www.swfcroquet.org.uk

Matters arising

Chair's report

Treasurer's report

League Secretary's report

Regional Coaching Officer's report

Publicity Officers' report

Youth Officer's report

Development Officers' report

GC Advisor's report

Federation Representative's report

Update on the work of the CA Development Officer

Election of Officers 2017 - 2018

Resolutions

See details below

AOB

Date of next meeting

Lunch

Resolutions:

Amendments to the Constitution

Resolution A (from the committee) - to correct trivial drafting errors in the constitution

In section 7, re-letter the final 3 paragraphs as d, e, and f respectively (replacing the obviously incorrect c, d, and e that currently appear). In section 9 paragraph h, delete the repeated "with".

Resolution B (from the committee) - to accurately describe how SWAN is distributed

In section 5, paragraph b, replace the current first sentence with: "Affiliated clubs are entitled to receive an appropriate number of copies of each edition of the Newsletter (based on how many paying members they have) and are empowered to appoint two voting delegates (who are not members of the Federation Committee) and any number of observers to attend any General Meeting."

This reflects what has been done in practice for many years; if we were to follow the current constitution, this would drastically increase the production costs of SWAN for no benefit as there would then be a lot of unread copies.

Resolution C (from the committee) - to replace "auditor" with "independent examiner"

In section 7, paragraph a, replace the word "auditor" with "independent examiner", and in section 9, paragraph d replace the word "audited" with "examined".

Note that in recent years the committee have agreed to suspend this requirement entirely in practice, as our accounts are transparent and we have been fortunate enough to have a qualified chartered accountant as our treasurer. However, as that may not always be the case, we feel it is prudent to have an independent examination, without incurring the unnecessary expense of a full audit.

Resolution D (from the committee) - to bring our terminology for membership categories into line with that of the CA

In section 5, paragraph a, replace the words "Affiliated or Associated" with "a Full Member or an Affiliate Member". In section 5, paragraph b, replace the words "Affiliated clubs" with "Full Member clubs". In section 5, paragraphs c & d, replace the words "Associated clubs" with "Affiliate Member clubs". In section 8, paragraph a, replace "Affiliated" with "Full Member".

Resolution E (from the committee) - to confirm that for clubs to be Full Members of the SWF, they should be member clubs of the CA

In section 5, paragraph b, add the following wording at the end of the paragraph: "Full Member clubs must be members of the Croquet Association."

Note that this only requires Full Member clubs to be Affiliate Members of the CA (as a minimum). In practice, all existing Full Member clubs of the SWF are already members of the CA (in fact the vast majority are full members) so this should have no practical effect on clubs.

Resolution F (from the committee) - to formalise the role of the Federation Representative to the CA as a full committee member with the same standing as the rest of the committee, and consequential changes

In section 8, paragraph a, after "Youth Officer" add ", Federation Representative to the CA,". Replace section 8, paragraph b with: "Should there be more than one nomination for the position of Federation Representative to the CA, an election will be held by email by 30th September, in order that the winner can assume their duties at the CA AGM in October." In section 8, paragraph c, add "or by email" after "in writing", and change "30th September" to "31st August". In section 9, add a new paragraph at the end as follows: "k. The Federation Representative to the CA shall take up their seat on the CA Council and represent the Federation at CA Council meetings.".

Resolutions: League rules

SWF ELIGIBILITY RULE FOR GC HANDICAP LEAGUE: Bath Croquet Club

The SWF rules for Golf Croquet Handicap Leagues state in Rule 4c. (1), which covers eligibility for players:

Players with handicaps of 10 or below may play in the Handicap League matches. Should a club be unable to raise a team of the minimum size for a match, they may field one player whose handicap is 11 or 12.

This has caused difficulties in some clubs who either have small numbers of players or where players are not able to play the six matches in a day which are necessary if a team is restricted to 4 players. Some clubs would like to field a player with a handicap of 11 or 12 in the Handicap League, but may not do so under the current rules as they already have 4 players with handicaps of 10 or below.

Making a comparison with the SWF's rules for Association Croquet Leagues, the eligibility criteria for the Federation League (Rule 4c. (2)) and the Intermediate League (Rule 4c. (3)) both allow teams to field one player whose handicap is 1 or 2 steps higher than the stated handicap range. This allowance is unconditional.

Bath CC proposes, with the support of other clubs, that the Golf Croquet League follow a similar principle. Rule 4c. (1) should be changed to read:

Players with handicaps of 10 or below may play in the Handicap League matches. In addition, a team may field one player whose handicap is 11 or 12.

Norman Connor, Treasurer, Bath Croquet Club. 18 September 2017

SWF Golf Croquet League Rule Resolution (Nailsea & District Croquet Club)

We have identified several problems with the SWF GC Croquet League Rules and we are submitting this proposal in the hope of addressing them

- Low handicap players do not like giving away seven or more extra turns in the Handicap League.
- Some players do not like drawn games or the possibility of a drawn match.
- Some clubs would like to field a player with a handicap of 11 or 12 in the Handicap League but, at the moment, they may not do so if they already have four players with handicaps 10 or below.

In our opinion these problems are interlinked. We have considered them and tried to find solutions.

- The main problem with giving away several extra turns is that the high handicap player may use their extra turns well to get a lead and, in a time limited game, the lower handicap player does not have sufficient time to catch up particularly if their opponent is a slow player. Last year two clubs tried to resolve this problem by trying to restrict the Handicap League to 8 or 9 and below. We feel they were going about it the wrong way. In theory, if the handicaps are correct, then in a game with no time limit it should be an even contest with each side having a 50% chance of winning. We appreciate that it is not practical to have unlimited time for each game, but suggest that a reasonable time limit for most games is one hour.
- While drawn games are permitted in the Golf Croquet Rules they are rarely allowed in competitions. Extending the time limit to one hour should eliminate the problem to a large extent, but if a game is drawn after the extension period the game can be continued until another point is scored by either side eliminating drawn games.
- Some captains were concerned that extending the time limit may make it a very long day for their team. If we reduce the number of games to seventeen (three doubles and fourteen singles) it will be possible to reduce the number of sessions to five (see appendix). This will also mean that a match cannot be drawn.
- If the time limit is increased there should be less of a problem allowing players with handicaps 11 or 12 to play in the league against players with handicaps of three or less.

I would like to propose the following changes to the GC League Rules (the changes are highlighted):

6. MATCH FORMAT (Current rules)

- a. Matches shall comprise twenty games: four doubles games and sixteen singles games.
- b. Matches may result in a 10-10 draw. Two match points shall be awarded to a winning team, or one match point to each team in the event of a draw.
- c. Half-way markers are mandatory at all SWF Golf Croquet league matches.
- d. Where a club has two or more lawns available, the home team captain shall choose the lawns for the first and fourth sessions, and the visiting team captain shall choose the lawns for the second, third, fifth and sixth sessions, avoiding double-banking where possible. The choices may be made at the beginning of each session, or the captains may agree to choose lawns for as many sessions as they wish at the beginning of the day and subsequently when they need to.

Proposed rules:

- a. Matches shall comprise seventeen games: three doubles games and fourteen singles

games.

Delete (b). Reassign (c) and (d)

8. TIME LIMITS (Current rules)

- a. A time limit of not less than 50 minutes shall be agreed by both team captains before the start of each game (except as directed under Rule 13e); if they wish, they may agree to play any game without a time limit. If the two captains cannot agree on a time limit, the shorter of the two suggested time limits shall be used.
- b. If a game should be held up because of double-banking, the clock in that game shall be stopped until the game can proceed.
- c. EXPIRY OF TIME LIMIT.
 - (1) HANDICAP AND HIGH HANDICAP LEAGUES. When time is called each side shall be entitled to 4 additional turns (the extension period). Extra turns may not be used during the extension period. If the scores are level after this then the game is drawn and each side shall have earned a ½ game point; there shall be no continuation of play.
 - (2) LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE. When time is called each side shall be entitled to 4 additional turns (the extension period). If the scores are level after this then: for singles games, play shall continue until the next point is scored; for doubles games, the game is drawn and each side shall have earned a ½ game point, there shall be no continuation of play.

Proposed rules

- a. A time limit of not less than 50 minutes shall be agreed by both team captains before the start of each game; if they wish, they may agree to play any game without a time limit. If the two captains cannot agree on a time limit, the default time limit shall be 60 minutes.
- b. If a game is held up because of double-banking, the clock in that game shall be stopped until the game can proceed.
- c. EXPIRY OF TIME LIMIT.

When time is called each side shall be entitled to 4 additional turns (the extension period). If the scores are level after this play shall continue until the next point is scored.

Note: In handicap games extra turns may not be used during the extension period, but are restored at the end of the extension period.

If the above proposals are accepted there will also need to be minor rewording in rules 12 (Final League Positions) and 13 (Play-offs and Finals).

12. FINAL LEAGUE POSITIONS

Proposed rule:

- a. In determining the positions in an all-play-all block after all fixtures have been decided, teams shall be ranked in order of match wins achieved.
- Throughout the rest of rule 12 replace “match points” with “match wins”.

13. PLAY-OFFS AND FINALS

Delete 13(e) from the current rules.

Current rule 13 (e):

- e. If a play-off or final match ends in a 10-10 draw, each team shall nominate any two of its players, who have already played in the match, to play one further game of doubles to decide the match. This deciding game shall be played with no time limit.

We would like the meeting to consider these proposals as a whole and not reject them just because you do not like one part. The changes proposed simplify the rules and bring them more in line with the SWF Rules for the Association Croquet Leagues. They also seek to

address the problems outlined at the beginning of this proposal.

Appendix.

If two lawns are available the match may be completed in five sessions as follows (other match formats are possible):

Round 1 Two doubles

Round 2 One double and two singles

Rounds 3, 4 and 5 Four singles in each round