

SOUTH WEST FEDERATION of CROQUET CLUBS

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING held on 20th NOVEMBER 2016

at BATCH COUNTRY HOUSE HOTEL LYMPHAM

Prior to the meeting's commencement Marcus Evans presented Sue Mackay with a silver swan as a memento for her many years of producing the SWAN.

- 1. APOLOGIES:** Broadwas, St Agnes and Lytes Cary
- 2. MINUTES:** The minutes of the AGM held 15th November 2015 were agreed and signed.
- 3. MATTERS ARISING:** None, other than correcting Norman Connor's name.
- 4. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT:** (Marcus Evans)

In May Bath and Camerton & Peasedown clubs jointly hosted The World Croquet Federation Golf Croquet World Team Championship. Marcus Evans thanked both clubs for hosting this event together with all those officials and volunteers that helped to make this such a successful event.

He also thanked Nailsea for hosting the World Women's Championship and all those SWF clubs participating and making the annual League matches successful. This kind of activity makes us one of the strongest Federations, nationally.

There were no questions put to the Chairman.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT: (Norman Connor)

The income and expenditure Account was similar to the previous year with the surplus being £627 - a small increase on y/e 2015 of £444. The closing balance was £5464. It was agreed that the fees and subscriptions should remain the same. The vote was proposed by Norman Connor and seconded by Marcus Evans and carried unanimously.

There was one question from the floor: Regarding income from Short Croquet, where is the expenditure accounted for? Answer: it is included under League Finals.

6. LEAGUE SECRETARY'S REPORT: (John Grimshaw)

JG circulated his report to the meeting. He welcomed St Agnes to the league participating for the first time. There were 28 clubs participating with an increased 341 matches played with 12 conceded. The increased numbers attributed to new High Handicap Golf League. In total 556 different players took part; 202 sole AC, 208 GC and 146 in both.

The reduced bisque schedule for GC matches played on less than ¾ lawns has led to comments that it errs in favour of the HHGC player. An analysis has been undertaken. This

looked at 3 clubs and the results showed no obvious benefit to the HHC as the results were similar (35/43%).

There had been some debate on lawn hire fees when the SWF ask clubs to host finals and Short Croquet competitions. So far it has been agreed that lawn fees in line with those of the CA will be paid for finals hosted from 2017. Discussion is still ongoing about Short Croquet Lawn hire and about the provision of lunches at finals. Some adjustments will be made, and the clubs will be informed when the Committee has made a decision. Some increase to entry fees may be necessary to fund any changes to the SC hire.

It was noted that Short Croquet is going very well in the SWF. Teams play four games per day at 80 minutes/game.

John made a plea for the online League result forms to be used if possible.

There is an issue regarding travel distance between Cornwall and East Dorset for League games. This needs to be resolved.

Marcus and John then presented the trophies to the following:

Parkstone Trophy – Div 1 - Bristol for the 5th consecutive year were undefeated. **Div 2 – Bath**. However, in the play-off Dyffryn won their match. **Div 3 Cheltenham 2^{nds}**, but in their play-off against Budleigh Salterton they lost. So the participants in each division remain the same.

There were 32 matches played, 19 home wins, 12 away and 1 draw. 82 players took part.

Federation League – Won by Broadwas undefeated in the **Northern**. **Southern – Kingston Maurward** undefeated in their division; **Central – Abbey** after beating Bristol in block play and Bath and Nailsea eliminated on a who-beat-whom criteria.

There were 53 matches played, 30 home wins, 17 away, 1 draw, 4 conceded. 121 players took part.

Intermediate League –Camerton and Peasdown Down North beat Kingston Langley in the final.

There were 42 matches played, 27 home wins, 18 away, 1 conceded. 116 players took part.

B League – East Dorset beat Nailsea North in the final.

There were 47 matches played, 27 home wins, 18 away, 1 conceded. 116 players took part.

Golf Croquet Level-Play League – Worcester Norton beat Kingston Maurward in the final.

There were 44 games played 26 home wins, 15 away, 1 drawn. 137 players took part.

Golf Croquet Handicap League – Swanage beat Weston-Super-Mare-North in the final

There were 97 matches played, 26 home wins, 35 away, 8 drawn. 354 players took part.

Golf Croquet High Handicap League (Inaugural year) Budleigh Salterton beat Cheltenham in the final

There were 26 matches played, 15 home wins, 8 away, 2 drawn. 126 players took part.

Short Croquet at Nailsea – Nailsea Trendlewood won again

Short Croquet at Budleigh Salterton – Nailsea Trendlewood triumphed again.

Questions/Comments from Floor: Mike Tracy (Nailsea) commented that he realised that the Nailsea SC competition involved a lot of work but was a delightful way to start the season. Players travel considerable distances and he would hate to see a large hike in fees. A small increase would be gratefully received. Ken Wilcox (Lym Valley) commented that a small increase would be accepted by players.

JG reminded those present that there were two weeks left to enter Leagues.

7. REGIONAL COACHING OFFICER'S REPORT (Roger Buckley)

RB reported he had received a request for a coaching course to be held at Cheltenham. Klim Seabright had agreed to do this. There had also been a request from East Dorset for a referees course. Marcus Evans agreed to do this. Ros Key-Pugh had offered a GC Coaching course. It would need about 8 people to make it viable. RB suggested this might be advertised in the SWAN & on the Website.

8. PUBLICITY OFFICERS' REPORTS: (Maureen Smith/Jack Smith)

MS reported that the feedback on her first coloured publication of the SWAN as editor had been positive. The SWAN needs content from each club and she made a plea for a variety of articles of interest to be submitted to her by the beginning of February. She also asked for clubs to keep her updated on all changes of secretary/main contact, Chairman, tournament secretary, and critically, the details of their leagues secretaries. However, a number of clubs do not announce any changes until March, once they have held their AGM's. In this case, some information published in the SWAN is likely to be out of date. Marcus suggested that Clubs might like to consider holding their AGM's in November rather than March so that the best available information was in place for the season start.

Paul Francis (Bath) pointed out that producing the SWAN is a major cost, so are there plans for there to be an electronic version? The Exeter representative pointed out that about one third of their members are not on-line and Sue Mackay pointed out that League contacts/captains are not all happy to have personal details available on-line. Club contacts, although available on-line are filtered using a forwarding SWF address. It was eventually agreed that Match contacts are not wanted on-line.

JS reported that the current SWF website is beginning to show its age in both age and background software and there was an intention to give it a facelift with new editing software in the coming year. He also stated that some personal health issues had recently prevented keeping some items up to date.

9. YOUTH OFFICER'S REPORT: (Marcus Evans)

No questions or comments from floor.

10. DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS' REPORTS: (Robert Moss/Adam Wimshurst)

RM thanked Roger Buckley for persuading him to take up the role as he had discovered two wonderful things: playing the game and helping support clubs starting up. He had been involved with three new clubs and has two potential new ones close to Salisbury. Bristol University is also a possibility and Alison Jones' initiative there is to be applauded. Clifton College have joined the CA. AW is helping him with Royal Agricultural College - over 80 signed up after freshers week. They have one lawn and four mallets. If clubs have any equipment they would like to donate, it would be welcomed. Three clubs are applying for Grant Aid. There had not been many applicants compared with previous years. If clubs are planning something RM urged them to talk early with him. If it is a maintenance item, it is unlikely to get a development grant. True development stands a better chance. Dave Kibble suggested guidelines would make a good article for the SWAN. Ros Key-Pugh asked if funds can roll over? Brian Shorney reported that was not possible.

AW reported that a quantity of Barlow Ball sets were available from Budleigh. He reported on a new club in Bude being started by Tony Trump who has moved there from the S.E. They have obtained a new site and have 27 members and play GC only. Plymouth has been revitalised, having 39 members and have been persuaded to join in competitive play. They have been awarded £1230 towards rabbit protection. Dowlish Wake suffered an arson attack but it did not result in a complete loss of equipment. They are planning to renovate their lawns. Duncan Hector is advising. Ros Key-Pugh asked if that included any levelling. The answer was negative.

11. GOLF CROQUET ADVISER'S REPORT: (Ros Key-Pugh)

There were a fair amount of courses being offered at Budleigh and in the North of the area. Also, Lionel Tibble will be running an advanced course at Budleigh and another in the North. Swindon has requested some coaching. Kington Maurward had entered the High Handicap league and were delighted with their first year result. RK-P gave early notification of a Doubles Tournament planned for 5th Sept.

12. FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT: (Brian Shorney)/Klim Seabright)

Please note, KS had been co-opted into the role prior to the AGM due to timings of CA changes and the report was his. The CA has suggested that if they have a 2 or 3 year plan they might want two proactive Development Officers. Letters have been sent to all clubs. If you did not receive it let KS know. Shrinkage of AC is based on anecdotal evidence. 12 Federation reps had returned questionnaires.

13. ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2016/2017

There were no nominations received for secretary but there were two possible expressions of interest for the role. Due to the retirement of both Roger Buckley as Coaching Liaison Officer, Richard Jackson was proposed as his successor. With Brian Shorney's new role as Chairman of the CA Council, Klim Seabright was proposed as his successor as The Federation Representative. Both these proposals were agreed. All the other officers agreed to serve for another year and, there being no other nominations, they were all agreed.

SWF Committee for 2016-7 therefore became:

Chairman	Marcus Evans
Secretary	To be co-opted
Treasurer	Norman Connor
League Secretary	John Grimshaw
Regional Coaching Officer	Richard Jackson
Publicity Officers	Jack & Maureen Smith
Youth Officer	Marcus Evans
Development Officer (North)	Robert Moss
Development Officer (South)	Adam Wimshurst
Golf Croquet Adviser	Ros Key-Pugh
Federation Representative	Klim Seabright

14. PROPOSALS (see attachment below for details.):

The Committee proposed "A" (seconded Sue Mackay). Vote was unanimous in favour, without amendment.

The Committee proposed “B” (seconded Marcus Evans). Meeting voted in favour as amended with one abstention.

Bath proposed “C” (seconded Robert Moss) Meeting fully discussed, 30 in favour, 3 against, 5 abstentions, no amendments.

Camerton & Peasedown proposed “D”, with a similar untitled proposal from Kingston Maurward (D2). There was plenty of discussion and they were conjoined with proposal E. Dyffryn proposed “E”. After discussion the motion was amended and then approved as a conjoined proposal with “D” & “D2”.

East Dorset proposed “F”, which was not supported by the meeting.

East Dorset proposed “G”, which was not supported by the meeting.

East Dorset proposed “H”, which was not supported by the meeting.

Kington Langley proposed “I”, and this was approved without amendment.

Nailsea proposed “J”, which was approved without amendment.

15. AOB

National Croquet Day: Brian Wilson (Marketing Team leader at the CA) thanked clubs for participating this past year. He said that it will be repeated in the coming year on 4th June and encouraged clubs to do something to mark the day.

SWCA: The South West Croquet Academy had a very successful first year, as per results and feedback from coaches and participants. 2017 will be run with top coaches. A new steering group has now taken over the running of this venture. A new user friendly website is currently being formulated to simplify registration and secretarial workload. A vote of thanks was given.

Governance: A request was made for feedback from clubs and individuals. Ros Key-Pugh will be collating input for SWF. Brian Shorney outlined which direction the CA wants to move towards and used the key words “...meeting the needs of our membership.” There is a big need to get members to respond.

Handicapping: Dave Kibble drew attention to information available regarding Handicapping and the need to align handicaps in clubs within the Federation. Brian Shorney referred to the excellent update to those pages for club handicappers to use. It was suggested that this meeting should appoint Federation Handicappers. Marcus Evans agreed in principle and

Dorianne Forsdick (Cornwall) wanted to know how it would work in practice. Ideally handicappers would cover both codes. There would need to be a budget for travelling expenses. Someone suggested the CA should meet the costs regarding handicappers. Someone from Bath agreed in principle, but would like the SWF to work up details.

Sanctions if league teams show up without their handicap cards was discussed. It was agreed that no sanctions would be applied this coming year, but reporting on score sheets could be worthwhile. Getting the starting handicap right was deemed very important. Nailsea stated that they coach AC starters on short lawns as playing on full lawns is premature in first year.

PRESENTATIONS were made to:

Sue Mackay for her 17 years as SWAN editor was presented with a flower arrangement and an engraved swan memento.

Roger Buckley who stepped down from the committee after 15 years as Coaching Officer Was presented with a bottle of scotch whiskey.

Brian Shorney after years as the SWF representative to the CA was presented with a bottle of port. Best wishes were given for his new role as Chairman of the CA Council.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at approximately 1:30 pm

Proposal A, from the Committee

To delete clause 10 of the constitution which requires the SWF to have a headquarters.

Reason: the activities of the SWF do not require a headquarters and it therefore does not maintain one in practice.

Proposal B, from the Committee

An addition to clause 7 of the constitution (General Meetings) specifying that proposals to the AGM will not be tabled if they were considered in the previous AGM. **Reason:** many attendees of recent AGMs have become somewhat frustrated at the same issues coming up time and again. However, the committee recognises things could change so have decided not to impose a more stringent restriction.

Proposal C, from Bath

We propose that opponents are paired in the Federation League in the same way as they are currently paired for the Advanced League i.e. in handicap order for singles games.

In order to implement this change:

9b would need to be amended to read “HANDICAP LEAGUES (OTHER THAN THE FEDERATION LEAGUE)”

9c would need to be amended to read “ADVANCED AND FEDERATION LEAGUES”

Reason: Our recent experiences in the Secretary’s Shield convinced us that pairing opponents in handicap order for singles play makes for more competitive and enjoyable matches.

We believe that introducing this approach for the Federation League, where it is possible to have a very wide range of handicaps, would not only reduce the likelihood of one-sided uncompetitive games but also reduce the impact of any rogue handicaps.

Proposal D, from Camerton & Peasedown

The handicap ranges of the two Leagues should be amended to Handicap:– up to H8; High Handicap:– H 8 – 16. Should a club be unable to find a team with all players below H9 for the Handicap League they should be permitted to play a higher handicapped player who must play off H8.

Proposal E, from Dyffryn

The current rule for the GC handicap league eligibility includes:

“4 Eligibility

c. On the day any match is played, each player shall comply with the appropriate handicap restriction from the following:

(1)There is no handicap restriction in the Handicap League.”

Dyffryn CC proposes that this rule be changed to:

“4 Eligibility

c. On the day any match is played, each player shall comply with the appropriate handicap restriction from the following:

(1)The Handicap League shall be restricted to handicaps 9 and below.”

Reason: In the light of changes to the golf handicaps and the introduction of a high handicap league we feel the boundary between the High Handicap League and the Handicap League needs definition if they are to work properly.

This would also solve the problem of low handicap players facing a large number of extra turns from those with the new higher handicaps, which in timed games offers a possibly unfair advantage.

Proposal F, from East Dorset

Please note that this Proposal relates only to the **Golf Croquet** League Rules.

1. INTRODUCTION

This proposal is intended to specify a new and more appropriate format for the Golf Croquet Level Play League, to replace the format inherited since its inaugural season from the Golf Croquet Handicap League.

The problems with the existing format, when applied to Level Play, are:

- there can be a large difference in handicap between players in each game, which could be seen as unsuitable in terms of level play;
- a single-game result, or one determined by a time limit, may not be representative;
- some clubs may struggle to field more than 3 players (the minimum team size is 4);
- 20 games (in 6 sessions) are considered by some clubs to be too many for one day of Golf Croquet;
- drawn games or drawn matches may result.

The proposed format is based on that used by the CA in its Inter-Club Championship and Murphy Shield Golf Croquet events (and adopted in 2013 by the Southern Croquet Federation for their GC Level Play League). This proposal retains the pertinent features of that format — i.e. best-of-3 play; no time limits; no draws — and adds in the flexibility of team size, doubles pairings and match format found in the SWF AC Advanced League, to wit:

- team size can be from 3 upwards;
- substitutes in a later session are allowed;
- a doubles pair may be *any* two players in the team;
- the match may comprise almost any combination of singles and doubles;
- the match may be played in two sessions.

In this new format there will be, as a general rule, no time limits and no draws allowed, so a meaningful result can be achieved in each match — and without the necessity for a deciding game in a play-off.

2. PROPOSED CHANGES

Each match, between teams of three or more players (though substitutes are allowed as well), will be played as an odd number of rubbers (a rubber is the best of three 13-point level play games, either singles or doubles). Matches will be played on full- or near to full-sized lawns without time limits, and opponents will be paired in handicap order. Exceptions to the above general principles are also included.

When considering these changes it is important to bear in mind that the CA Inter-Club GC match format, on which this proposal is based, currently allows for best-of-3 play with no time limits in two sessions, which proves that it is a practicable proposition for a one-day match.

Furthermore, a match can be played with 3, 4, 5 or even more players in a team, provided that there are sufficient lawns and the same number of players per side in any one session.

3. RELEVANT RULES

N.B. In the following proposed amendments to rules 5–9 the current wording (which, should this proposal be accepted, would apply to the Handicap Leagues only) has been omitted for brevity. If this proposal is accepted, the content of each of those existing rules will be prefixed with "*a. HANDICAP LEAGUES.*".

(a) **Rule 5** [*Level Play League as per AC Advanced League*]:

5. SIZE OF TEAMS

b. LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE.

- (1) *The size of teams for any given fixture is a matter for agreement between the opposing clubs, subject to (2) and (3) below.*
- (2) *The minimum team size shall be three players.*
- (3) *Subject to (2) above, where teams cannot agree on the team size, the lower of the two suggested figures shall be used.*
- (4) *Nothing in (1) to (3) above shall restrict a club from substituting new players in a later session of the match.*

(b) **Rule 6** [*Level Play League as per AC Advanced League, plus "rubbers" and "match points"*]:

6. MATCH FORMATS

b. LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE.

- (1) *Whatever the team size, the match shall be arranged so that one side must win (except as provided in Rule 11b).*
- (2) *Subject to 5b(1) and 6b(1) above, and the number of lawns it has available, the home club shall choose the match format. Appendix 2 lists the possible match formats.*
- (3) *A rubber shall be the best of three games.*
- (4) *A match shall consist of a minimum of five rubbers. One-lawn clubs may either play two afternoon sessions or triple-bank.*
- (5) *Two match points shall be awarded to a winning team, or one match point to each team in the event of a draw under Rule 11b.*

(c) **Rule 7** [*specifies game type and lawn size*]:

7. GAME FORMATS

b. LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE. All games shall be 13-point level play games, played according to the CA Rules for Golf Croquet on full- or near to full-sized lawns.

(d) **Rule 8** [*deals with time limits, if any*]:

8. TIME LIMITS

b. LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE.

- (1) *There shall be no time limits, except with the agreement of both captains.*
- (2) *Where a time limit is invoked, a draw is not an acceptable outcome.*

(e) **Rule 9** [*Level Play League as per AC Advanced League*]:

9. PAIRING OF OPPONENTS

b. LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE.

- (1) *It shall be the duty of the team captains to arrange the pairing of opponents for all games of the match prior to the start of the first session.*

- (2) *As play may be all singles, all doubles or a mixture of both, the following shall apply.*
- i. Where one or more doubles rubbers are to be played in a session, the captains shall nominate the partnerships; opponents shall be paired in order of aggregate handicaps. For any remaining singles rubbers in that session, opponents shall be paired in handicap order.*
 - ii. Where only singles rubbers are to be played in a session, opponents shall be paired in handicap order.*
 - iii. Where two or more players in a team have the same handicap the captain shall choose their order, which shall apply for the whole match.*
 - iv. Singles players must play different opponents in each session, so the pairings must be adjusted, if necessary, to comply with this requirement.*

(f) **Rule 11a** [*Level Play League walkover score added*]:

a. **WALKOVERS.**

- (1) If a club fails to provide the minimum size of team for any match, the League Secretary shall be empowered to award a walkover win to its opponents.

(2) **SCORING.**

- i. HANDICAP LEAGUES.* A walkover win shall be scored 9–0.
- ii. LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE.* A walkover win shall be scored 3–0.

(g) **Rule 13d** [*change of reference*]:

d. For each play-off and the final, the host club shall:

- (1) determine the number and size of the lawns (subject to Rule 7b7a(2)); and
- (2) appoint a referee.

(h) **Rule 13e** [*a deciding game is only for the Handicap Leagues*]:

e. **HANDICAP LEAGUES.** If a play-off or final match ends in a 10–10 draw, ...

(i) **Appendix 1** [*change of references*]:

As Soon As Possible (LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE)

3. **Contact your opponents to agree team size.**

5b

4. **The home club should then decide the match format and notify the away club.**

6b

See also Appx 2

At least 7 days before the match (**HANDICAP LEAGUES**)

35. Contact your opponents to state your team size.

5a

46. Where relevant, the home club must inform the away club of the size of lawns to be used.

7b7a(2)

On Match Day

57. The team captains shall arrange the pairings of opponents for all games prior to the start of each round / **the match.**

9a(1) / 9b(1)

(j) **Appendix 2** to be copied from the AC League Rules. The existing Appx 2 will be renamed Appx 3, and the reference in the current 7c amended correspondingly.

Proposal G, from East Dorset

Please note that this Proposal relates only to the **Golf Croquet** League Rules.

1. INTRODUCTION

Some clubs with only one lawn enter the Golf Croquet Leagues. Matches at these venues generate problems of excessive elapsed time for the match because all the games have to be double-banked, which in turn leads to a degree of frustration for the players, whose play is continually held up.

2. PROPOSED CHANGE

We propose that any club wishing to play matches *at home* in a Golf Croquet League must have two or more lawns, at least one of which is full- or near to full-sized. If this is not the case, it must play all its home matches at another venue: this could be either a neutral venue, or that of the opponent (with their agreement).

The League Secretary will need to be aware of each club's lawn status when he prepares the league fixture commitment notice. This can be achieved by asking the appropriate questions on the League Application Form, sent out prior to the AGM.

3. RELEVANT RULES

(a) **Rule 2** [*insert definitions and specify conditions*]:

2. FIXTURES AND VENUES

- a. The fixtures and their venues (*subject to (c) below*) for each season shall be laid down by the League Secretary, who shall send out notification to each club of its league fixture commitment for the following season no later than one month after the AGM.
- b. *Any lawn at a particular venue may be described as either full-sized, near to full-sized (i.e. $\frac{3}{4}$ -size or larger), or small (i.e. less than $\frac{3}{4}$ -size).*
- c. *Any club entering a Golf Croquet League should have two or more lawns, at least one of which is full- or near to full-sized. If this condition is not met, that club must play all its matches away (i.e. at its opponents' or at neutral venues).*

(b) **Rule 7a** [*remove redundant definitions*]:

7. GAME FORMAT

- a. All games shall be 13-point games, played according to the CA Rules for Golf Croquet on full-sized, near to full-sized-~~(i.e. $\frac{3}{4}$ -size or larger)~~, or small-~~(i.e. less than $\frac{3}{4}$ -size)~~ lawns.

Proposal H, from East Dorset

Please note that this Proposal relates only to the **Association Croquet** League Rules.

1. INTRODUCTION

In the Advanced League, where opponents are paired in handicap order, two or more players may have the same handicap, so clarification is needed.

2. PROPOSED CHANGE AND RELEVANT RULE

The following should be added to the last paragraph in **Rule 9c**:

- (3) *Where two or more players in a team have the same handicap the captain shall choose their order, which shall apply for the whole match.*
- (4) Singles players must play different opponents in each session, so the pairings must be adjusted, if necessary, to comply with this requirement.

Proposal I, from Kington Langley

Remove Rule 7c and Appendix 2 from the GC League Rules. **Reason:** in October 2014 a change was made to the rules reducing the allocation of extra turns on small lawns. KLCC believed then and continue to believe that such a reduction is to the advantage of the low handicapped player. Low handicapped players are usually capable of running hoops or clearing at distances, these distances on small lawns are shorter making the shots easier. KLCC propose that the extra turns on small lawns should be the same as on full lawns.

Proposal J, from Nailsea

That in the Golf Croquet Level Play League drawn singles games would not be allowed. **Reason:** as the results should be sent to Stephen Mulliner to put in the rankings it is desirable to have a win/loss result in all singles games. Note: under this proposal drawn doubles games would still be allowed. There is no reason for changing this as the results of doubles do not go in the rankings. Also if you have a drawn game it is less likely that the match will be drawn - this would require an even number of drawn games.