

FEDERATION OF CROQUET CLUBS SOUTH WEST

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday, 1 October 2014

Present:	Chairman	Roger Hayes
	Treasurer	Norman Connor
	League Secretary	John Grimshaw
	Publicity Officer	Sue Mackay
	Coaching Liaison Officer	Roger Buckley
	Development Officers	Robert Moss (North)
		Adam Wimshurst (South)
	Youth Officer	Marcus Evans
	Golf Croquet Adviser	Ros Key-Pugh
	Federation Representative	Brian Shorney
	Secretary	Julie Horsley

1. Apologies

None

2. Minutes

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 April 2014 were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising

None

4. Correspondence

The Secretary had received letters from Helen Pryor (Sidmouth CC) and Kathy Wallace (Nailsea CC) which will be dealt with under the League Secretary's report.

CA proposal document from Jeff Dawson which had been circulated to the Committee to be dealt with under Item 8.

Letter from Robert Hann, Chastleton House CC which had been passed to Robert Moss. This has been dealt with.

Wareham CC had asked for some advice over lawns - Adam Wimshurst has spoken to Bob Whitaker over this.

A number of proposals have been received; these will be dealt with under Item 9.

Nigel Partridge from Urchfont CC has been in touch re possibly joining the Federation.

Robert Moss has received a communication from Peter Wilson re the All England Handicap Competition. He would like to promote more participation from SW clubs.

This will be promoted at the AGM.

5. Chairman's Report

Nothing to report.

6. Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer had circulated his report and statement of accounts to the Committee beforehand. It was stated that some federations award grants to clubs - we do not. Marcus Evans said that we have too many clubs to deal with all fairly and perhaps we should see what happens with the CA WPR before making any decision.

The Golf Croquet Adviser felt that we could put up the SW Federation fees and use the money to provide grants for equipment and balls so that it came from the federation not the CA.

It was decided to revisit this after the AGM to format a policy on expenditure.

The Secretary said that she felt that there should be clarification of the date fees were payable by, after the confusion of last year. The Committee would submit a proposal for clarification.

The League Secretary proposed that the entry fee for the leagues be increased by £1 to £6 per team and the short croquet from £10 to £12. The Club fee to remain the same.

7. League Secretary's Report

The League Secretary reported that:

The Federation League was won by Abbey CC

The Intermediate league was won by Broadwas CC

The B League was won by East Dorset CC

The Golf Croquet Level Play League was won by East Dorset CC

The Golf Croquet Handicap League final was being played the coming weekend.

The Parkstone trophy was not complete

Correspondence had been received over the lawns at one semi-final and final venue. The concerns were twofold, one that the sets of balls being used were not complete sets, they were mixed, which is unacceptable. The other on the suitability of the lawns.

There had been other concerns voiced over the suitability of the lawns at some clubs for hosting semi-finals. A review will be carried out of all lawns at clubs and those deemed unsuitable will not be able to host semi-finals. This will be notified at the AGM. It was stressed that it is the quality of the lawns i.e. playability not the size of the lawns that will be taken into consideration.

It was re-iterated that it is recommended that B League matches are played on half sized lawns.

There was an incident this year when a team did not turn up for a match, communication from the club unable to raise a team having being sent by e-mail only hours before the match. It was stated that last minute communications should be by telephone not e-mail.

A proposal to be submitted at the AGM to cover clubs defaulting.

There was concern about the Golf Croquet effective handicaps this year which seemed to have resulted in higher handicap player getting more extra turns.

8. Federation Working Party

12 clubs had responded to the Federations and Membership - Proposed Changes document from the CA which had been circulated to all clubs.

After a long discussion on the report and the response from clubs, Marcus Evans was asked to draft a reply to be sent to Jeff Dawson from the Committee. It was agreed to attach all the club replies. It was felt that the CA document had not been well presented. Marcus offered to do a short presentation at the AGM, which would take into account any decisions taken at the CA's AGM.

9. Proposals received for the AGM

Proposals had been received from Bath, Nailsea, Budleigh Salterton and East Dorset CC's.

Proposal 3 from East Dorset was rejected by the Committee as it was contrary to the federations policy of inclusiveness - the Secretary to contact East Dorset.

The Secretary to contact Nailsea CC for clarification as where the relevant rule changes be inserted.

They would be asked to withdraw some proposals as they are already covered by the existing rules.

It was noticed that some proposals are being presented again after having been defeated at previous AGM's. The Committee have decided that they will not consider any proposal presented in the previous 3 years that has been defeated. This will announced at the AGM .

10. AGM

The Secretary reported that Batch House had been booked for the AGM. Lunch will be £14.

11. Coaching Liaison Officers Report

The Coaching Liaison Officer reported that a Coaches Qualification Course is in the process of being arranged at Cheltenham CC early next year, possibly March.

The Golf Croquet Adviser said that she had arranged a Coaches Qualification Course at Camerton and Peasedown CC for 21/22 March 2015.

The Secretary said she had been asked if there were any referees/laws courses proposed for next year. The Coaching Liaison officer would look at arranging one. Marcus Evans said that he would be happy to run one at the end of next year.

12. Publicity Officer's Report

The publicity Officer said that the coming issue of SWAN would be her 16th and she now felt the time had come to give a year's notice that she wished to stand down after the 2015 AGM.

She said that the position could be split into two, with one person maintaining the website and one person producing SWAN.

She would re-iterate at the AGM that e-mails are not for urgent matters.

She proposed taking out club phone numbers from SWAN and just putting land/mobile contact numbers in as most of the time there was no-one at a club to answer the phone.

13. Youth Officer's Report

The Youth Officer reported that the National Schools Junior Championship had taken place this year.. Nailsea CC have two newish junior players.

14. Development Officers' Report

The Developments officers had circulated their report before the meeting.

South Bristol, CC has now closed and their start up equipment been returned.

Cheltenham CC are now seeing improvement to the new lawns and are confident they will be ready for play next season

Worcester Norton CC have been given notice to quit. They are looking at a new site.

Bear of Rodborough CC have been given notice to quit at the end of the year. They are exploring alternate venues but feel it is unlikely they will have a new lawn up and running for the 2015 season. They would appreciate invitations from other clubs for friendly/day/evening or weekend visits.

Chastleton House have contacted the CA office for information about a start up kit and insurance.

Beckford CC are looking at seeking a grant for lawn development. Since starting up this year on fairly rough ground they have 37 members are keen to introduce AC on a full sized lawn.

Barnstaple CC while still playing croquet have gone quiet on plans for development.

Budleigh CC are continuing to renovate their own lawns without recourse to the CA.

Cornwall CC have a number of plans that need funding but they do not have security of tenure at present.

Lym Valley CC are poised to submit an application for a grant towards the enlargement, draining and levelling of the one reasonable and enclosed lawns that they have.

It is hoped that the SWF equipment loaned to Ken Wilcox earlier this year (to set up a new club that has fallen through) will be transferred to Lym Valley.

Newton Abbot CC are very active and recently took part in providing 60 primary school children with GC over two morning. Exeter CC helped and provided some equipment.

St. Agnes CC started up in July - now have a membership of 42. The area can accommodate 3 full sized lawns they are hoping to upgrade the lawns when funds can be found.

15. Golf Croquet Adviser's Report

The Golf Croquet Adviser reported that she had now been appointed an Examining Coach for Golf Croquet. A Golf Croquet Coaches Qualification Course has been arranged at Camerton and Peasedown CC for the 21/22 March 2015. This is for those wishing to become club coaches and for those that are club coaches to qualify as area coaches.

She said that despite the handicap conference there still seemed to be resistance to conforming to the recommendation that all matches are recorded immediately on handicap cards and counter signed by the opponent. There has been much discussion over the effective handicaps, the feeling being that it has been tipped in the favour of the higher handicap player.

Other issues raised this season : poor and/or small lawns, the organization of which lawns the opposition should play on and the timing of matches especially in level play games.

Proposals relating to these issues have been received for the AGM.

16. Federation Representative's Report

The Federation Officer reported that there were issues with the Golf Croquet Handicapping.

He said that the Golf Croquet handicapping was flawed before the introduction of this year's effective handicap, which had been introduced as an interim measure. This is being looked at again by the Handicap Committee. The Handicap Committee is recommending that Federations appoint more Federation Golf Croquet Handicappers before the start of next season.

17. Any Other Business

Budleigh Salterton CC have offered to host an end of season Short Croquet Tournament.

The Committee was happy to go ahead with this provided it was run on the same basis as the one hosted by Nailsea CC in April. The Tournament Secretary to contact Budleigh Salterton CC.

The Chairman asked if a replacement had been found for the Secretary. No nominations have been received.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 4.15 p.m.