

**SOUTH WEST FEDERATION OF CROQUET CLUBS**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD AT BATCH COUNTRY HOUSE, LYMPHAM**  
**SUNDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2015**

In the absence of the Chairman, Roger Hayes, the meeting was taken by the Acting Chairman Marcus Evans.

**1. APOLOGIES:** Roger Hayes, Broadwas CC and St. Agnes CC.

**2. MINUTES:** The minutes of the AGM held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2014 were agreed and signed.

**3. MATTERS ARISING:** David Harrison-Wood said that East Dorset was unhappy with the Chairman's edict at the last AGM that a failed proposal could not be raised again for three years, and also that one of their proposals was not put forward to last year's meeting, as the AGM should be allowed to consider all proposals. Marcus Evans said that nothing had as yet been enshrined in the Constitution and the committee would review the situation.

**4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** Marcus Evans began by thanking Roger Hayes for his period as Chairman, which was warmly agreed by the meeting.

The Federation is now a member of the Croquet Association.

Marcus announced that Sue Mackay, who has served the Federation for the past 17 years, was not standing for re-election. He said that the Federation was very grateful to Sue for all the outstanding work she has done, and this was unanimously agreed by the meeting.

Sadly several croquet players have died during the year, namely David Edwards and Lynda Everett (Cornwall), Dab Wheeler (Cheltenham), Barbara Evans (Bristol) and Connie Stopforth (Bath).

In the South West Federation three clubs were given CA awards: the Apps Heley award to Swindon and Camerton & Peasedown, and the Millennium award to Budleigh Salterton.

James Galpin (Nailsea) got to the final of the CA National Junior Championship.

CA Diplomas were awarded to Russell Barter (Cheltenham), Paul Pristavec (Dyffryn) and Stephen Read (Fowey).

David Harrison-Wood won the Spencer Ell Cup and was re-presented with the cup at the meeting.

Peter Dyke (Nailsea) has been awarded a Lifetime Coaching Award.

Pat Long (Nailsea) played in the Women's World Championship.

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT:** Norman Connor presented the accounts to the meeting, which were accepted and Norman was thanked. It was agreed that membership and league entry fees should remain the same for 2016. As Norman has retired as a Chartered Accountant and the Committee have access to all figures, it was agreed that there was no need to appoint an Auditor, although it was noted that this would require an amendment to the Constitution.

**6. LEAGUE SECRETARY'S REPORT:** John Grimshaw circulated his report to the meeting. This season saw league entries from 117 teams representing 27 clubs. 311 matches were played, with just 12 conceded.

John asked clubs in future to mention on the results form if games in the Golf Croquet Leagues were played on small lawns. After the motion passed at the 2014 AGM to reduce the number of extra turns awarded to players on small lawns, there had been some discussion that the number should actually be increased, but John was unable to provide statistics as he had no means of knowing how many games were played on small lawns. He also reported that the effective handicap system in golf croquet seemed to be working well, as 55% of games had been won by the lower handicapped player, which was about right.

John stressed the advisability of playing all B League games as 26 point games on small lawns.

John was particularly pleased with the Short Croquet competitions held at Nailsea in April and Budleigh Salterton in October. Both these competitions will be run in 2016, at Nailsea on April 9/10 and at Budleigh on October 8/9. [NB date since changed to 15/16 October]

Marcus and John then presented the trophies to the following:

Parkstone Trophy Division 1 – Bristol (for the fourth time in succession).

Parkstone Trophy Division 2 – Taunton won the Division but were defeated by East Dorset in the play-off match, so East Dorset remain in Division 1 next year and Taunton remain in Division 2.

Parkstone Trophy Division 3 – Budleigh Salterton won this and will be in Division 2 next year, with the Bears being relegated to Division 3.

Federation League – Bath beat Broadwas in the final.

Intermediate League – Exeter beat Dyffryn in the final.

B League – Llandaff won for the first time, beating Cornwall in the final.

Golf Croquet Level Play League – Nailsea beat East Dorset in the final.

Golf Croquet Handicap League – East Dorset South East beat Weston super Mare Central in the final.

Short Croquet at Nailsea – Bath beat Nailsea Trendlewood in Division 1, Bath 2 won Division 2, Kington Langley 2 won Division 3, and Sidmouth Fortfield won Division 4.

Short Croquet at Budleigh Salterton – The block winners were Fowey, Dyffryn, Nailsea and Nailsea Trendlewood. Together with Cornwall as the best runners up, they will form Division 1 in 2016.

John was thanked by the Chairman for the enormous amount of work he put in.

**7. COACHING LIAISON OFFICER'S REPORT:** Roger Buckley reported that there had been a successful Coaching Course run by David Kibble at Cheltenham in March. David Kibble, now the National Coaching Officer, and Klim Seabright of Cheltenham were both thanked for their help.

It is hoped that Marcus Evans will be running a Referees Course at Budleigh in the coming season.

Roger reminded the meeting that any requests for coaching courses should be directed to him.

David Kibble asked if any future course could be entered in the CA Fixtures book. This was agreed.

**8. PUBLICITY OFFICER'S REPORT:** In her retirement report Sue Mackay said that John Grimshaw would be publishing the results of matches on the website in future.

Sue was pleased to say that Maureen Smith (Budleigh Salterton) had agreed to cover the production of the SWAN and her husband Jack would look after the website, although he would be pleased to hand it over if someone with more IT experience wished to take it on.

Sue was thanked again for all the time and work she has put in during the last 17 years.

**9. YOUTH OFFICER'S REPORT:** Marcus Evans gave a brief report, most points of which had already been covered in his Chairman's Report.

**10. DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS' REPORT:** Robert Moss (North) thanked the many people who had supported the Bears during the season. They now have a one-year trial period at the Royal Agricultural University at Cirencester.

There could be croquet development at the University of Aberystwyth and at Clifton College and Trinity College (a college for clerics).

A new development was taking place at Dauntsey, a small village near Chippenham.

Bath and Camerton & Peasedown had applied for an exceptional payment to improve their lawns for the Golf Croquet World Championships. Klim Seabright (Cheltenham) asked whether the WCF would contribute. Ros Key-Pugh said that because Egypt had pulled out of hosting the championships at short notice, the WCF would give 100% rather than 50% of the takings to the CA.

Adam Wimshurst (South) said that there had been no applications for grants in the South this year. He was very pleased with the growth St. Agnes is making. Newton Abbot has a small number of people playing on two small lawns. Plymouth has 35 playing members, but does not wish to enter a league at present. There may be a small number of people who wish to play at Woodbury near Exeter. A report on the new Academy at Budleigh would follow the meeting.

**11. GOLF CROQUET ADVISER'S REPORT:** Ros Key-Pugh reported that she and Mo Boys had run a Golf Croquet Coaches Qualification Course at Camerton & Peasedown. 16 people attended, representing 7 different clubs in the central and north part of the Federation. Some people had coached before and were awarded their white badge. These were Ulf Greder (Kingston Maurward), Stephen Custance-Baker (Taunton), Brian Wilson (Camerton & Peasedown), Richard Broad and Chris Jackson (Nailsea) and Anthea Carter (Dowlish Wake).

Yellow badges were awarded to Alwin Greder (Kingston Maurward), Alan Lynn and Keith Bryant (Dowlish Wake), Patrick Knight (Camerton & Peasedown), Linda Hunt and Wendy White (Swindon), Russell Barter (Cheltenham) and Mary Bradshaw (Taunton). Two people from Swindon attended the course but felt they needed to obtain more experience at home.

Ros said that some people did not receive badges if they were not members of the CA, but had received a letter of congratulations instead.

Much activity is planned for the new season and Ros concluded her report by stating that Camerton & Peasedown and Bath have been invited to host Division 2 of the World Golf Croquet Team Championship jointly from Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> to Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Ros hoped that people would visit this special occasion and would be welcomed by CPCC and Bath to watch, and even help!

**12. PROPOSAL A (CONSTITUTION):** As there will in future be two people dealing with the SWAN magazine and the website there has to be a slight change in the Constitution. This was agreed by the meeting.

**13. ELECTION OF OFFICERS:** No nominations were received for Secretary. Marcus Evans was proposed as Chairman, which was passed by the meeting. Due to the retirement of Sue Mackay, Maureen and Jack Smith (Budleigh Salterton) were proposed as her successors, and this was agreed.

All other officers agreed to serve for a further year. There being no other nominations, they were all re-elected. The committee for 2016 is thus:

Chairman	Marcus Evans
Secretary	Vacant
Treasurer	Norman Connor
League Secretary	John Grimshaw
Development Officer (North)	Robert Moss
Development Officer (South)	Adam Wimshurst

SWAN Editor  
Webmaster  
Youth Officer  
Coaching Liaison Officer  
Golf Croquet Adviser  
Federation Representative

Maureen Smith  
Jack Smith  
Marcus Evans  
Roger Buckley  
Ros Key-Pugh  
Brian Shorney

#### **14 PROPOSALS:**

##### ***Proposal 'B' from Bath – Golf Croquet High Handicap League:***

Richard Mills (Bath) proposed that the words “The rules of such a league to be identical to the rules of the GC Handicap and Level Play Leagues” should omit the word Handicap. The meeting felt that most clubs had assumed the proposed new High Handicap League would be handicap and not level play, and Peter Dyke (Nailsea) proposed a counter amendment to omit the words Level Play instead. By a show of hands, it was agreed to be a handicap event and the Nailsea amendment was passed.

The amended proposal was then passed. John Grimshaw requested that all clubs who had submitted a provisional entry to the new league should confirm their entry with him.

##### ***Proposal 'C' from Sidmouth – Walkovers:***

After some discussion the proposal was defeated.

##### ***Proposal 'D' from Bristol – Triple Banking:***

An amendment was proposed by Peter Dyke (Nailsea) that Triple Banking should be allowed, but not in the B League, as one-lawn clubs could divide their lawn into two small lawns. After strong points made by Jane Hull (Kington Langley) and Robert Moss (Bears), stressing the advantage of triple banking to visiting teams, the amendment was passed. The proposal as amended by Nailsea was then passed. John Grimshaw urged that all clubs using triple banking should invest in a set of tertiary colours, rather than painting stripes on an old set of balls. Brian Shorney endorsed this, and also said that the CA was investigating better clips for triple banking.

#### **15. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Brian Wilson (Camerton & Peasedown) reported that 5<sup>th</sup> June 2016 will be National Croquet Day and asked all representatives to make a note of the date.

The meeting was then addressed by Rob Weeks of Budleigh Salterton about their plans for the South West Croquet Academy. The presentation was received warmly by the meeting and thanks expressed to Rob Weeks for the action he is taking. Further information on the Academy can be found at [www.southwestcroquetacademy.co.uk](http://www.southwestcroquetacademy.co.uk)