

SOUTH WEST FEDERATION OF CROQUET CLUBS

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 21st November 2010

The Chairman, Roger Buckley opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

- 1. Apologies:** Chastleton House and Plymouth CC's.
- 2. Minutes** of the AGM held on 22nd November 2009 were agreed and signed. Proposed by Brian Shorney and seconded by Marcus Evans.
- 3. Matters arising** There were no matters arising.

4. Chairman's Report

The Chairman said that he was sad to report the deaths of Gerry Eccles (Cheltenham), Penny Keane (Lansdown), John McBurnie Wood (Budleigh Salterton), Geoffrey Maddock (Kington Langley) and Audrey Whitaker (Bath).

The SWF had had another successful year. Congratulations to Broadwas who won the Murphy Shield, the CA's inaugural Golf Croquet Inter-Club Shield. Somerset won the Association Inter Counties Division 1 and Dorset won Division 2. In the inaugural World Team Championship held concurrently with the MacRobertson Shield, Wales won the top tier of the non Mac countries taking part.

Ed Duckworth (Bristol) won the South of England Championship, Dave Mundy (Cheltenham) won the National Seniors' Championship and Cliff Jones won the National Veterans' Championship.

Ryan Cabble won the Musk's Cup and Roger Wood won Centre Stage.

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

Shirley Buckley (Weston), Craig Edwards (Cheltenham), Alison Thursfield (Cheltenham) and Chris Williams (Dyffryn). David G.A. Nicholson (East Dorset) was awarded the Coach of the Year Award.

The Chairman presented Jim Field with the Apps Memorial Bowl for the most improved male player of the year.

Previous winners from the region include Cliff Jones, Dave Kibble, Andrew Cowling, James MacKay, Marcus Evans, Chris Daniels, Richard Dickson and Tony Forbes.

Congratulations to the Swindon Club in being nominated for the Queens Award.

5. Treasurer's Report

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

Seconded by Klim Seabright, the accounts were unanimously approved.

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

6. League Secretary's Report

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

For the first time we exceeded a century of teams competing, having 102 across all competitions.

There were no new clubs entering competitions for the first time, but a welcome back to Lym Valley.

One issue that arose towards the end of the season concerned venues and dates for the play-offs. It is clear that travelling is an issue here, and, although we intend to retain the principle of playing finals at neutral venues and scheduled dates, your Committee are proposing that play-offs should be hosted by block winners on a regional rotational basis, and that they are left to arrange the date themselves (Proposal E).

The following trophies were presented:

Parkstone Trophy to Nailsea

Parkstone Qualifier Trophy to Bear of Rodborough
Federation League Trophy to Bear of Rodborough
Intermediate League Trophy to Taunton
B League Trophy to Nailsea SE
Golf Croquet League Trophy to Nailsea Central

Congratulations to everyone.

The Short Croquet Team Event had a full entry

Division 1 was won by Nailsea Trendlewood

Division 2 was won by Kington Langley

The League Secretary said that only 4 entries had been received for the Level Play Golf Croquet League.

It was suggested that, because of the travelling distances involved, it could be run as a weekend competition.

The League Secretary said that the Committee would discuss the possibilities at their meeting after the AGM.

The League Secretary thanked everyone who had made their facilities available for tournaments, play-offs and finals and to the people who gave up their time to prepare lawns, provide teas, referee and report on these matches. He apologised to the Cornwall and Weston Clubs, who had agreed to host play-off matches that were subsequently relocated to other venues, for any inconvenience this may have caused.

7. Regional Coaching Officers Report

The Regional Coaching Officer, Cliff Jones, reported that it had been quite a busy year. Within the Federation Bronze courses had been held at Cornwall CC, East Dorset CC and at Lym Valley CC.

Coaches preparation courses had been held at Sidmouth CC and Swindon CC.

He had also been coaching at the Croquet Academy and at Ryde CC.

He had been over to Ireland to establish coaching for the CA of Ireland.

He thanked all coaches in their own clubs for all their hard work, they had been very busy.

For the coming year the following courses are arranged:

East Dorset CC – A Golf Croquet Laws/Referees Course, a Graded Coaches Course, a Silver Course

Dowlish Wake CC – Golf Croquet Laws and Coaching Courses

Budleigh Salterton CC - A Bronze Course, a Silver Course and a Beginners Course for Association/Golf Croquet

Laws courses were being arranged.

The Coaching Officer said that he would like some more help with the coaching otherwise he may have to consider standing down as Coaching Officer and Federation Representative.

He thanked everyone for their support

The Chairman said that after a Coaching Course a report had to be sent to the Chairman of the CA Coaching Committee before badges were sent out. The Coaching Officer said that a short report had been sent in, but lengthy individual reports were required which will be done.

8. Youth Officer's Report

The Youth Officer, Marcus Evans, reported that Nailsea had an enthusiastic 14 year old. The Swindon Club and their work with young people was great success. The National Schools' and National Juniors' Championships had been in abeyance for the last two years and it would be good if clubs could encourage young players.

9. Publicity Officer's Report

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

This year Swan was reduced from 36 pages to 32 but is likely to revert to 36 pages again this coming year.

She asked that, although the deadline for contributions is 1st February, she would appreciate any contributions by Christmas.

She asked all clubs to look at their websites to see if they were up-to date, also to check the list of referees and coaches and to let her know if anything needed changing.

10. Development Officers Report

The Development officer (North) Robert Moss said that there was more going on in SW clubs than in any other Federation.

Several clubs are looking to up grade their lawns. Some clubs have been helped with obtaining new equipment and grants. A new club has been set up at Wareham. If any club wanted any support to get in touch.

11. Election of Officers

The Chairman said that he was retiring at the end of the meeting having completed his 3 years.

The Committee proposed Bob Whitaker for Chairman, this was seconded by Brian Shorney and carried.

Tony Backhouse, the Development Officer (South) wished to retire. The Committee proposed Adam Wimshurst for Development Officer (South) this was seconded by Tony Backhouse and carried.

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

The Chairman proposed that they were re-elected en bloc. This was seconded by Klim Seabright and carried.

12. Proposal A from Bath Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

Richard Mills for the Bath CC said that it was a tidying proposal to bring it in line with the Association League Rule 9. At matches some team captains agree to arrange the pairings before the match but some do not, it was felt that all should play to the same standard. Lansdown CC said that they felt that the home team should know the handicaps of the away team and also know the doubles pairings, but was not in favour of arranging all pairings before the match started. In having a larger number in the team it allowed captains to substitute so as to give new players experience.

Sidmouth CC said that in practise to arrange all 20 games with different size teams would need a formula and suggested a formula be devised for all team sizes – Sidmouth would be willing to do this if requested.

Broadwas CC said that one should be able to use substitutes as in football and that in the afternoon session be able to substitute if players were feeling unwell having been on the feet so long or due to very hot or cold weather.

The League Secretary said that with a variable number you should replace player 1 with substitute 1 and so on.

The proposal was seconded by Marcus Evans but defeated.

Proposal B from East Dorset Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

East Dorset CC said that with their proposal they were not seeking to re-write the rules but to make them easier to follow.

Sidmouth CC said that higher handicap players having to play off a lower handicap (Rule 4c) was against CA guidelines and would like "must play off" removed so that everyone played off their correct handicap. Cliff Jones said that as a member of the CA Handicap Committee all players should play off their correct handicap. For just 1 player to play off an incorrect handicap could give a false result which would then result in false handicaps. East Dorset CC said they agreed with this. Dyffryn CC said that the rule had been in existence for 25 years so why change it.

The Chairman said that this was not a proposal.

The proposal seconded by Chris Williams was carried.

Proposal C from East Dorset Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

With a minor wording change of "hr" to "hour" the proposal was seconded by Bob Whitaker and carried.

Proposal D from the Committee (circulated with the Agenda)

The League Secretary said that the reason for the change was that more matches consisted of only 3 players so if the option of am. 1D and pm. 1D, 1S was adopted then 1 player only had one game. Proposal seconded by Brian Shorney and carried.

Proposal E from the Committee (circulated with the Agenda)

The League Secretary said that as he had stated in his report there had been problems with the venues for finals and semi-finals, especially the semi-finals. East Dorset proposed an amendment to the wording as follows:

13b to replace ... "the block" with ..."each block"

13c to insert "staged" after "shall be" and before "at venues"

The amendment was seconded by Marcus Evans and carried. The proposal with the amendment was seconded by Cliff Jones and carried.

Proposal F from the Committee (circulated with the Agenda)

Sidmouth Croquet Club proposed that ".....only if full-sized lawns are not available at the home club" should be replaced with ".....only if the home club has very sound reasons for not using full size lawns".

The amendment was seconded by John Grimshaw and carried.

The proposal with the amendment seconded by John Grimshaw was carried.

Proposal G from the Committee (circulated with the Agenda)

East Dorset proposed the following amendments to the wording:

8b to replace "...the block " with "...each block"

Delete "relevant" before final

8c to insert "staged between "The League final shall be" and "at the venue"

8f to replace "A play-off game" with "A deciding game"

The amendment was seconded by Marcus Evans and carried.

The proposal with the amendment seconded by Marcus Evans was carried.

Proposal H from the Committee (circulated with the Agenda)

The proposal seconded by John Grimshaw was carried.

13. Any Other Business

The Golf Croquet Adviser said that she had been approached by a club over Golf Croquet handicaps, if any club had any problems to contact her.

The Chairman said that it had been a privilege to have been on the Federation Committee for the last 9 years.

He thanked all the Committee for all their hard work during his period as Chairman.

Bob Whitaker – the incoming Chairman said that he would like to thank Roger Buckley for all his work during his time on the Committee - 3 years as Secretary from 2001 to 2004, 3 years as Development Officer from 2004 to 2007, 1 year as Youth Officer from 2006 to 2007 and Chairman from 2007 to 2010.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.30p.m.