

SOUTH WEST FEDERATION OF CROQUET CLUBS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 23th November 2008

The Chairman, Roger Buckley opened the meeting by welcoming everyone; it was nice to see so many members present.

1. **Apologies:** From: Cliff Jones, Cirencester CC and Barnstaple CC.
2. **Minutes** of the AGM held on 4th November 2007 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 Andrew Potter (Bristol), Keith Marsh (Kingston Maurward), Betty Cook and Monica Catling both from Lansdown. Our sincere condolences to their families.

2008 had been another successful year for the SWF. Martin Murray (Bristol) won the Treasurer's Tankard exactly 40 years since his first Eights win (Surrey Cup 1968). Louise Bradforth (Bath) retained the Women's Championship and Don Gaunt (Bear of Rodborough/Cheltenham) won the National Seniors' Championship.

15 year old Ryan Cabble (Nailsea) won the All England Golf Handicap and was runner-up in the All England Association Handicap. Ryan also took home a staggering 13 Nailsea club trophies, though he was unable to win the Ladies' or the over 50's Cups. Ian Morrison (Lansdown) retained the Centre Stage Golf Croquet title with Dave Key-Pugh (Lansdown) coming third.

Bristol won the Parkstone Trophy; Sidmouth won the Qualifier and promotion.

Kington Langley won the Federation League and will represent the SWF in the Secretary's Shield next season for the third consecutive year.

Bear of Rodborough won the Intermediate League.

Nailsea SE won the B League.

Palace (Wells) won the Golf Croquet League.

For the second year in succession both the Apps Bowl and the Steel Bowl were won by players from our region:

The Apps Bowl for the most improved male player to Tony Forbes (Cheltenham).

The Steel Bowl for the most improved female player to Elaine Norsworthy (Budleigh Salterton).

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

Tony Backhouse (Cornwall), Roger Bowen and Peter Jones (both from Budleigh Salterton) and Graham Roberts (Cheltenham).

12 members gained merit badges from the CA this season.

Don Gaunt had run a very successful Handicap conference in March.

Unfortunately the same could not be said for the "Spirit- of- the- Age" weekend at Westonbirt House.

Proposal A (circulated with the Agenda)

The Chairman said that the Committee would like to add an "s" to Development Officer, this would be explained later. David Kibble asked why not an Association Croquet Adviser. The Chairman replied that there was a need for a voice for Golf Croquet.

The proposal was seconded by Tony Backhouse and carried.

5. **Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, Derek Beard presented the accounts for the year which had been circulated at the meeting.

Seconded by Tony Backhouse, the accounts were unanimously approved.

F.J. Dyer has agreed to audit the accounts next year and this was approved.

6. League Secretary's Report

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

The League Secretary said he had commented last year on a difficult July weather wise, but this year's weather had surpassed it. A large number of matches had been rearranged from their original dates and far too many had been cancelled, resulting in a large increase in the number of walk-over's a disappointing 10%. He felt that perhaps clubs were not making enough effort to play their matches on their arranged date, so urged clubs next year to play their matches on the scheduled dates, even if some of their better players were not available, as rearrangements were disruptive and it was difficult to find alternatives suitable to both parties.

He reported that the Leagues were continuing to grow: Llandaff had entered the B League for the first time this year.

The following trophies were presented:

- Parkstone Trophy to Bristol
- Parkstone Qualifier Trophy to Sidmouth
- Federation League Trophy to Kington Langley
- Intermediate League Trophy to Bear of Rodborough
- B League Trophy to Nailsea South East
- Golf Croquet League Trophy to Palace (Wells)

Congratulations to everyone.

Short Croquet Team Event results:

- Division 1 was won by Dyffryn Dinosaurs
- Division 2 was won by Broadwas

Open Individual Golf Croquet results:

- Level play singles - winner Marcus Evans (Nailsea)
- Handicap singles - winner Margaret Lewis (Broadwas)
- Doubles Marcus - winners Marcus Evans/Peter Dyke (Nailsea)

The League Secretary thanked everyone who made their facilities available for tournaments, play-offs and finals and to those who gave up their time to prepare the lawns, provide teas, referee and report on these matches.

There were a number of clubs who had not sent in their league entry form for next year, will they please do so.

Proposal B (circulated with the Agenda)

Dave Kibble asked why if the changes were arranged amicably could there not be more than one change. The League Secretary said it became a problem when clubs did not notify changes of dates and it could be abused.

The proposal was seconded by Richard Mills and defeated.

Proposal C (circulated with Agenda)

The League Secretary said this was to avoid any confusion. For extra clarification the words "*for either of those teams*" was added to the proposal.

The proposal was seconded by Roger Thorne and carried.

Proposal D (circulated with the Agenda)

This was to bring the Golf Croquet League Rules in line with the Association League Rules.

The proposal was seconded by Dave Kibble and carried.

7. Regional Coaching Officers Report

The Regional Coaching Officer, Ray Ransom reported that he had run a Bronze course at East Dorset this year.

It was well attended and resulted in 2 new Grade 1 coaches being appointed.

A one day course had been run at Kingston Maurward for higher handicap improvers.

The programme for 2009 is almost finalised, he suggested that players consult the CA fixture book (or website) or the SWF website for further details. Details will also be in SWAN.

The Coaching Officer said that he had now completed 14 years as Regional Coaching Officer and felt that it was about time to quit, but he still expected to continue running and participating in courses from time to time. He thanked all those clubs and individuals who had helped him over the time, in particular he thanked Bath, Budleigh, Cheltenham and Nailsea as clubs that stood out for making lawns available on numerous occasions.

8. Youth Officer's Report

In the absence of the Youth Officer, the Chairman reported that there had been some activity at Sidmouth. Swindon continued with helping children with special needs. Peter Dyke continued to be active at Nailsea with Ryan Cabble being a prime example. Cornwall had also been active.

9. Publicity Officers Report

The Publicity Officer, Sue MacKay reported that she was continuing to maintain the website and produce SWAN.

The report by Don Gaunt on the Handicap Conference held earlier in the year can be found on the website.

She asked all clubs to look at their websites to see if they were up-to date, especially the club officers.

She said that all of the following can be found on the website and can be downloaded:

The League Rules (both Association and Golf Croquet).

Handicap cards.

All SW coaches and referees - any changes please notify her.

Swan was larger this year. She asked for any contributions to be in by Christmas, but would reserve space until January, if notified by Christmas.

10. Development Officers report

As the Development Officer had resigned, the Secretary read out the report.

The Development Officer had helped Carrick U3 Croquet Club, a new club in Cornwall, by lending them some equipment. They became fully operational in May. The newly formed club at Mere in Wiltshire had been lent equipment for their opening in May. Charlton Horethorne had been helped in sourcing some equipment.

Sidmouth had been advised on their application to install automatic sprinklers.

In July 2008 three years of planning came to fruition for the Weston Croquet Club when it moved to its new home in Bleadon. Several members of the Club had donated money to finance the venture and in July 14 members of the original club moved to its new home. Since moving the club has increased its membership from the original 14 to 40 with a lot of support from villages close by. 3 lawns will be available for play next April.

11. Election of Officers

The Committee proposed Cliff Jones for Coaching Officer, no other nominations, unanimously elected.

The Chairman said that the Committee proposed splitting the area into 2 (hence the Development Officer(s) in Proposal A) with a Development Officer for the North and one for the South.

The Committee proposed Robert Moss for the North and Tony Backhouse for the South, no other nominations, unanimously elected.

The Committee proposed Marcus Evans for Youth Officer, no other nominations, unanimously elected.

The Committee proposed Ros Key-Pugh for Golf Croquet Adviser, no other nominations, unanimously elected.

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 E from East Dorset Croquet Club (circulated with Agenda)

East Dorset outlined the reason for the proposal. One of the main reasons was that teams often travelled a great distance for a match and if there was a gross mismatch of handicaps it often resulted in a lot of travel and very little croquet.

There followed a full discussion in which, while clubs were sympathetic, it would mean that many clubs would have to withdraw from the Federation League if this was passed. Many small clubs do not have sufficient low handicap players to field a team. An amendment was proposed by Exeter, with a further amendment by John Grimshaw " *Players with singles handicaps of 12 or below may play in the Federation League matches. In addition, teams may field players whose singles handicap is 14 or above, but these players must play off a handicap of 12*". The Grimshaw amendment was seconded by Peter Jones and was allowed on the casting vote of the Chairman. East Dorset withdrew their original proposal in favour of the Exeter amendment further amended by Grimshaw. This then became the motion which was defeated. The status quo remains.

Proposal F from Cornwall Croquet Club (circulated with Agenda)

Cornwall Croquet Club outlined the reason for the proposal. They felt that the lower level handicap of 16 did not encourage higher handicap players to take compete.

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

Small clubs would be hit if they could not field players with a handicap of 16. The point was made that teams do need a player/s with experience.

It was suggested that clubs should be encouraged to field high handicap players if at all possible.

The proposal was seconded by Ray Ransom and defeated.

Proposal G from Dyffryn Croquet Club (circulated with Agenda)

The reason for this proposal was that there was a guideline for abandoned matches.

This proposal brings the Golf Croquet Rules in line with the Association Rules.

Ros Key-Pugh said that this may cause more abandoned matches as who decides when a lawn is unplayable.

She felt that instead of the team with the most wins a certain number of games should be played.

The proposal was seconded by Dave Kibble and carried.

Proposal H from Dyffryn Croquet Club (circulated with Agenda)

Dyffryn felt that it would fairer if the larger block winner went through to the final instead of having a random draw.

The League Secretary said that he was not in favour of this. At present semi-finals are rotated between the regions. If the proposal was approved, it could mean that the same region would get into the finals every year.

The proposal was seconded by Dave Kibble and defeated.

Proposal J from Dyffryn Croquet Club (circulated with Agenda)

This was so that there were not such large blocks.

The proposal seconded by Peter Jones and carried.

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

There followed a short discussion on the proposal.

The proposal was seconded by Dave Kibble and carried.

13. Any Other Business

Ros Key-Pugh said that everyone who had attended Coaches Qualification courses during the year had to go back to their club and carry out a number of coaching sessions. They would

then receive their badge when a letter had been received from their club to confirm this. There did appear to have been a breakdown in communications, so will clubs please send in the relevant notification so that badges can be issued.

The Chairman said that it had been requested that a few wording changes to be made to the League Rules:

Rules 7a, 7b and 7c5 "*All games shall be played according to CA Laws for....*" not CA Rules-agreed

Rule 3a – Add "*except for the Advanced League*" - agreed

Rule 3c – *South West Area Newsletter (Swan)* – agreed

Rule 4f - insert "*matches*" after Intermediate League – agreed

14. A Surprise Item

The Chairman said that Ray Ransom was retiring as Coaching Officer after 14 years on the Committee, and would be a loss to the Federation. Ray Ransom had been asked to give us a brief history of the Federation.

The Federation came into being on the 11th November 1984 and today was our 25th AGM. Of the initial membership of 15 clubs only 2 are no longer with us, and at present there are over 35 clubs, which was very satisfying growth, we are the most successful of all the 9 Federations in terms of recruitment. The first committee was Martin Murray, Chairman; John McCullough, Secretary; Ian Maugham, Treasurer and Peter Dyke who became Schools Officer. Team competitions started in 1985 with the Senior and Beginners Leagues which subsequently became the Federation and B League. The Intermediate League was added in 1990, the 2 Advanced Leagues in 1994 and 1999 and the Golf Croquet League in 2006. 19 teams took part in 1985, this year saw 77 Association and 20 Golf Croquet teams competing. Consequently there was more work for the committee which has now grown to 9 members. Swan has been produced continuously with the exception of 1999 since 1985. Initially it was produced in April and October and consisted of 4 sides of A4. Since April 2000 Sue McKay has produced SWAN and has made a first class job of it – the envy of the other Federations. Ray finished by saying that the aim of the Federation had been to promote croquet in the South West and he was sure that the meeting would agree that it had more than met its aims.

The Chairman thanked Ray for all his work and presented him with a bottle of wine.

The Chairman closed the meeting closed 12.35p.m.