

SOUTH WEST FEDERATION OF CROQUET CLUBS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 4th November 2007

73 Members present

Roger Buckley opened the meeting by welcoming everyone; it was nice to see so many members present. He said he was sorry to report that the Chairman, Cliff Jones would be unable to attend the meeting as he was unwell and that he had been asked to deputise for him.

He then read a letter from Cliff Jones in which Cliff said that, as he had said before, our Federation was the most active within the CA and thanked all the clubs and individual members for their support. He thanked all the Committee for all the work they had done during his three years as Chairman. He expressed his thanks to all the clubs that had hosted CA Tournaments, Coaching courses, Federation events and participated in SWF activities. A new Tournament – the European Team Championship – was hosted at Cheltenham this year with exceptional success; he said he was especially pleased that Wales was victorious. He thanked David Magee for all his efforts in making that Tournament such a success and congratulated him on his recent CA award. He congratulated everyone else who won an award within the Federation.

He finished by saying that he looked forward to seeing everyone next year when he had recovered.

1. **Apologies:** From Chastleton House, Cirencester and Swanage.
2. **Minutes** of the AGM held on 5th November 2006 were agreed and signed.
3. **Matters arising** There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

Roger Buckley said that he was sad to report the deaths of Les Hull (Kington Langley), Una Atter-Martin and Michael Taylor both from Cheltenham. Our sympathies go to their families.

2007 had been another successful year for the SWF. Dyffryn got to the play-off stages of the Longman Cup but lost to Fylde. Bristol kept the flag flying for the SWF by winning the Inter Club Trophy. Kington Langley won the Secretary's Shield beating Hamptworth in the final. Congratulations to the Cornwall club for securing the Townsend Award from the CA's development Committee for clubs with up to two lawns. John Grimshaw presented the award to Rosemary Bradshaw.

There had been lots of individual successes within the Federation:

Ed Duckworth (Bristol) had played in the President's Cup and won the consolation event at the Southern where he performed his first and second competitive sextuple.

Marcus Evans (Nailsea) lost out in a three way play-off for the Chairman's Salver.

There was also a three way tie for the Spencer Ell involving Ben Ashwell (Cheltenham) and Chris Williams (Dyffryn) with Ben eventually winning.

Louise Bradforth (Bath) won the Treasurer's Tankard and the Women's Championship.

Paul Smith (Cheltenham) won the Selectors' weekend against Cliff Jones (Sidmouth).

Dave Mundy (Cheltenham) won the National Seniors' Championship beating Roger Hayes (Bath).

The following presentations were made at the CA AGM:

The Apps Bowl for the most improved male player to Richard Dickson (Hamptworth).

The Steel Bowl for the most improved female player to Alwen Bowker (Dyffryn).

David Magee (Cheltenham) for many years Secretary and then Chairman of the SWF was awarded the CA Council Medal for his efforts in re-locating the CA offices to Cheltenham and organising the recent World Championships there.

The following were awarded CA Diplomas for services to the game and their clubs:

Hamish Hall (Bristol), Gerry Eccles and Peter Stone both from Cheltenham.

12 members gained merit badges from the CA this season.

We welcome two new clubs to the Federation - Swanage in Dorset and Llandalff(Insole Court) in Cardiff.

Proposal A (circulated with the Agenda)

The proposal was seconded by Marcus Evans. David Kibble said that end of August was still in the Croquet playing season and would like to propose an amendment that the AGM be held later so that the date for proposals could remain end September. This was seconded by David Harrison-Wood. After some discussion the amended proposal was: *that any resolutions for inclusion in the AGM must reach the Secretary by 30 September and that the AGM be held towards the end of November.* This was carried unanimously. There is therefore no change to the constitution.

5. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Michael Poole presented the accounts for the year which had been circulated at the meeting. He said that he would like to just make a few comments:

The Swan had increased in cost because there were 4 extra pages this year.

The £300 development grant had gone to Weston.

The accounts were unanimously approved

Erik Black has agreed to audit the accounts next year and this was approved.

It was unanimously agreed that subscriptions remain the same for 2008.

The Treasurer said that he retiring as Treasurer as he was leaving the area.

Roger Buckley thanked the Treasurer for his report. He said that Michael had been Treasurer for 8 years and that he had been a power of strength attending all meetings and keeping the books meticulously, we shall miss him.

6. League Secretary's Report

The League Secretary, John Grimshaw had circulated his report at the meeting.

The League Secretary said that the first thing was to ratify the Golf Croquet rules. This was seconded by Marcus Evans and they were unanimously approved.

He reported that the Leagues were continuing to grow: Fowey had entered the B League and that Barnstaple and Dowlish Wake had entered the Golf Croquet League this year.

The Golf Croquet One Day Open Tournament at Nailsea was a huge success and that he would like, with Nailsea's agreement, to run it again. He would discuss with Nailsea and the date would be in SWAN.

The following trophies were presented:

Parkstone Trophy to Bristol

Parkstone Qualifier Trophy to Dyffryn

Federation League Trophy to Dyffrn

Intermediate League Trophy to Taunton Deane

B League Trophy to Nailsea South East

Golf Croquet League Trophy to Dyffryn

Congratulations to everyone in what had been a difficult season.

7. Regional Coaching Officers Report

The Regional Coaching Officer, Ray Ransom said that he hadn't been able to do many courses this year because of a trapped nerve. The Silver Gilt course at Bath went well.

At present no courses have been arranged for 2008, if any club wishes to host one to let

him know by end of November. Jennet Blake from the CA Coaching Council would like to arrange some GC coaching in the SW and had suggested Taunton as a venue.

8. Youth Officer's Report

The Youth Officer, Roger Buckley reported that it was quite a positive scene. 2 clubs had become members of the CA. Swindon was doing well with children with special needs. Barnstaple has a grandparents day when they being along their grandchildren to play. Nailsea continues to do well.

9. Publicity Officers Report

The Publicity Officer, Sue Mackay said that the Swan and website continued much as usual. The Swan had increased in size this year because more room was needed for the new Golf Croquet League.

She asked if clubs would notify her as well as the Secretary of any changes in club officers. Clubs were asked to look at their info page on the website to see if it needs updating. This year a list of all club handicappers will be published in Swan. She ended with a plea to all clubs to get their fixtures in by

1st Feb as she was going away and wanted to get Swan completed before she went.

10. Development Officers report

The Development Officer, Roger Buckley reported that he had visited Barnstaple, Chastleton House, Budleigh Salterton and Cheltenham this year. Bob Whitaker was Chairman of the Lawns Advisory Committee. David Magee and Rob Weeks had attended the course. If any club has any queries to contact either David Magee or Bob Whitaker.

Bob Whitaker said that if anyone from the April 2005 coaching course had not received their coaches'

badge to contact either him or Ray Ransom.

11. Election of Officers

Roger Buckley handed over to the Secretary for the election of Chairman.

The Committee proposed Roger Buckley for Chairman, no other nominations, unanimously elected.

The Chairman took back the meeting.

The Committee proposed Derek Brooks for Treasurer, no other nominations, unanimously elected.

The Committee proposed Neil Millward for Development Officer, no other nominations, unanimously elected.

As Cliff Jones, the Federation Representative to the CA will be unable to go to meetings this year; it was proposed that the Chairman would be Federation Representative for 1 year and that Cliff Jones would be Youth Officer for 1 year. This was agreed.

All other Officers were willing to stand for another year and were re-elected en bloc.

12. Proposals:

Prior the Annual General Meeting all Clubs had been sent a copy of all the proposals that were on the Agenda so that they could attend with their Clubs recommendations.

Proposal B from East Dorset Croquet Club (circulated with Agenda)

Chris Williams said that that while Dyffryn was in favour of bringing the B league 14 point game in line with CA regulations they felt that the number of bisques in the proposed change was too low and would not encourage break play. Chris said he would like to propose an amendment that the allocation of bisques for the 14 point game was from a different base. There followed a full discussion in which the following points were raised: B league players need all the bisques they can get, not less; B league games don't often peg out. John Grimshaw said that he had analysed this year's results and

16's playing 24's were struggling to win. The amendment to the proposal to insert "14 point games played on full sized lawns to be played from a base of 9 and the number of biques then halved".

This was seconded by Peter Dyke. The amendment was carried.

The proposal with the amendment – seconded by Marcus Evans was carried.

Proposal C from Sidmouth Croquet Club (circulated with Agenda)

There followed a full discussion in which the following points were made:

The disparity of the level of play of 24's for the B league was partially caused by some clubs starting beginners at 24 and others at 28 – therefore those starting at 28 would have a lot more experience by the time they got to 24. Don Gaunt, the Federation Handicap Co-ordinator has recommended that beginners are started at 28. Bob Whitaker made the point that handicapping is subjective and that it does not matter at what point handicaps are started as long as there is standardisation and the only way that can be achieved is if all clubs have the same starting point. Marcus Evans proposed that the figure of 24 in the proposal be amended to 28. This was seconded by Chris Williams and carried.

The amended proposal seconded by Marcus Evans was carried.

Proposal D from Sidmouth Croquet Club (circulated with Agenda)

There followed a full discussion in which the following points were made:

How do you count 5 years experience – is it continuous, what happens if you take a break and then come back. It was felt to unworkable. Small clubs would struggle to raise a team if this was the case and many would have to withdraw from the League. The proposal was seconded by Ian Wilson and defeated.

Proposal E from Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club (circulated with Agenda)

There followed a full discussion in which the following points were made:

It would hit small clubs as they would be unable to raise teams and would have to withdraw from the league. The proposal was seconded by Ray Ransom and defeated.

Proposal F from Budleigh Salterton Croquet Club (circulated with Agenda)

The same points were made as above that some clubs would have to withdraw from the League if this was passed and that it would be detrimental to small clubs.

Proposal seconded by Ray Ransom and defeated.

Proposal G from Lansdown Croquet Club (circulated with Agenda)

Ros Key-Pugh said that there were some teams from newly formed clubs that only play Golf Croquet, that were meeting teams with more experience, but both teams having similar handicaps. Some clubs did not have handicap cards. Margaret Brett said that some players did not know how they came to get their handicap and that was serious problem. John Grimshaw said that the Golf Croquet League was still in the early days and that problems would arise.

David Kibble said that he supported the principle of Rule 1c of the Golf Croquet League Rules.

It was agreed that the proposal be incorporated in Rule 1c of the Golf Croquet League Rules by inserting that "*playersmust have a properly assessed golf croquet handicap*".

This was seconded by Jim Clancy and carried.

The Chairman said that the Committee would look at co-opting a Golf Croquet Representative.

Proposal H From Lansdown croquet club (circulated with Agenda)

Ros Key-Pugh said that they felt this was necessary to ensure that players where playing off the correct handicap. She said that they would like to add an amendment to the proposal – "*and completed and signed by both players*". The amendment was seconded by Alison Long and carried.

There followed a full discussion in which the following points were made:: there was no way that Captain's could check that cards were correct; it eliminated trust; was too bureaucratic and what would happen if you forgot to bring your card with you.

The amended proposal was seconded by Keith Brooks and defeated.

13. Any Other Business

There was a plea from Kingston Maurward for all club handicappers to be scrupulously fair when keeping players at handicap 24 for "B" league.

Sidmouth requested that all clubs should undertake regular handicap tests and reviews of high handicaps.

The Chairman said that the Committee would look at advertising all official handicappers, referees and coaches in the Swan and on the website, so that smaller clubs especially, know where to obtain help, if required.

Bristol had submitted some suggestions over the layout of handicap cards. This is CA matter and it was suggested that they take this up with CA.

Sidmouth had a suggestion about Wharrad Turns – the Chairman said that this had been discussed at length in the past and that he did not propose that we discuss it again at this meeting.

David Harrison-Wood said that he would like to suggest some amendments to the wording in the Golf Croquet League rules. The Chairman requested that David Harrison-Wood and David Kibble put their recommendations to the Committee.

The League Secretary said that in future the first line of communication with clubs would be by

E-mail. If contacts were not on e-mail then he would naturally communicate by post.

There were a few clubs who had not responded over the League for 2008 and they would be given 2 weeks grace.

David Magee thanked Roger Buckley for standing in to the Chair the meeting at the last meeting.

The Chairman said that he would like to pay tribute to the retiring Chairman, Cliff Jones. He had been a fine Federation Chairman, who had done a lot for the Federation and as a Federation we should be grateful for all the time he had given especially for coaching. The Committee had all appreciated his sense of humour at meetings.

The Chairman closed the meeting closed 12.50p.m.