

## SOUTH WEST FEDERATION OF CROQUET CLUBS

### Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2012

The Chairman, Bob Whitaker opened the meeting by welcoming everyone.

1. **Apologies:** Plymouth, Palace (Wells) and Lym Valley CC's.
2. **Minutes** of the AGM held on 20th November 2011 were agreed and signed.
3. **Matters arising** There were no matters arising.

#### 4. **Chairman's Report**

The Chairman reported that this would be his final report as Chairman. This year had been one of continuing success, of all the Federations within the CA, the South West Federation was one of the best, if not the "Best". This year SWF members won 7 Bronze, 8 Silver and 2 Gold badges in the CA's Award scheme.

Chris Wiliams (Dyffryn) was awarded the CA Council Medal.

CA diplomas were awarded to: Mike Davis (Bristol), Jim Wilson (Bristol), Kathy Wallace (Nailsea) and Maryse Roberts (Cheltenham).

Bear of Rodborough CC lost to Nottingham CC in the final of the Secretary's Shield.

Cheltenham CC gained revenge by beating Nottingham CC to win the Association Inter-Club Trophy.

Marcus Evans (Nailsea) reached the semi-finals in the AC World Championships in Australia knocking out 5 times world champion Robert Fulford, he was also part of the recent winning GB Solomon Trophy team in the USA.

Dave Kibble (Bristol/Cheltenham) won the Spencer Ell Cup.

Dave Mundy (Cheltenham) won the Seniors' Championship yet again and also the Veterans' Championship.

In Golf Croquet, Ryan Cabble (Nailsea) won the Musk Cup for the 3rd successive year, becoming the first player to win the cup 3 times, he also won the inaugural Nottingham Open.

Ryan also won the doubles in the Yorkshire Open with his partner Richard Thomson (Edgbaston/Cheltenham), Richard then beat Ryan in the final of the Ramsgate Championship.

Rosemary Danby (Bear of Rodborough) has given up her role as secretary at the Bear after 28 years.

He was sad to announce the deaths during the past year of Hugh Yandle (Cheltenham/Bear of Rodborough), John Lonsdale (East Dorset), Sue Edwards (Cheltenham), Mike Davis (Bristol) and Derek Hoffman (Exeter).

He said that as he had stated at the start of his report this would be his last AGM as Chairman and as a Committee member. He said he would like to pay tribute to your Committee for the enormous efforts they put in on your behalf, the fact that the SW Federation does extremely well in bids for grants is largely due to the efforts of your Development Officers.

#### 5. **Treasurer's Report**

As the Treasurer, Derek Beard, was not present the accounts for the year would have to be agreed later.

The Committee had agreed that there would be no change in fees for the coming year.

Cliff Jones proposed C. Bailey as auditor for the coming year, this was seconded by Marcus Evans and approved.

#### 6. **League Secretary's Report**

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

The 2012 summer must have been the worst ever for rain and many matches had to be played on soggy lawns. He paid tribute to the Competition Secretaries and team captains for their efforts to get games played. In all only 10 matches were conceded the lowest for several years.

The 2012 season saw league entries from 107 teams representing 29 clubs There were first time entries in the Golf Croquet League from Swanage CC and Camerton and Peasedown CC. Unfortunately before any matches were played Palace Wells CC had to withdraw from the B League and GC League due to a shortage of players and lawn problems. Plymouth CC also withdrew from the B league. Once again there were insufficient entries for a Level Play GC league, but with 7 entries received so far it looked like a possibility for 2013. 2 more entries were then received at the meeting so it was confirmed that the Level Play Golf Croquet League would go ahead.

The following trophies were presented:

- Parkstone Trophy Division 1 to Bristol
- Parkstone Trophy Division 2 to Bath
- Parkstone Trophy Division 3 to Bristol 2nd
- Federation League Trophy to Nailsea North
- Intermediate League Trophy to Bath
- B League Trophy to Cornwall

The Golf Croquet League Trophy was won by Dowlish Wake who were not present to receive their trophy. Congratulations to everyone.

The Short Croquet Team Event was won by Nailsea. There were 3 divisions this year and a possibility of 4 divisions for 2013.

The League Secretary requested that all clubs to send in their report sheets, please.

With the arrival of the Treasurer the meeting returned to Item 5 on the Agenda - Treasurer's Report.

The Treasurer, Derek Beard circulated a copy of the accounts to the meeting. The balance at the end of the year was similar to last year so there would be no change in subscriptions for the coming year. The travelling expenses refund was due to being able to claim travelling expenses back from the CA. The Treasurer was asked why there was a difference in the amount for coaching from the previous year - the Coaching Officer said he would like to answer the question - it was that more of the profit was being returned to the clubs so that clubs benefitted more than the Federation. It was noted that there was an error in addition for income for 2012 - it should be £2532 not £2552 with the change agreed the Treasurer proposed the accounts be accepted, this was seconded by Sue MacKay and approved.

The Treasurer said that he would like to give notice that he would not be seeking re-election at the next AGM.

## **7. Regional Coaching Officers Report**

The Regional Coaching Officer, Cliff Jones, reported that it had again been a busy year.

Most clubs within the Federation have offered coaching either by open invitation or through in-house coaching.

He would like to mention just a few of the coaching activities he was aware of within the region:

Richard Griffiths and others have been active at Cornwall CC.

Klim Seabright, Adam Moliver and others have been very active at Cheltenham CC and elsewhere.

At Nailsea CC much coaching has been carried out by a number of members with Kris Chambers coaching on a more advanced level.

Richard Wood and others have coached at Sidmouth CC.

At East Dorset CC coaching by many with the usual enormous effort by David Nicholson.

At Budleigh Salterton CC there has been coaching and mentoring.

The new Peasedown club has been busy recruiting and coaching with Ros leading this.

Klim Seabright has responded to the World Croquet Federation's plea on behalf of the recently formed Indian Croquet Federation for assistance with coaching and is travelling to India in January 2013.

The Coaching officer said that as well as courses held within the Federation he had also been coaching outside the Federation mainly at the Croquet Academy.

There were a number of courses already planned for next year, and one or two more awaiting dates.

Details of these would be available on the SW Federation website.

He said he would like to thank everyone who has helped with coaching and expressed his gratitude to Bob Whitaker who had helped him on many of his courses.

He said, as he had said before, he would like to ease back and would not be seeking re-election as Coaching Officer at the next AGM.

## **8. Publicity Officer's Report**

The Publicity Officer said she would like to apologise for the mistake on the website for the winner of the Parkstone Trophy Division 3.

She said she was changing her e-mail address but could be contacted at [editor@swfcroquet.org.uk](mailto:editor@swfcroquet.org.uk).

SWAN continued as usual, although the next issue may be a bit smaller unless more contributions were received, she appealed for any articles of inclusion in SWAN to be sent as soon as possible.

All coaching courses will appear on the website as many take place before SWAN is distributed.

Richard Mills (Bath) said he would like to point out that the Lansdown club is still in existence. The Publicity Officer said she apologised if her comments had been misconstrued and there would be an apology in the editorial next year.

It was stated that, in searching for qualified coaches, handicappers or referees within the Federation, the current list on the website, taken from the CA website, does not appear to be up to date.

The secretary will send out a request for all clubs to update their coaches, handicappers, referees so the website can be updated.

## **9. Youth Officer's Report**

The Youth Officer said that he was pleased with the youth coaching that was taking place - West Buckland school appeared very enthusiastic. He said that as there were many more options for hobbies these days, that it needed enthusiastic teachers at schools, who have time to spend in starting up and continuing croquet to keep the momentum going. He was hopeful that we might be able to revive the SWF Schools League which has not been played for about 20 years

## **10. Development Officers Report**

The Development Officer North thanked the Chairman for his kind comments. It was a privilege to help and encourage clubs to start up and expand and there has been a significant amount of activity within our Federation.

He said he would like to mention the following:

Camerton and Peasedown - a new 4 lawn club with 50 members.

Cheltenham has re-laid and levelled 4 lawns this year and will be doing the remaining 4 lawns next year.

Nailsea will be embarking on an extensive lawn improvement programme over the next 4 years but without actually relaying them.

Swindon - major re-development - was local authority, now planning 3 full sized lawns.

4 schools in the area are playing at different levels - Westonbirt, West Buckland, Queens and Millfield - and he had heard that schools in other parts of the county were now playing.

There was the possibility of 3 new clubs at Llandoverly, Beckford and Leominster.

He would like to make the point that grants from the CA are for development not maintenance - if it is new it is classed as development if it is a replacement then it is maintenance - he would urge clubs to look forward and build up reserves especially for replacement of equipment.

The Development Officer South said that Barnstaple were having landlord, funding and drainage problems. West Buckland school were enthusiastic.

Cornwall now have 3 lawns which they have done under their own auspices.

Kingston Maurward now have a new clubhouse with help from a grant.

Palace (Wells) continue to push for new members.

Budleigh Salterton have renovated 2 more lawns.

The point was raised that to coach in schools you need to have a CRB check or to have a member of staff on hand. It was suggested that if anyone/club wished advice on this to contact either Marcus Evans or the CA Child Protection Officer.

## **11. Golf Croquet Adviser's Report**

The Golf Croquet Adviser said she would like to say a big thank you to Robert Moss and Bob Whitaker for their help with Camerton and Peasedown.

She said that the Golf Croquet Final had been held at Camerton and she had been asked to write a report, she was surprised that there were few, if any, spectators from other clubs - she said she would appeal to players to try and support the Federation finals.

The question of Golf Croquet handicaps was often raised and she would like to say that club handicappers need to be proactive and check on handicap cards at least once a year - if any club wanted advice on GC handicaps please contact her. A 2 day GC coaching course has been arranged at Budleigh Salterton on April 23 for high handicaps and 24 April for low handicaps with herself and Mo Boys.

There was a need for a GC Coaches Qualification Course - the Coaching Officer said that a separate classroom as well as a lawn was required for this. Camerton and Peasedown offered their facilities and a date would be organised.

Nailsea offered a venue for a Golf Croquet Laws and Referees Course and a date would be publicised.

Sidmouth CC asked for clarification as to what games went on a handicap cards as some clubs only seemed to enter league matches. It was stated that all competitive games should be entered on handicap cards - that means all games played in CA events, federation matches and internal club competitions, but not friendlies.

Peter Dyke (Nailsea) said that some GC teams were misinterpreting the rules and mistakenly thinking of hoop 13 as the "golden hoop".

Richard Mills (Bath) suggested that the GC report sheet be revised and "Golden hoop" deleted - it was only used to decide in finals.

## 12. Election of Officers

The Committee Proposed Roger Hayes for Chairman, All other Officers were willing to stand for another year. There were no other nominations.

This was seconded by David Temple and carried.

## 13. Proposal A from the Committee (circulated with the Agenda)

The Committee proposed this as there is no mention in the Constitution as to when nominations for the Committee had to be received by.

The proposal was seconded by Roger Hayes and carried.

### Proposal B from Nailsea Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

The League Secretary said he opposed the proposal as a player should not play for more than one team. He suggested that 5 players were nominated and if 3 not available then it was almost certain that the match would be re-arranged.

The proposal was seconded by David Harrison-Wood and defeated.

### Proposal C from The Committee (circulated with the Agenda)

The League Secretary said that in Rule 9b the word "singles" was not relevant.

Rule 9d(1) was to simplify the wording.

The proposal seconded by Chris Williams was carried.

### Proposal D from The Committee (circulated with the Agenda)

The League Secretary said this proposal was to clarify the position if two teams who play each other twice were level after both games.

The proposal seconded by Helen Pryor was carried.

### Proposal E from Nailsea Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

Peter Dyke said that the purpose of the proposal was to try and define when a court was "unplayable".

There followed some discussion on Clause ii of Rule 11c - it was felt that was not a fair or relevant point as many players were unable to hit the length of the court even in dry weather. The condition of the lawn, length of grass etc would also have an impact on hitting the length of the lawn.

Jane Hull (Kington Langley) proposed an amendment - that Clause 11c (ii) be deleted. This was seconded by Marcus Evans and carried.

There then followed a discussion as to whether an abandoned match should be completed at a later date if one side had already won the match.

David Harrison-Wood proposed an amendment that in 11c e the following be inserted "unless one team has already won more than half the number of games". This was seconded by Marcus Evans was carried.

The amended proposal seconded by Chris Donovan was carried.

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

The proposal seconded by John Grimshaw was carried.

### Proposal G East Dorset Croquet Club (circulated with the Agenda)

The proposal was seconded by Chris Williams was carried.

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

This was just a format change. The proposal was seconded by Marcus Evans and carried.

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

The proposal was withdrawn

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

The League Secretary agreed with David Harrison-Wood that the CA list was incorrect. This has now been corrected . The proposal seconded by Chris Williams was carried

Brian Shorney said that he would like to thank Dave Kibble and David Harris-Wood in changing the CA schedules.

## 14. Any Other Business

The Chairman thanked Roger Buckley, who is standing down from the Committee, for his all his efforts over the years that he has been a member and Chairman of the Committee.

Richard Mills (Bath) gave a vote of thanks to the Chairman, Bob Whitakers for his years of service.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 12.50p.m.