

South West Federation of Croquet Clubs Minutes of AGM		
Date	19 th November 2017	
Time	10.30	
Venue	Batch Country House Hotel, Batch Lane, Lympsham, Weston super Mare, BS24 0EX	
Present	See attached list p8	
Committee present	Chair Treasurer Secretary League Secretary Regional Coaching Liaison Youth Officer SWAN Editor Development Officer North Development Officer South GC Advisor Rep to CA Council Webmaster	Marcus Evans Norman Connor Linda Shaw John Grimshaw Richard Jackson Marcus Evans Maureen Smith Robert Moss Adam Wimshurst Ros Key-Pugh Klim Seabright Jack Smith (Apologies)
Welcome Marcus welcomed everyone to the meeting		
Apologies Received from: Wellington CC, Broadwas CC, Dyffryn CC, Palace Wells CC, Bude CC Jack Smith, Sue Mackay, Stefan Carlyle		
Minutes of last AGM These were agreed as correct and duly signed		
Matters arising <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Campbell Anderson (Beckford CC) noted that there was no minute of the change to GC rules handicap limits. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Marcus replied that there had been confusion at the meeting and consequent inaccuracy in the minutes. The matter is being discussed again today. 		
Chair's report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marcus described SWF as a strong body that we were lucky to be a part of and highlighted significant achievements by local players <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bristol reached the final of the national inter-club competition, losing out to Surbiton ○ Mark Suter (Nailsea) won the Chairman's Salver returning to croquet after a 10 year break ○ Robert Wilkinson (Bristol) won the Spencer Ell ○ James Galpin (Nailsea) won the National Junior Championship • He noted forthcoming changes to the Committee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Norman Connor is standing down as Treasurer after 7 years of quiet efficient service with easy to read reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ He has left us in a stronger financial position enabling us to provide a level of financial support to new small clubs ▪ We do not have a replacement as yet so any offers or suggestions will be welcome 		

- Norman was presented with a bottle of port in recognition of his long and valued support
 - Sadly too Jack Smith is standing down as webmaster - he has had a lot to contend with recently - bad health and internet difficulties beyond his control - we thank him for his support and wish him well
 - We thank Sue MacKay for stepping into the breach and keeping our creaking website going
 - We plan to have a new website by the beginning of next year and welcome suggestions for this
 - Thanks to Linda in her role as secretary and for introducing Cygnet
 - This time next year we will be looking for a new Chair and League Secretary and eventually a new Development Officer
 - Suggestions / offers of help will be welcome and support will be given
- There were no questions

Treasurer's report

- Summary of accounts previously circulated and attached p9
- Having felt 'conned' into the post, Norman has enjoyed his role
- He is pleased to have seen an increase in income - citing the Short Croquet fees in particular
- He noted a £400 surplus for the year
- He is not proposing any increase in charges
- There were no questions
- The report was unanimously accepted

League Secretary's report

- This had been previously circulated and is attached p10
- The following additional points were made
- Statistics relevant to the GC League Rules proposals were given
 - There are a high number of entries for next year which may mean some restructuring of divisions especially for Advanced and Federation
 - John would welcome feedback on this e.g. travel implications
 - There are fewer GC Level Play entries so these will be reverting to 2 regions
 - Short croquet is over-subscribed for both venues
 - Camerton & Peasedown have offered a third day for a fifth division
 - Budleigh hope to be able to do the same
 - John noted he would be resigning next year and has had one possible expression of interest in taking on the role
 - Trophies were presented

Parkstone Trophy: Bristol	GC Level: Nailsea
Parkstone Division 2: Taunton Dean	GC Handicap: Cheltenham
Parkstone Division 3: The Bears	GC High Handicap: Cheltenham
Federation: Bath	Short Croquet at Nailsea: Nailsea (Club)
Intermediate: Lym Valley	Short Croquet at Budleigh: Sidmouth Fortfield
B League: Taunton Deane	

- John reminded people there are 14 more days in which to return League entries
- There were no questions

Regional Coaching Officer's report

- This had been previously circulated and is attached 13
- Richard noted how he too had been 'conned' into the role but has made contact with all clubs
- He thanked the coaches especially those who have worked outside their own club and would welcome others who are able to do this
- He noted Dave Kibble is able to run another Coaches course next year if there is a demand for it
- He reminded the meeting about the CA awards and encouraged nominations
- He also referred to the wider CA Diploma and encouraged clubs to nominate people
- Brian Shorney informed the meeting that Sarah Hayes (Cheltenham) is now Chair of the CA Coaching Committee
- There were no questions

Publicity Officers' report

- Maureen reported on behalf of Jack (report attached p 14) and thanked Sue for her support with the website and is looking forward to a new one
- She then spoke of SWAN noting the tight deadlines and urging prompt submission of articles and information
 - She particularly welcomes interesting and wide-ranging articles and photos noting the 1st Feb deadline
- Errors do occur in SWAN and hopefully Cygnet can help correct these quickly
- She re-iterated the importance of keeping us updated with contact details
- There will be an increase in charges for adverts in SWAN - these will apply to non-SWF or private adverts with SWF members being entitled to 50% discount which means prices do not increase for members next years
 - She urged advertisers to submit payment with the advert as some people were being chased months later for payment
- She asked if people wanted to see the rankings in SWAN and the meeting was in favour of this continuing
- There were no questions

Youth Officer's report

- Marcus noted two local outstanding juniors:
 - James Galpin (Nailsea)
 - Daniel Gott (Bath)
- If any club would like support with recruiting / retaining young players, Marcus would be happy to provide this
- He noted that Lionel Tibble ran a junior summer school this year and plans to do so again next year - he would welcome more juniors

Development Officers' report

- Adam presented the report for the South - attached p15
 - He noted in particular an exemplary development grant application from Cornwall but did point out that applications do not need to be as long as this!
- Robert presented the report for the North - attached p15
 - He urged clubs to seek advice before you start the application
 - He cited Cardigan's experience with seeking insurance cover for equipment and urged clubs to shop around and seek advice from their Development Officer or CA before committing themselves on this

- He would welcome information on the numbers of young people playing in the region
- He urged clubs with surplus equipment to bear in mind the needs of new clubs
- He has been in post for 10 years and is not intending to stand down immediately but will do so within the next 6 years
- He noted that we will be holding a series of Handicap Conferences in the new year and that from 2019 every club will be expected to have a Club Handicapper for the relevant code in order to be able to enter League teams
 - Campbell Anderson (Beckford) requested the dates for these be confirmed asap
 - Smaller clubs expressed concern they would not be able to appoint a Club Handicapper and were reassured they would receive full support from the SWF with this
- Brian Shorney reminded the meeting that with regard to Development Grants it is CA policy only to support those clubs playing, or intending to play, both codes: AC and GC

GC Advisor's report

- Ros presented her report which may be found on p16
- She commented on the forthcoming GC rules proposal from Nailsea
- She also summarised her work on the CA Governance Working Party and on the Federations working group on player recruitment and retention
- David Harrison-Wood (East Dorset) noted he thought 8 is the best lower limit for high handicap GC
 - Ros replied that 8 is the lower limit and the highest handicaps of players in the High Handicap League so far has been 12 to the best of her knowledge.
 - Also that we needed to think about how much overlap there is between adjacent levels
 - Noted that CA is introducing a C Class GC competition with 7 as the lower limit and wondered if we should consider doing the same
- Campbell Anderson (Beckford) queried if there was a process for arranging friendly practice games and was advised to make direct contact with neighbouring clubs
- Andru Blewett (St Agnes) and Klim Seabright (Cheltenham) both described ways they do this

Federation Representative to Council report

- Klim presented his report which may be found on p19
- He stressed the importance of taking into account the views and needs of all croquet players, not just CA members

Update on the work of the CA Development Officer

- Linda summarized work Dave Gunn has been undertaking with Federations - report may be found on p20
- Cygnet will keep members up to date with developments

Election of Officers 2017 - 2018

- The following people are standing uncontested:
 Marcus Evans: Chair
 Linda Shaw: Secretary
 John Grimshaw: League Secretary
 Klim Seabright: Fed Rep to CA Council
 Adam Wimshurst: Development Officer South
 Robert Moss: Development Officer North
 Richard Jackson: Coaching Officer

Ros Key-Pugh: GC Advisor
 Maureen Smith: SWAN / Publicity Officer

- Marcus suggested the vote take place en bloc
 - This was agreed nem con
- All were voted in unanimously

Resolutions: Constitutional

The original proposed resolutions and rationale are attached p21

Resolution A:

Proposed	SWF Committee	
Seconded	Stephen Custance-Baker	Taunton Deane
For: Unanimous	Against	Abstentions

Resolution B:

Discussion concerning changing the word ‘paying’ to ‘playing’ in section 5, para b was deemed not necessary and the original proposal was voted on

Proposed	SWF Committee	
Seconded	Peter Dyke	Nailsea
For: Unanimous	Against	Abstentions

Resolution C:

Proposed	SWF Committee	
Seconded	Bob Whiffen	Bristol
For: Unanimous	Against	Abstentions

Resolution D:

Proposed	SWF Committee	
Seconded	Ray Ransom	Bristol
For: Unanimous	Against	Abstentions

Resolution E:

Noted that the CA would prefer all SWF member clubs to be CA members but the committee made the decision not to make this a requirement.

Proposed	SWF Committee	
Seconded	Ray Ransom	Bristol
For: Unanimous	Against	Abstentions

Resolution F:

- David Harrison-Wood (East Dorset) noted that all references to the CA be clarified to refer to the role as Representative to the CA council to distinguish this from the role of secretary or other club contact.

This was proposed as an amendment to the original proposal

Proposed	SWF Committee	
Seconded	David Harrison-Wood	East Dorset

For: Unanimous	Against	Abstentions
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- Brian Shorney (Kington Langley & CA Chair) noted we are one of only a couple of Federations holding our AGM in the autumn rather than the spring so the question of an earlier election does not arise for others.
 - Marcus set out our rationale for autumn AGM - having a committee in place to plan and undertake tasks for the following season.
- BS also noted this may be an ephemeral issue in the light of possible forthcoming governance changes.

The amended proposal was presented:

Proposed	SWF Committee	
Seconded	Stephen Custance-Baker	Taunton Deane
For: Nem con	Against	Abstentions

Resolutions: League rules

The original proposed resolutions and rationale are attached p22 and 23

Eligibility for GC handicap league: Bath

- John Grimshaw queried if clubs may be reducing players' handicaps to enable them to play
- JG also noted that by adopting this rule not all team members would need to play all games in a match which would help those with less stamina
- George Lang (Plymouth) noted that by adopting this change, more players would have the opportunity to develop competitive play skills and confidence

Proposed	Bath CC	
Seconded	Mark McNair	Exeter
For: Majority	Against: 1	Abstentions: 4

GC league rules: Nailsea

- Keith Southern (Swanage) said he was generally in favour of the proposals - untimed games can make the day very long and 20 is too many games for one day
 - He would favour 12 singles and 4 doubles games
- Mark McNair (Exeter) was opposed to the proposal - the 20 game format works well and there are few drawn games
- John Grimshaw felt the proposal should have been split into individual proposals
 - He opposes the proposal and thinks some players will only play two games on a day which is not satisfactory
- Helen Pryor (Cornwall) felt 50 minutes is long enough - there are no problems with having draws and the day would become too long if the proposal were adopted
- Comments received from Broadwas were read out - attached p25
- Comments received from Dowlish Wake were read out - attached p25
- Stephen Custance-Baker (Taunton Deane) was opposed to the proposals
 - He felt there was a good argument for having a different structure for level play but this proposal covers all forms
- David Harrison-Wood (East Dorset) felt time limits in handicap games were inherently unfair as the lower handicap player may not have time to catch up
 - A drawn game, while it appears on the handicap card, has no impact

- Ros Key-Pugh noted that her analysis showed many of the draws at Camerton & Peasedown were 3 or 4 all - such games would need much more time if they were to go to a clear win
- Peter Dyke (Nailsea) noted the opposition to the proposals
 - These had been submitted as one following discussions with other players throughout the season
 - Low handicaps do not like giving away a large number of extra turns - there can be huge discrepancies in handicaps
 - In one situation the players took 20 minutes to run Hoop 1, which consequently delayed the double banked game
 - Few tournaments allow drawn games although the Rules do allow for this
 - Noted that no drawn games are permitted in AC

Proposed	Nailsea CC		
Seconded	Jane Hull	Kington Langley	
For: 8	Against: Majority	Abstentions: 4	

AOB

- Brian Wilson (Chair CA Marketing Committee) noted that National Croquet Day will be held on 13th May 2018
 - The theme is still to be agreed and clubs will be informed - suggestions to the Marketing Committee will be welcomed
- Stephen Custance-Baker (Taunton Deane) requested that John Grimshaw send him the results of Handicap League GC matches and offered to undertake an analysis of high / low handicaps results
 - Only hard copies are available and John will endeavour to get these to Stephen

Action: JG / SCB
- SCB noted he had expressed an interest in taking on the League Secretary role but had not realized this included organizing the short croquet competitions and had we thought about separating these responsibilities
 - Marcus replied that the committee had considered this and will follow this up

Action: Committee
- Advance Notice of events at CPCC for 2018
 - Please email roskeypugh@yahoo.co.uk to be kept informed of these events which will be open to all members of SWF clubs and I will ensure you are kept informed. They are all open to members of all SWF clubs.
 - Coaching: Sunday March 25th 2018 1 day's GC Coaching for Handicaps 3 - 9 Bring your own lunch. £10pp. Lead coach: Ros Key-Pugh + 3 assistants.
 - SWF GC Open Level Play Doubles Tournament on Tuesday September 4th 2018 9.30 to 5pm Maximum entry 16 pairs. Bring your own lunch. £10 per player.
 - 64 Challenge GC Fun Progressive Handicap Doubles Tournament Sunday September 30th 2018 £15pp including lunch.

Date of next meeting
 Sunday 18th November 2018 at the Batch Country House Hotel

Meeting closed
 The meeting closed at 12.59

List of attendees

NB: We were expecting others but either they did not arrive or they failed to sign in.

Name		Club	Name		Club
John	Tapfield	Abbey	Peter	Dyke	Nailsea
Pamela	Branley	Abbey	Philip	Harris	Sidmouth
Irene	Fane	Barnstaple	Helen	Pryor	Sidmouth
Mella	Wright	Barnstaple	Andru	Blewett	St Agnes
Andrew	Willis	Bath	Ivan	Corbett	St Agnes
Bob	Hart	Bath	Keith	Southern	Swanage
Bob	Honey	Beckford	Wendy	White	Swindon
Campbell	Anderson	Beckford	Liz	French	Swindon
Frances	Ransom	Bristol	Teresa	Hill	Swindon
Ray	Ransom	Bristol	Sue	Baker	Taunton Deane
Pat	Jackson	Bristol	Stephen	Custance-Baker	Taunton Deane
Bob	Whiffen	Bristol	Sue	Norfolk	WsM
Chris	Frew	Bristol	Doug	Norfolk	WsM
Dave	Kibble	Bristol	Jeanette	Stuchbery	WsM
John	O'Gorman	Budleigh	Sue	Marples	Plymouth
Margaret	Brett	Budleigh	Linda	Lang	Plymouth
Maureen	Smith	Budleigh	George	Lang	Plymouth
Mo	Boys	Camerton & Peasedown			
Brian	Wilson	Camerton & Peasedown			
Russell	Barter	Cheltenham			
Kathryn	Smith	Cornwall			
Rhona	Foster	Cornwall			
David	Harrison-Wood	East Dorset			
Tom	Weston	East Dorset			
Mark	Macnair	Exeter			
Jane	Hull	Kington Langley			
Brian	Shorney	Kington Langley			
Ken	Wilcox	Lym Valley			
Stan	Curran	Lym Valley			
Elizabeth	Gibbs	Lym Valley			

Summary of accounts

South-West Federation of Croquet Clubs Year from 1 November 2016 to 31 October 2017	Income and Expenditure Account	Year to 31-Oct-16
Income		
Subscriptions	824	851
Association league fees	408	420
Golf league fees	390	360
Short croquet fees	800	480
SWAN Adverts	204	76
AGM	657	496
CTC Coaching course	280	0
CA refund of travel expenses	280	176
Sundry overpayments	20	0
Total Income	3,863	2,859
Expenditure		
SWAN production	645	589
Trophies	100	147
Short croquet	640	280
League finals	384	200
Travel expenses	684	494
Bursary travel expenses	165	0
AGM	658	504
Coaching expenses	82	0
Presentations to retiring Committee Members	90	0
Administration	8	18
Total Expenditure	3,456	2,232
Surplus for Year	407	627
Opening Bank Balance at 1 November 2016 (2015)	5,464	4,837
Closing Bank Balance at 31 October 2017 (2016)	5,871	5,464

Norman Connor
14 November 2017

League Secretary's Report

Year 2017 saw 132 teams enter league competition from 29 clubs, although two teams withdrew after the fixtures had been prepared, but before any matches had been played. This left a schedule of 351 matches (2016 = 341) of which 11 (12) were conceded. It was very pleasing to see Plymouth back in competitive play after a number of years' absence. The AC/GC split was 67/63 (68/58) in team numbers and 164/172 (174/167) in number of matches. 706 (696) different players took part in league competition, 219 (202) in AC only, 351 (348) in GC only and 136 (146) in both. The eagle-eyed amongst you will notice that the comparisons do not accord with last year's report, where, in GC, I mistakenly took into account only players in the handicap league rather than all three.

This year there are proposals before the AGM to amend the GC league rules, so I thought that I would try to present some analysis of last season's matches.

In the first instance, I looked at players whose handicaps were 9 or over. I found that at least one player from this handicap range was involved in 98 of the 110 matches. Clearly the decision at last year's AGM to impose an upper limit of 10 rather than 8, is justified. Most of these players were 9s or 10s, I could find only 10 matches involving 11s or 12s. Secondly, I looked at games involving these players, and who were receiving three or more extra turns.

- 9s played 105 games using this criterium, gaining 48 points (0.5 for a draw, 1 for a win).
- 10s played 211 games gaining 74.5 points.
- 11s played 11 games gaining 7 points.
- 12s played 4 games gaining 3 points.

Finally, I looked at timed and drawn games.

- In Level Play there were 92 timed endings in 36 matches, 20 of which were drawn.
- In Handicap play there were 344 timed endings in 110 matches, 105 of which were drawn.
- In High handicap play there were 138 timed endings in 30 matches, 44 of which were drawn.

This averages at about 3.5 timed games per match, and about 1 drawn game per match, although it would appear that the incidence of both increases with higher handicaps.

Parkstone Trophy.

Bristol were winners for the sixth consecutive year. The very last game to be played was Bristol v Dyffryn and either team could have been champions, but Bristol prevailed. East Dorset were bottom, having conceded two games and drawn(?) one. Taunton Deane won Division 2, losing only to Bath with a depleted team, and were 2-0 up in the promotion/relegation play-off against East Dorset, but ultimately lost 3-2. The Bears won Division 3 but could not overcome Division 2 bottom team Bath in the play-off, the final score 6-1 to Bath.

31 matches played, 15 home wins, 14 away, 2 draws and 3 conceded. 82 players took part.

Federation League.

Bath North won after a closely-contested final against Abbey, the deciding game being 26-24 to give Bath a 3-2 victory. Earlier Bath had beaten Nailsea South in the semifinal.

Bath North won their block after a late-season win against Kington Langley and Abbey similarly won the Central block when they beat Bath Central on the last weekend. Nailsea South won their block more comfortably. Despite losing their first match in April, they came back to be unbeaten in the others.

56 matches played, 35 home wins, 20 away, 3 conceded. 144 players took part.

Intermediate League.

2017 saw a repeat of 2016 when the same three teams won their respective blocks. In each block the winning team won their last game to qualify for the play-offs. This year it was the turn of Lym Valley to triumph, beating Camerton and Peasedown 3-2 in the final, to wrest the trophy from last year's winners. Camerton and Peasedown had beaten the North block winners Kington Langley 4-1 in the semifinal.

42 matches played, 27 home wins, 14 away. 110 players took part.

B League.

Taunton Deane are champions, winning 4-1 to prevent Lym Valley completing the Intermediate/B League double. Taunton had beaten WSM North 3-2 in the semifinal, in a match which saw one Taunton player win two games +1T, it was that close. WSM North were undefeated in their block and Taunton finished top of the South block comfortably, despite losing their last match when they had already won the block. The Central block was decided in Lym Valley's favour on the who beat whom basis over WSM Central.

33 matches played, 20 home wins, 12 away, 4 conceded. 99 players took part.

Golf Croquet Level-Play League.

Nailsea returned to winning ways, beating first-time finalists Taunton Deane 14.5 - 5.5 in the final, after beating Central section winners Kingston Maurward in the semifinal. Unfortunately, last year's champions Worcester Norton, withdrew before playing a game, so the North block was sadly depleted. Nailsea won all their games in that block with an average score of 15-5! Kingston Maurward won the Central block undefeated, the important match, as it turned out, was an 11-9 victory against East Dorset very early in the season. The South block was much closer, with Taunton having to defeat Sidmouth in their last match to succeed.

38 games played, 17 home wins, 15 away, 5 drawn. 137 players took part.

Golf Croquet Handicap League

This was Cheltenham's year. Having come through block play undefeated (but they did draw two of their first three), they went on to beat WSM Central South in the semifinal before defeating Dowlish Wake SE in the final. Kington Langley won Central North with an important win at Camerton and Peasedown to clinch it, but lost the quarterfinal at home to Dowlish Wake. WSM won their block with a late win over Dowlish Wake Central South, to prevent a 4-way tie in that block. Dowlish Wake SE also had a late win over Kingston Maurward to clinch their block. They then reached the final by beating Budleigh Salterton SW in the semifinal. The SW block saw four teams going into the last two games in the block with chances to win it, but Budleigh Salterton won by virtue of an 11-9 victory over East Dorset SW.

109 matches played. 73 home wins, 27 away, 8 drawn, 1 conceded. 344 players took part.

Golf Croquet High Handicap League

A Golf Croquet Handicap double for Cheltenham who overcame Budleigh Salterton 15-5 in the final to add to their Handicap league win. Both blocks were extremely close with Cheltenham winning their last game to prevent a 4-way tie in the North. Similarly in the South, Budleigh Salterton won their last game 10.5-9.5 to overtake Camerton and Peasedown on a net points basis. The match between the two ended 10-10, and the points difference was 114-112 in Budleigh's favour.

31 matches played. 22 home wins, 5 away wins, 3 drawn. 135 players took part.

Short Croquet at Nailsea

Nailsea continued their domination of this competition with their club team replacing their Trendlewood colleagues as champions. It was a close run thing, with Kington LangleyA needing to win their final match against Nailsea with a 4-0 score to force a shoot-out, but they could only win 3-1. Bath2 finished bottom and are relegated. Promoted from Division 2 are Sidmouth Fortfield, with Broadwas relegated to Division 3. Camerton and Peasedown won Division 3 and Exeter won Division 4 and both are promoted for 2018. Swindon are relegated from Division 3.

Short Croquet at Budleigh Salterton

Sidmouth Fortfield are a new name as winners of a Short Croquet competition. Going into the final round, Fortfield, Trendlewood and Dyffryn each had eight wins. Fortfield beat Trendlewood 3-1 to clinch the trophy, because Dyffryn could only achieve two wins. Fowey Friends finished bottom and are relegated. It was equally as close in Division 2. Kington Langley won their last game against Exeter 4-0 to triumph, when any win for Exeter would have given them the division and promotion. Sidmouth Extra finished bottom, but, as they were a last-minute replacement, they will not be entered into Division 2 in 2018, so there will be no relegation from Divisions 2 and 3. In Division 3, Budleigh Salterton Roquets (pronounced Rockets) won, and Bath won Division 4. Both are promoted.

Next year's Spring Short Croquet tournament will take place at Camerton and Peasedown because Nailsea have relaid their lawns and they will not be ready. Short Croquet is growing in popularity, and we are already over-subscribed at both venues for 2018. The time has come to look at whether and how we can accommodate a fifth division into the programme.

Once again, I would like to thank all the clubs who made their facilities available for tournaments and the finals, and to the people who gave up their time to prepare the lawns, provide teas, referee and report on these matches.

John Grimshaw

Regional Coaching Officer's Report

I took on the job of SWF Coaching Liaison Officer at short notice in October 2016. I immediately sent an email to all SWF Club contacts asking if they had coaching needs for 2017 which they could not meet from their own resources, and whether they had coaches that might be able to help other clubs. I then set about compiling a list of CA qualified coaches in the region and emailed them all in December asking them if they would be prepared to undertake outside coaching in 2017. During the season, I responded to requests from clubs and was able to put several clubs in contact with potential coaches.

In October, I emailed all the coaches in the region (109) and got 42 responses from coaches based in 15 clubs. The number of 109 coaches is bound to include a number who are no longer active. There are 45 clubs in the region, just under a half (18) have coaches qualified at least to club coach level. Almost all the clubs with coaches have either run formal courses for beginners or arranged for individual coaching, but not all replies gave approximate numbers. I am very grateful to the 13 coaches who undertook coaching outside their own clubs, which will have helped some of the clubs that do not have their own coach: William Airey, Mo Boyes, Mary Bradshaw, Ulf Greder, Tony Green, Sarah Hayes, Pat Jackson, Richard Jackson, Ros Key-Pugh, Dave Kibble, Roger Mills, Klim Seabright, and Brian Wilson. We have been able to respond this year to all or almost all the clubs that have requested outside coaching.

For A and B class AC players, the region has been holding "Pods" - evening sessions at three venues round the region. This year, 8 sessions have been held with an average of about 8 attendees. This year, for the first time, we have been running GC Pods: 3 sessions in two locations; we hope to start a third location next year. The sessions have been enjoyed by attendees; warm thanks are due to the conveners and coaches.

For more intensive one or two day courses for players of all levels in both codes who wish to improve their play, the South West Academy at Budleigh has run 13 courses for nearly 100 players, mainly from the SW region.

Four new club coaches qualified this year: Andru Blewett, Mary Bradshaw, Julia Lowery and Gerald Wynn. Mary Bradshaw also qualified as a Grade 1 GC Coach during the season and Stephen Custance-Baker qualified as a Grade 1 AC Coach. The new qualification of Grade 2 Senior GC Coach (Black Badge) has been awarded to five experienced GC coaches in the region: Andrew Cowing, Stephen Custance-Baker, Kevin Ham, Dave Kibble, and Klim Seabright.

Next year, we shall be in a good position to respond to requests from clubs with no coaches for visits from qualified coaches from other clubs. I have the names of 16 coaches who would like to help, but we are a bit thin on coaches from the south and west of the region. I hope to establish a list of those responsible for informal coaching at clubs with no coach, so they can let me know about their needs for outside assistance, and hopefully will be encouraged to become club coaches. Dave Kibble ran a Coach Training Course this year, and will be prepared to do one in 2018 if there is sufficient demand. We will also be in a position to respond to requests from coaches who would like to gain further qualifications - CA and SWF subsidies are available to help with course fees and travel costs.

Richard Jackson Nov 2017

Publicity Officer's Report

Before I go any further let me start by saying I owe a great debt of gratitude to Sue Mackay, who has had to temporarily return to supporting the website for the SWF. I feel somewhat embarrassed about the situation and owe everyone involved an explanation.

My stewardship of the website has been severely hampered in several ways: Firstly, because we currently live in an internet remote location, broadband speed is so low that I cannot load up any changes to the host site without it timing out. Initially, this resulted in many hours of head scratching, frustration, stress and feeling of guilt about not performing, as this was not an immediately obvious cause. The situation had been compounded by changes made by BT which resulted in the "timing out" issue whilst attempting to upload files, changing from occasional to permanent. This led to me making the suggestion that it was time to use another platform such as Wordpress which would:

- a) Make it easier to edit, even with poor broadband speeds.
- b) Allow the SWF to have an attractive, even more user-friendly website that reflected contemporary styles.

We had planned a move to Sidmouth or Budleigh (where broadband speeds are of an acceptable speed), but this fell through in the spring, causing more consternation.

Secondly, several unfortunate consecutive health issues, coupled with some other significant constraints, prevented me from taking any active part in looking after or developing the website over the last year.

I had hoped that the situation would have improved much quicker than has actually proved to be the case. I had expected to be able to be in a position where we had moved from our very rural location - with internet on the long end of a rusty wire - and my eyesight recovered enough to be able to work on a computer screen, and an end to the embarrassing skin condition that made me feel somewhat reclusive. Both these issues had an unexpected effect, knocking my confidence and acting rather withdrawn. Then, out of the blue, I suddenly developed a heart condition which has stemmed any physical exertion or stressful situations. As you might imagine, I feel as though all the wheels have suddenly fallen off.

Although I expect this "annus horribilis" (to paraphrase the Queen when Windsor burned etc) to come to an end, I think I might have been a bit too optimistic about when that might be.

Therefore, because I am currently unable to do what is expected of anyone in this role, I think that, reluctantly but realistically, I need to hand the role over to someone else who is able to devote the time and effort required to do a good job. I offer my apologies and resignation. I've hung on quietly hoping that the situation would improve in time not to do this.

I should add I have not singled out the SWF for my withdrawal of commitment. I have also had to step down from my role as Budleigh's Croquet Chairman, as a member of BSCC's General Committee, managing Budleigh's Intermediate league and Short Croquet teams, Coaching at Budleigh, Refereeing, nor indeed playing any croquet at the moment; as well as shelving my duties for the SWCA and as Secretary of the Sunbeam Alpine owners

Development Officers' Reports

North:

- Cardigan CC . Quoted £200 for insuring £1000 equipment from Endersleigh. Following phone calls, this was reduced to £28.
- Abbey CC. Pavilion purchased and installed
- Kington Langley CC. Extending and levelling their courts. Work now completed and seed sown.
- Nailsea CC. Relaying existing, uneven courts. Existing surface removed, laser levelling currently underway.
- Swindon CC have the offer of a substantial grant and have plans to enlarge to become a 6 lawn club.
- Encouraging university, school and young players. Request for clubs to share ideas and experiences of engaging young players.
- Plea for surplus equipment to support new clubs
- Advance notice of **Handicap Conference/s**

South:

- Grant applications
 - St Agnes - Received a small Grant of about £650 towards a Trailer Sprayer and Spiker which they are making good use of. Two members have recently made significant donations.
 - Dowlish Wake - who wanted to upgrade their lawns including smoothing out the surface of their lawns with top-dressing over a period of three years. Advice came from Duncan Hector. The club were looking for a Grant of £3000 over the three year period The Dev. Committee however felt the CA could not support this due to the underlying slope of the site. (which is significant), so the club is back to the drawing-board. To level the site is problematic on cost grounds and due to the site being owned by a village trust for sport in general.
 - Additionally they are progressing well with the building of their new pavilion having used a temporary one or the season.
 - Cornwall - Have been Granted £4,635 for an additional building for storage and to reduce congestion for visiting teams. They had been prevented from applying for such a grant due to lack of security of tenure, but have now resolved this.
- Other news:
 - The new club Bude (20 members) - Have kept going under difficult circumstances and have done an enormous amount of work in returning disused tennis courts to lawn status. There is the potential for 6 lawns which are on a City Council owned sport and leisure site. The club is at present feeling its way through local politics while awaiting clarification of any lease or license they may obtain.
 - Privately owned Henstridge Golf Club (East of Yeovil & S. of Wincanton) - is interested in creating its own one-lawn croquet facility. Amongst opportunities seen is making the availability of the lawn for local clubs who may want to expand their activities. The nearest club, Charlton (6 miles away), has been approached for interest in getting actively involved, but has declined owing to lack of capacity. They are prepared to share their experiences. One other club is a possibility and will be approached.

GC Advisor's Report

1 Handicapping.

The Clubs who do not have a GC Handicapper but who play in the SWF Leagues feel they do not have anyone suitable either because they think they need training or because they have no-one who will volunteer to assess the cards of the other club members. The latter applies particularly to clubs with very small numbers. I have offered to assist and have so far seen two members from Abbey whose handicaps I re-assessed. Both did need lowering but they had had insufficient recorded games for this to occur naturally. No other clubs have requested help. This is an area which the SWF wishes to address. In 2018 we hope to run a Handicappers Training

Day to enable all clubs who play in the League to have a competent and confident Handicapper prepared to take on the responsibility for assessing and checking handicaps within their club in each code. Some clubs like ourselves have a GC Handicapper but no AC handicapper so we would welcome this initiative.

2 High Handicap League.

For many clubs this has proved very popular and those who have played have enjoyed the chance to play in a restricted handicap range in which they felt less daunted. It has encouraged more players to play competitive croquet than would otherwise do so. Most teams are between 6 and 8 in number. I am keen to encourage all clubs to consider using the High Handicap League as an excellent entry to competitive Play. The more clubs who enter a team the shorter travelling times will be as we could have more divisions. By having an overlap in handicap range for the 2 Leagues we have created the opportunity for a fast improving player to move from one to the other mid-season. Some clubs have used a non-playing captain to travel with their team. This has provided an experienced person to assist with the scheduling of games and advise on any refereeing decisions. This has proved helpful but cannot take away the actual players responsibility for making any refereeing decisions unless the non-playing captain is a qualified referee.

3 Handicap League.

As John Grimshaw's very helpful analysis of the matches played this year indicates the timing issue is not a problem with up to 6 extra turns in a 50 minute game. Why is an honourable draw unacceptable? The proportion of matches that result in a draw under the present regulations is small. On average only 0.38 games in any Level Play League match were drawn, and 0.96 games in the Handicap League, and 1.5 in the High Handicap Leagues. I suggest the slight increase in the Handicap League is owing to extra turns being taken and the slight increase in the High handicap League is due to the lesser experience of the higher handicapped players which tends to result in them playing more slowly as they take more time to assess the situation before playing using their extra shots.

I do not have an analysis which enables me to quote figures for the number of players in each team but my own experience of playing in and observing the Handicap and High Handicap matches are that many High Handicap teams are between 6 - 8 players, Handicap teams tend to be between 4 - 7 , and Level Play teams have a higher % of teams of only 4 players. If the number of games to be played is reduced the incentive to bring along more players to gain experience of League play is reduced as they can play so few games and possibly miss out on any doubles games.

Last year's AGM set the handicap boundary at 10 for the Handicap League but allowed a player of H11 or 12 to complete a team of 4 players if a team of 4 could not be raised without one. It set the handicap boundary at H8+ for the High Handicap League. This overlap was deliberate. It was intended to achieve two objectives:

- a) allowing a fast improving player to gain some experience in the Handicap League even though his/her handicap has not yet fallen to 10.
- b) Allow clubs with very few members to field a team in both the Handicap and High Handicap teams with some of their players playing in both.

Bath's proposal to allow 1 extra player of Handicap 11 or 12 to play in the Handicap League **in addition to** the basic 4 members who would all be H 10 or below might be a sensible compromise to encourage more players participating in this League without stopping clubs still entering a team in the High Handicap League. My major concern is only that it might reduce the number of teams entering the High Handicap League.

I am however not in favour of the new format proposed by Nailsea for the Handicap League as it would reduce the number of players participating and the number of games played - most teams would reduce to 4 or 5, and each match would reduce from 20 to 17. As I have indicated above there is no evidence that any matches would be enhanced as the number of draws is so small but it would considerably reduce the number of players participating and overall games played.

In AC we have 3 tiers of competition - the B League, the Intermediate League and the Federation League with the addition of an Advanced League. Surely it is good that we continue to provide a similar structure to our GC leagues that provide a similar progression as a player improves their standard?

4 CA Governance Working Party

This has been working hard to develop a new structure for the governance of the CA that will be acceptable to the increased membership of the CA and to its present Council and to the new regulations set by the Sport and Recreation Alliance. Council has approved our suggestions in principle but requires more detailed work to be done to fully approve and implement them. If approved over the next year, the intermediate changes will gradually take place before the final major changes go to the AGM in 2018 or 2019. If approved the Federations will find that their responsibilities will increase and we shall be asked to find more people willing to serve on national committees or sub-committees most of which will do their work by email and Skype rather than face to face meetings in London. The intention behind the major changes is to streamline decision making by creating a separate CA body to set longer term (5 - 10) policy and development goals and also scrutinise their implementation by a new smaller, more effective Executive Board which will replace Council. This will be supported by numerous committees beavering away all over the country as at present. Watch this space.....!

5 Federation Conference assignments - help needed!

In my role assigned at the Federation Conference I shall be working with 3 other representatives from SE, EA and Y to collate all ideas about Player Recruitment, Retention and Development in both codes of the game. I would like to send a request to all clubs in the SW to assist us with this by telling us how they recruit new members/how they encourage younger members to join/ how they train their new recruits/ how they

encourage new players to become competitive/ how they try to develop a balance between AC and GC in their clubs/ any area they feel they need help with such as coaching/ any areas in which they feel they have been particularly successful that they would like to share/ what is their membership turnover each year? - what are the reasons given for losing members - death/loss of interest/lack of time to play/change in personal circumstances etc. Are you happy for this to be developed and sent with the next Cygnet to all clubs? Would you all be willing to collect the ideas and data to respond to us? Please let me know if you would like this sent to a different person than your Club Secretary. We really do need your replies.

Our aim is to do 3 things:

- i) Develop a programme of refresher or upgrade coach's courses to try to increase the number of qualified coaches willing and able to coach outside their own Club. For this we need all clubs to update their listings of their coaches indicating their level and willingness and qualification to coach outside their own club.
- ii) Develop a programme to help Fed Coaching Officers to oversee the numbers/quality/engagement of coaches throughout their Fed. Then proactively co-ordinate their deployment to clubs/clusters/hubs/neighbouring Feds etc. Initially this may focus on 'early years players'.
- iii) Gather, distil, distribute nationally good practice examples from all clubs on training and retaining new players - Open Days, Mentoring, buddying, variety of competitive games/tournament formats, AG/GC cross overs, social events etc

Rep to CA Council Report

I have recently completed my first year as the SW Federation representative on the Council of the Croquet Association, during which time I have done my best to keep your committee informed of any key events and also to ensure that Council understands the views of the South West.

I received a warm welcome even to the point when a long-standing member warmly shook my hand and told me that it was good to see fresh young blood coming on board. I didn't have the heart to tell him that I would probably not see 39 again!

If all council members are present that would number 33 and that is probably the reason one must stand to speak and then only once.

I can report that the SW Federation is well regarded and considered to be one of the most pro-active federations.

You are well represented with Brian Shorney serving another period as Chairman of Council, Dave Kibble, who has contributed much to operational aspects of the CA, Ros Key-Pugh has been very active within the Governance Working Party and two very highly regarded Development Officers in Robert Moss and Adam Wimshurst. Even the Manager of the Croquet Association is a member of SW Federation clubs.

This is a time of great change. I hoped my now that all players would be members of the CA but this has been a slower than I expected. The powers that be are dealing with some aspects which are not that straight forward especially for clubs which are not exclusively Croquet Clubs. Some have expressed reservations about passing over membership details to a central database. There has also been some technical aspects of the software which has need to be ironed out. I have noticed some recent statistics which may have a bearing on the situation...

At the last Council meeting we were informed that there are currently 1642 CA members but it is thought that there may be in the region of a total of 11,000 club members. The statistics also show that within the whole of the CA domain there are only 4 Junior CA Members. I would urge all present to go back and work on that figure. I don't think the CA helps much to underline the breadth of support given by the CA although there was some publicity about this a few years ago.

Recent information tends to underline that all new members will receive a copy of the Gazette and not much more. But what about:

- The £50,000 given out in grants aid
- Contribution of the Academies
- The Insurance premium
- Outreach coaching undertaken by some of us
- Fixture Book

Just over one year ago Brian Shorney launched the need to take an in depth look at the Governance of the CA. A working party was formed and they put in a considerable amount of time and effort. Their findings were considered at the Council meeting on the 21st October. I believe that the need to drive such a review was driven, in the main, by two elements. The current structure is too unwieldy -see my earlier comment about the size of Council and the need to demonstrate, to national bodies from whom we might wish to seek

support, that we meet the various requirements in demonstrating that we have an appropriate structure. Three - Federations central to decision making. The Council has made several suggestions to the working party and, at some time in the new year, a final version of the recommendations will come before council. Then, and this is important, the final recommendations will go out for as wide a consultation as possible. Please ensure that your committees give consideration to this and respond.

Update on work of the CA Development Officer

You will be aware the CA has appointed Dave Gunn to this role for a two year period - hopefully you have seen his updates in the Croquet Gazette and our own Cygnet has carried reports of the Federations Event during the summer, and the meeting held by the Resources Working Group - one of five such short-life groups set up on a national basis:

- Communication
- Marketing and Recruitment
- Player Development/Retention
- Direct Support to Clubs
- Resources (volunteers as well as finances, equipment etc)

Each group has now had its inaugural meeting and we are awaiting guidance from Dave on how to proceed in a co-ordinated way.

SWF is represented on the Resources and Player Development working groups, but each group should be informing / consulting widely and we'll use Cygnet to keep you updated and elicit your comments and feedback.

Constitutional Proposals

Resolution A (from the committee) - to correct trivial drafting errors in the constitution
In section 7, re-letter the final 3 paragraphs as d, e, and f respectively (replacing the obviously incorrect c, d, and e that currently appear). In section 9 paragraph h, delete the repeated "with".

Resolution B (from the committee) - to accurately describe how SWAN is distributed
In section 5, paragraph b, replace the current first sentence with: "Affiliated clubs are entitled to receive an appropriate number of copies of each edition of the Newsletter (based on how many paying members they have) and are empowered to appoint two voting delegates (who are not members of the Federation Committee) and any number of observers to attend any General Meeting."

This reflects what has been done in practice for many years; if we were to follow the current constitution, this would drastically increase the production costs of SWAN for no benefit as there would then be a lot of unread copies.

Resolution C (from the committee) - to replace "auditor" with "independent examiner"
In section 7, paragraph a, replace the word "auditor" with "independent examiner", and in section 9, paragraph d replace the word "audited" with "examined".

Note that in recent years the committee have agreed to suspend this requirement entirely in practice, as our accounts are transparent and we have been fortunate enough to have a qualified chartered accountant as our treasurer. However, as that may not always be the case, we feel it is prudent to have an independent examination, without incurring the unnecessary expense of a full audit.

Resolution D (from the committee) - to bring our terminology for membership categories into line with that of the CA

In section 5, paragraph a, replace the words "Affiliated or Associated" with "a Full Member or an Affiliate Member". In section 5, paragraph b, replace the words "Affiliated clubs" with "Full Member clubs". In section 5, paragraphs c & d, replace the words "Associated clubs" with "Affiliate Member clubs". In section 8, paragraph a, replace "Affiliated" with "Full Member".

Resolution E (from the committee) - to confirm that for clubs to be Full Members of the SWF, they should be member clubs of the CA

In section 5, paragraph b, add the following wording at the end of the paragraph: "Full Member clubs must be members of the Croquet Association."

Note that this only requires Full Member clubs to be Affiliate Members of the CA (as a minimum). In practice, all existing Full Member clubs of the SWF are already members of the CA (in fact the vast majority are full members) so this should have no practical effect on clubs.

Resolution F (from the committee) - to formalise the role of the Federation Representative to the CA as a full committee member with the same standing as the rest of the committee, and consequential changes

In section 8, paragraph a, after "Youth Officer" add ", Federation Representative to the CA,". Replace section 8, paragraph b with: "Should there be more than one nomination for the position of Federation Representative to the CA, an election will be held by email by 30th September, in order that the winner can assume their duties at the CA AGM in October." In section 8, paragraph c, add "or by email" after "in writing", and change "30th September" to "31st August". In section 9, add a new paragraph at the end as follows: "k. The Federation Representative to the CA shall take up their seat on the CA Council and represent the Federation at CA Council meetings.".

Resolutions: League rules

SWF ELIGIBILITY RULE FOR GC HANDICAP LEAGUE: Bath Croquet Club

The SWF rules for Golf Croquet Handicap Leagues state in Rule 4c. (1), which covers eligibility for players:

Players with handicaps of 10 or below may play in the Handicap League matches. Should a club be unable to raise a team of the minimum size for a match, they may field one player whose handicap is 11 or 12.

This has caused difficulties in some clubs who either have small numbers of players or where players are not able to play the six matches in a day which are necessary if a team is restricted to 4 players. Some clubs would like to field a player with a handicap of 11 or 12 in the Handicap League, but may not do so under the current rules as they already have 4 players with handicaps of 10 or below.

Making a comparison with the SWF's rules for Association Croquet Leagues, the eligibility criteria for the Federation League (Rule 4c. (2)) and the Intermediate League (Rule 4c. (3)) both allow teams to field one player whose handicap is 1 or 2 steps higher than the stated handicap range. This allowance is unconditional.

Bath CC proposes, with the support of other clubs, that the Golf Croquet League follow a similar principle. Rule 4c. (1) should be changed to read:

Players with handicaps of 10 or below may play in the Handicap League matches. In addition, a team may field one player whose handicap is 11 or 12.

Norman Connor, Treasurer, Bath Croquet Club. 18 September 2017

SWF Golf Croquet League Rule Resolution (Nailsea & District Croquet Club)

We have identified several problems with the SWF GC Croquet League Rules and we are submitting this proposal in the hope of addressing them

- Low handicap players do not like giving away seven or more extra turns in the Handicap League.
- Some players do not like drawn games or the possibility of a drawn match.
- Some clubs would like to field a player with a handicap of 11 or 12 in the Handicap League but, at the moment, they may not do so if they already have four players with handicaps 10 or below.

In our opinion these problems are interlinked. We have considered them and tried to find solutions.

- The main problem with giving away several extra turns is that the high handicap player may use their extra turns well to get a lead and, in a time limited game, the lower handicap player does not have sufficient time to catch up particularly if their opponent is a slow player. Last year two clubs tried to resolve this problem by trying to restrict the Handicap League to 8 or 9 and below. We feel they were going about it the wrong way. In theory, if the handicaps are correct, then in a game with no time limit it should be an even contest with each side having a 50% chance of winning. We appreciate that it is not practical to have unlimited time for each game, but suggest that a reasonable time limit for most games is one hour.
- While drawn games are permitted in the Golf Croquet Rules they are rarely allowed in competitions. Extending the time limit to one hour should eliminate the problem to a large extent, but if a game is drawn after the extension period the game can be continued until another point is scored by either side eliminating drawn games.
- Some captains were concerned that extending the time limit may make it a very long day for their team. If we reduce the number of games to seventeen (three doubles and fourteen singles) it will be possible to reduce the number of sessions to five (see appendix). This will also mean that a match cannot be drawn.
- If the time limit is increased there should be less of a problem allowing players with handicaps 11 or 12 to play in the league against players with handicaps of three or less.

I would like to propose the following changes to the GC League Rules (the changes are highlighted):

6. MATCH FORMAT (Current rules)

- a. Matches shall comprise twenty games: four doubles games and sixteen singles games.
- b. Matches may result in a 10-10 draw. Two match points shall be awarded to a winning team, or one match point to each team in the event of a draw.
- c. Half-way markers are mandatory at all SWF Golf Croquet league matches.
- d. Where a club has two or more lawns available, the home team captain shall choose the lawns for the first and fourth sessions, and the visiting team captain shall choose the lawns for the second, third, fifth and sixth sessions, avoiding double-banking where possible. The choices may be made at the beginning of each session, or the captains may agree to choose lawns for as many sessions as they wish at the beginning of the day and subsequently when they need to.

Proposed rules:

- a. Matches shall comprise seventeen games: three doubles games and fourteen singles games.

Delete (b). Reassign (c) and (d)

8. TIME LIMITS (Current rules)

- a. A time limit of not less than 50 minutes shall be agreed by both team captains before the start of each game (except as directed under Rule 13e); if they wish, they may agree to play

any game without a time limit. If the two captains cannot agree on a time limit, the shorter of the two suggested time limits shall be used.

b. If a game should be held up because of double-banking, the clock in that game shall be stopped until the game can proceed.

c. EXPIRY OF TIME LIMIT.

(1) HANDICAP AND HIGH HANDICAP LEAGUES. When time is called each side shall be entitled to 4 additional turns (the extension period). Extra turns may not be used during the extension period. If the scores are level after this then the game is drawn and each side shall have earned a ½ game point; there shall be no continuation of play.

(2) LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE. When time is called each side shall be entitled to 4 additional turns (the extension period). If the scores are level after this then: for singles games, play shall continue until the next point is scored; for doubles games, the game is drawn and each side shall have earned a ½ game point, there shall be no continuation of play.

Proposed rules

a. A time limit of not less than 50 minutes shall be agreed by both team captains before the start of each game; if they wish, they may agree to play any game without a time limit. If the two captains cannot agree on a time limit, **the default time limit shall be 60 minutes.**

b. If a game **is** held up because of double-banking, the clock in that game shall be stopped until the game can proceed.

c. EXPIRY OF TIME LIMIT.

When time is called each side shall be entitled to 4 additional turns (the extension period). **If the scores are level after this play shall continue until the next point is scored.**

Note: In handicap games extra turns may not be used during the extension period, but are restored at the end of the extension period.

If the above proposals are accepted there will also need to be minor rewording in rules 12 (Final League Positions) and 13 (Play-offs and Finals).

12. FINAL LEAGUE POSITIONS

Proposed rule:

a. In determining the positions in an all-play-all block after all fixtures have been decided, teams shall be ranked in order of match **wins** achieved.

Throughout the rest of rule 12 replace “match points” with “match **wins**”.

13. PLAY-OFFS AND FINALS

Delete 13(e) from the current rules.

Current rule 13 (e):

e. If a play-off or final match ends in a 10-10 draw, each team shall nominate any two of its players, who have already played in the match, to play one further game of doubles to decide the match. This deciding game shall be played with no time limit.

We would like the meeting to consider these proposals as a whole and not reject them just because you do not like one part. The changes proposed simplify the rules and bring them more in line with the SWF Rules for the Association Croquet Leagues. They also seek to address the problems outlined at the beginning of this proposal.

Appendix.

If two lawns are available the match may be completed in five sessions as follows (other match formats are possible):

Round 1 Two doubles

Round 2 One double and two singles

Rounds 3, 4 and 5 Four singles in each round

Broadwas CC Comments on Nailsea Proposal

RE: SWF Golf Croquet League Rule Resolution (Nailsea & District Croquet Club).

We, at Broadwas Croquet Club, are opposed to these proposed changes. Our main objection is that it reduces the opportunity for members to play in league matches. Under the present arrangement of matches (16 singles plus 4 doubles) there are 24 opportunities to play (16 in singles plus 8 in doubles). If 6 players are involved (as is often the case) they play in 4 matches each. We feel that most clubs believe involvement in 4 games is a minimum especially when people have travelled.

Under the proposal, only 20 opportunities for play are available (14 in singles plus 6 in doubles). This would mean that only 5 players could be involved to allow 4 games each, meaning the likely number of players in each team would reduce.

One of the many wonderful things about croquet is the chance to travel to other clubs and meet and play against other like minded people. This proposal would, we feel, reduce the opportunities for this.

We would like to make 2 further points:-

1. In our experience the number of games that do not complete in 50 minutes is fairly small (far less than 10%) so this proposal seems rather excessive to solve a small problem.
2. Under the existing rules captains can agree any time limit over 50 minutes so if competing clubs think the current time limit is a problem they can agree to extend it.

John Guy (Secretary) on behalf of Broadwas Croquet Club.

Dowlish Wake comments on Nailsea proposal

1) We see no good reason to change the wording of the current League rules regarding the timing of games. "Not less than 50minutes to be agreed by both Captains" is fine in the majority of games. Jim Gregory of Nailsea (-1 handicap) has never requested longer games.

2) We see no problem with drawn games. Incorporating the potential of continued untimed play after the agreed game time to create a winner will hold up the progression of the match & ultimately the finish time. It will also result in other players of both teams having to wait before the next round of games can commence especially if one of the players is a Captain.

3) We also disagree with the proposal to reduce the number of games to 17 to compensate for 2) above.

4) We agree with Bath CC proposal to allow the inclusion of one player of 11 or 12 handicap for the reasons they have mentioned.