

SOUTH WEST FEDERATION OF CROQUET CLUBS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 22nd November 2009

The Chairman, Roger Buckley opened the meeting by welcoming everyone. It was nice to see so many past Chairmen present. He welcomed South Bristol CC to their first AGM.

1. **Apologies:** Cirencester CC, Dowlish Wake CC, Hamptworth CC, Plymouth CC and Wellington CC.
2. **Minutes** of the AGM held on 23rd November 2008 were agreed and signed. Proposed by Jane Hull and seconded by Tony Backhouse.
3. **Matters arising** There were no matters arising.

4. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman said that he was sad to report the deaths of Nick King (Bath), Allen Backway (Plymouth), Henry Drew (Exeter) and Jim Wallen and Alan Mackie both from Kington Langley. The SWF had had another successful year. Cheltenham won the Mary Rose, beating East Dorset in the Final. Martin Murray (Bristol) won the Spencer Ell, Dave Kibble (Bristol) won the Treasurer's Tankard, Ed Duckworth (Bristol) won the South of England Championship, Carol Smith (Cheltenham) won the British Women's Championship, and Stuart Smith (Broadwas) won the Centre Stage Golf Croquet Competition.

Cliff Jones was awarded a Lifetime Coaching Award by the CA.

CA Diplomas awarded for services to croquet and their clubs were awarded to:

Rosemary Danby and Nick Hurst both from Bear of Rodborough, Pauline Gann and Jim Wallen both from Kington Langley, Don Gugan and Ray Ransom both from Bristol, Christopher Larsson from Budleigh Salterton and Sue Mackay from Dyffryn. The Chairman presented Sue Mackay with her Diploma.

Proposal A (circulated with the Agenda)

Sue Mackay said that the constitution needed up-dating hence the Committee's proposal. Dave Kibble proposed a couple of minor changes of wording. The proposal was seconded by Marcus Evans 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 Cliff Jones the accounts were unanimously approved.

The Treasurer proposed no change in subscriptions; this was seconded by John Grimshaw and approved.

The Treasurer proposed C. Bailey as auditor for next year; this was seconded by Roger Buckley and approved.

6. **League Secretary's Report**

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

He said that the number of teams entering the Association Leagues was down this year, but the Golf Croquet League was up. He welcomed South Bristol to the Golf Croquet League.

The following trophies were presented:

Parkstone Trophy to Bristol

Parkstone Qualifier Trophy to Bath

Federation League Trophy to Cornwall

Intermediate League Trophy to Exeter
B League Trophy to Bear of Rodborough
Golf Croquet League Trophy to Broadwas

Congratulations to everyone.

The League Secretary said that as entries for the Golf Croquet League were increasing, he wondered if clubs would prefer it to be divided into 5 groups instead of the current 4. An informal vote was taken, which showed that clubs would prefer to keep the 4 groups of 7 or 8 teams.

Short Croquet Team Event had a full entry

Division 1 was won by Nailsea

Division 2 was won by Bath

The Individual Golf Croquet was not a success this year, with only 13 entries from 3 clubs on the eve of the event. The Committee has therefore decided due to the lack of support that it does not wish to host or manage the event in 2010.

Open Individual Golf Croquet results:

Level play singles - winner Ryan Cabble (Nailsea)

Handicap singles - winner Carl Jones (Nailsea)

Doubles - winners Jim Gregory/Polly Reynolds (Nailsea)

Ros Key-Pugh said that individuals can enter the Grass Roots, Centre Stage, and the All England Golf Croquet Competitions.

The League Secretary thanked everyone who had hosted play-offs. The League Secretary urged clubs to understand and play at the venues appointed for play-offs as this year Dyffryn were due to host the Intermediate League Final, but 2 clubs did not wish to travel the distance necessitating a new venue.

Proposal B (circulated with the Agenda)

The League Secretary said that range of handicap for the Federation came up last year. The Committee had looked at it and decided the handicap range was too great. A discussion followed and the following points were made: small clubs may find difficulty in finding players below 12, there is no handicap limit on the CA Secretary's Shield which the winner qualifies to play in. Robert Moss said that he had been asked by Don Gaunt (Federation handicap co-ordinator) to say that he (Don) was unhappy with the proposal, it was illegal to play off the wrong handicap and that by doing so it messed up the handicap system. This was re-iterated by Cliff Jones, who said that playing off the wrong handicap was against CA Handicap guidelines and that it distorted the handicap card as it was possible that some players would have easier games.

Michael Peters seconded the proposal but it was defeated.

Proposal C (circulated with Agenda)

The League Secretary said that he had had to implement 12e of the Association League rules this year and that this was needed for clarification. Seconded by Brian Shorney the proposal was carried.

Proposal D (circulated with the Agenda)

The League Secretary said that a few clubs had raised the question of a Level Play League. From the responses received only 7 appeared to be interested, they ranged from Broadwas in the north of the region to Budleigh Salterton and East Dorset in the south of the region. In the discussion that followed it was felt that the travelling distances would be a problem. If there could be 10 entries and divided into north and south it would be more viable. The proposal was seconded by Richard Mills (Lansdown) and carried. The League Secretary, when all the entries were in, would consider the viability for 2010.

7. Regional Coaching Officers Report

The Regional Coaching Officer, Cliff Jones, reported that a number of coaching courses had been held during the year. A Coaches Training Course had been held at Cornwall CC for both Association and Golf Croquet Coaches. Bristol CC had held a very successful Coaches Training Course for Club Coaches early in the year.

A Bronze Level Coaching Course was held at Bath CC. A Laws Course for both Association and Golf Croquet was held at Sidmouth CC and a formal Golf Croquet Laws Course with examinations was also held there.

The SW Federation had supplied coaches for The Croquet Academy at Gold Level and for a Laws Course.

He said that the SW Federation was lucky to have so many qualified coaches within its area. There are over 35 qualified Club Coaches, 30 plus qualified Grade 1 Coaches, 15 plus Grade 2 Coaches and 7 Grade 3 Coaches (a third of all Grade 3 Coaches within the CA).

A number of courses for 2010 had been arranged:

A Grade 1 Coaches Preparation Course to be held at Sidmouth CC on the 6th and 7th April. This is a new dedicated course for those Club Coaches and others who wish to qualify as Grade 1 Association Coaches.

An Association Croquet Bronze course at East Dorset CC on the 10th and 11th April.

It is proposed that a 2 day residential coaching conference be held in 2010 with graded coaches from clubs within the federation being invited to attend.

The Regional Coaching Officer thanked all coaches that have contributed to the coaching success in the federation and all the club coaches that have given their time for the benefit and improvement of those within their club.

8. Youth Officer's Report

The Youth Officer, Marcus Evans, reported that he had not been as active as he would have liked, due to pressure of work.

He thanked Nailsea, Sidmouth and Bath Croquet Clubs for their contributions. He said that if anyone had any ideas to contact him. He hoped to be more active in the coming year.

9. Publicity Officer's Report

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

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

She asked for any contributions for SWAN to be in by Christmas.

10. Development Officers Report

The Development Officer for the north Robert Moss gave the following report:

There are 37 clubs in the SW Federation spread over approximately 150 miles north to south and 120 miles west to east.

The Lansdown club are investigating a new site, as they are being evicted. They have found a site about ½ a mile from their current site and are currently pursuing planning permission and finance.

A group of people are considering setting up a new club at Severn Beach.

Stroud U3A has started a croquet group and is exploring the possibility of creating a court on council owned land at the leisure centre.

Sidmouth has completed the installation of their irrigation project.

East Dorset has completed the contractors work on building up the levels at the downhill side of four lawns thereby preventing further slippage and restoring the levels.

Dowlish Wake are investigating the costs of long term lawn improvement.

Mere club is gaining recruits and exchanging friendly matches with Lytes Cary.

11. Election of Officers

All Officers were willing to stand for another year. There were no other nominations.

All Officers were re-elected en bloc.

12. Proposal E from Dyffryn Croquet Club (circulated with Agenda)

There followed a discussion as to whether it was better to have an increased time limit as opposed to stopping the clock. David Richards (Wells) proposed an amendment that double banked games should have a time limit of 60 minutes. This was seconded by John Barber

(Broadwas) but was defeated. The original proposal seconded by Richard Mills (Lansdown) was carried.

13. Any Other Business

The Chairman said that the perennial question of handicaps and handicap cards had been raised again.

He would re-iterate that it is up to clubs and their club handicappers to ensure that players have a properly assessed and accurate handicap. If clubs had any problems with handicaps they should contact Don Gaunt, the Federation's handicap co-ordinator or any CA handicapper in the region.

Ros Key-Pugh said that clubs were needed to host Golf Croquet coaching days.

Bob Whitaker said that if clubs needed advice on their lawns, they should first approach their Development Officer, who would then refer it to him.

Robert Moss said that he had been asked by Don Gaunt to say that if there were any anomalies on the Golf Croquet Handicap system to let him know.

The Chairman closed the meeting closed 12.15p.m.