

FEDERATION OF SOUTH WEST CROQUET CLUBS

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Saturday 31 January 2015 at Bleadon

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

1. Minutes

The Chairman said that no minutes had been produced for the short committee meeting held after the AGM. Roger Buckley had agreed to act as Minutes Secretary until a new Secretary was found, but as he was not at the meeting Sue Mackay was asked to take the minutes. She said that she did not think the minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2014 had been approved, so the Chairman signed her copy as a true record.

2. Apologies

John Grimshaw and Roger Buckley

3. Treasurer's Report

This had been circulated prior to the meeting. Norman Connor had produced a spreadsheet of income and expenditure from 1 November 2014 to 26 January 2015, and reported a surplus for the period to date of £1042, giving rise to a cash balance of £5435. 22 clubs had so far paid their dues and he would be sending reminders out in February. Clubs should be asked to make cheques payable to the South West Federation of Croquet Clubs and not SWFCC.

4. Coaching

Roger Buckley had reported that the AC Coaches Qualification Course with Dave Kibble was due to take place on 7/8 March, but that to date he had only been contacted by three people. Roger Hayes was concerned that a similar course being run by Hamptworth on 9/10 March would cause a conflict. Ros Key-Pugh said that no information about course content or price seemed to be available, and Sue Mackay said she understood that it was in the Fixtures on the CA website and would be in the Fixtures Book. Marcus Evans found that it was hidden in Draft Fixtures, and Sue Mackay agreed to cut and paste the information in to the SWF website page. Concerns were raised that the price was uncompetitive compared to the Hamptworth course and Roger Hayes said he thought serious consideration should be given to cancelling the course if a "break even" number did not sign up. It was agreed that Roger Buckley should be asked to liaise with David Kibble and advertise an extension for entries on the website if need be.

5. Development Report

This had been circulated prior to the meeting. Robert Moss reported that the Bear of Rodborough had now been officially renamed The Bears Croquet Club and was currently in hopeful negotiations for a new site. Beckford and Swindon had applied for the Townsend Award and Camerton and Peasedown had applied for the Apps Heley Award. He had also recently had an enquiry from Jill Hindshaw and Gordon McRae about starting a new club at Moreton –in- Marsh, in the grounds of a Fire Service Training College. Adam Wimshurst reported that Kingston Maurward had applied for the Townsend Award in addition to Charlton, and that Budleigh Salterton had applied for the Millennium Award.

6. Publicity Officer's Report

Sue Mackay had circulated copies of SWAN for proofreading via Dropbox and certain minor corrections were pointed out. She had altered the editorial to include reference to recent decisions by the handicap committee concerning the adoption of the AC doubles handicap trial, the ending of the +/-5 points for 14

point games, and the retention for a further year of GC effective handicaps. She proposed putting the chart for the AC doubles calculation as a downloadable file next to the AC rules, and Ros Key Pugh asked if something similar could be done for GC effective handicaps.

Maureen Smith of Budleigh Salterton had volunteered to take over SWAN for the 2016 season and it was hoped that her husband Jack would take over the website, though this had not been confirmed as he had been ill recently. It was agreed to put Maureen's name forward to the AGM as a replacement Publicity Officer.

7. League Secretary's Report

John Grimshaw was not present but had sent a brief report. He had received fixtures from all but three clubs with two days to go before the deadline. The venue for finals had been agreed as

Federation: Sidmouth on Sunday 27th September

Intermediate: Nailsea on Saturday 26th September

B League: Bath on Sunday 27th September

Golf LP: East Dorset on Saturday 5th September

Golf HC: Bristol on Sunday 4th October

He had had an enquiry from Wareham about entering a team in the GC League. As the enquiry came in mid-January it was felt to be too late for 2015 but they have been encouraged to enter in 2016, and to arrange friendlies with other clubs in the region in the meantime.

The short croquet tournaments were proving popular and the Nailsea one was already full. Sue Mackay asked Brian Shorney for confirmation that short croquet games still did not go on handicap cards. This is so, but it was pointed out that those who play a lot of short croquet should keep a separate short croquet card, and it was agreed that John Grimshaw should ask Peter Dyke to announce this at the Nailsea tournament.

8. SWF Representative's Report

Brian Shorney had circulated a report stating that there would be an article in the February Gazette by Jeff Dawson with a ballot paper for a Special General Meeting to be held at Hurlingham on 28th March. Members would be asked to vote on allowing an above inflation increase in the per capita subscriptions paid by larger clubs; extending the individual membership of the CA to include optionally all members of its Member Clubs; and abolishing separate voting by Member Clubs. Details had been circulated to all club secretaries.

Marcus Evans reminded the meeting that at the AGM a straw poll had indicated overwhelming support for the SWF becoming a member of the CA, and that it had been agreed that a formal decision would be taken at the next committee meeting. It was felt that the SWF should accept the invitation to join the CA, and that this decision would be unaffected even if the proposals at the SGM were defeated. It was therefore agreed that Roger Hayes would contact Jeff Dawson accepting the invitation for the Federation to become a member of the CA.

Brian Shorney then confirmed three decisions made by the Handicap Committee:

- 1) The trial method for determining AC Doubles handicaps had been formally adopted, at least until a better one was proposed.
- 2) All 14 point AC games would now involve an index change of ten rather than five.
- 3) The Handicap Committee is conducting an in depth analysis of GC handicapping, but needs more time to complete the work, therefore it had been agreed that the 2014 system, including effective handicaps, would continue for 2015. A new system will be introduced for 2016.

He also stated that there was disagreement amongst clubs as to what constituted an eligible game for a handicap card. The answer was "as many games as possible", and, as well as tournament and inter club matches, all internal club competition games should be included, as well as games played in friendly matches between clubs.

Brian Shorney further stated that the CA was very keen to encourage the Junior Action Group, and it was hoped that clubs would encourage schools and universities in their area. Adam Wimshurst said they had tried to get Exeter University involved, but that the university terms made things very difficult as they did not fit in with the croquet season. Marcus Evans reported that the Schools Championship this year would be held in Nailsea in September, with pupils who had left school in the summer being eligible to play before they went up to university. Brian Shorney said this development had been very well received by the CA.

9. Golf Croquet Adviser's Report

Ros Key-Pugh reported that the GC Coaches Qualification Course on April 11/12 at Camerton and Peasedown was now full. This could create up to 8 new Area Coaches and 8 new Club Coaches from five different clubs if all the candidates are successful.

10. Secretarial Correspondence and Appointment of New Secretary

Roger Hayes said that any items of correspondence received had already been dealt with in the meeting. To date no new secretary had been found.

11. Appointment of Regional AC Development Officer(s)

Dave Kibble had indicated after the AGM that he would be willing to take on this role and it was agreed that he should be invited to the next committee meeting in March to discuss exactly what the role should involve. Although the heading allowed for more than one such officer, it was felt that the committee was in danger of getting too big, especially if the Publicity Officer's job was going to be split into two.

12. AOB

- a) Brian Shorney requested that Federation Handicappers be put on the agenda for the next meeting.
- b) Robert Moss said that he still had 4 copies left of "Croquet Management" by Don Gaunt and Roger Wheeler. Sue Mackay agreed to advertise this on the website.

Date of the Next Meeting

It was felt that this should be as early in March as possible, so that SWANs could be distributed in time for people to read Robert Moss's article on the benefits of the CA prior to the SGM vote. The date agreed was Monday 2 March at 10:30 at Bleadon.

There being no other business, the meeting finished at 1pm.