

## Minutes of SWF Committee Meeting 20<sup>th</sup> May 2024 held by Zoom

### Present

Tony Mayer, Peter Kirby, Stephen Custance-Baker, Mike Rice, Andru Blewett, Linda Shaw

### Apologies

Brian Wilson, Paul Francis

#### 1. Minutes of last meeting

- a. Previously circulated and agreed

#### 2. Matters arising

- a. None not covered in the agenda

#### 3. Treasurer's Report

- a. Previously circulated – see attached
  - i. No questions and accepted
- b. Following discussion, agreed that paper records e.g. old bank statements, be securely destroyed. **Action: Peter**

#### 4. League Secretary's Report

- a. Leagues
  - i. Rather a slow start to the season as several clubs were unable to start play until later due to the poor conditions of the courts.
  - ii. 25 matches have been played so far
  - iii. Stephen continues to support the Assistant League Secretaries as they record and report the results.
    - 1. He will be visiting Wendy to sort out use of macros.
- b. Following discussion, which has included John Grimshaw, agreed that paper records of League results be safely destroyed. **Action: Stephen**
- c. We understand that comments on the use of the trial ASD format are being sent to Jonathan Powe.
- d. Bisque allocation on  $\frac{3}{4}$  courts
  - i. Mike raised the issue of proper allocation of bisques when games are played on  $\frac{3}{4}$  courts.
  - ii. Agreed an article in Cygnet to draw attention to Tournament Regs and remind home team captains to advise opponents of this in good time.
- e. GC Level play
  - i. Tony opened discussion on to what extent we should be encouraging level play with high handicaps
  - ii. Acknowledged it encourages better play and avoids discussion over extra turns / Advantage, but on balance it was agreed that the needs of our members would not be well served by abolishing handicap play at this level, and that running both handicap and level play leagues at this level would diminish entries when so many clubs will not be able to support both.

- iii. This led to discussion about obtaining a D-grade and enabling entry into class GC events, which has also been discussed at the Feds' Forum but so far discussions with the CqE tournaments committee have not progressed the situation.
- iv. Acknowledged that this will be a very difficult task but noted that the current system is far from ideal and may affect clubs in the SW more than in other regions.
- v. No action agreed at this stage.

## 5. Development

- a. Paul reported
  - i. Nailsea just applied for grant to refurbish the track and their car park
  - ii. Winterborne Valley still in negotiations for the continue use of current lawns
  - iii. Brian will update on Abbey's relocation to Butleigh.
    - 1. Note Brian was not present so this will be carried forward.
- b. SWF Volunteer award
  - i. See proposal and one response in Appendix 1
  - ii. Agreed this be suggested in Cygnet and responses invited **Action: Linda**
  - iii. Depending on reactions, we need to agree whether to introduce such an award this year or to launch it at the AGM
  - iv. To be carried forward.

## 6. Coaching Officer Report

- a. Paul reported
  - i. Club Level Coaching Course
    - 1. Budleigh on June 3 and 4
    - 2. 8 participants
  - ii. Further course to be arranged for four others.
- b. Some discussion as to whether this value for money – no conclusion so we may re-visit this
- c. New GC Assessment Exercises
  - i. Now trialed with just under 80 players, overall response has been positive.
    - 1. Further information in due course

## 7. Handicapping Officer Report

- a. Discussed the draft AGM proposal concerning presenting and checking handicap cards at League Matches Action: Mike to redraft taking into account today's feedback **Action: Mike**
- b. Noted that guidance is needed on how to check handicaps **Action: Mike** to write an article for Cygnet
  - i. Noted we are not sure whether there are any National Handicappers in the SW
- c. Success story - CqE handicap committee are considering a proposal for agreeing a maximum gap between AC and GC conversion handicaps
- d. Mike visited Tisbury CC for assessing and coaching – they visited East Dorset in return
  - i. Noted Mike is keen to help smaller clubs developing AC

## 8. Safeguarding Officer Report

- a. Andru to check the extent to which Safeguarding issues are being addressed in coaching qualification courses

### **9. Feds Forum Group update**

- a. Not many regions were represented at last week's meeting
- b. Some discussion about unsatisfactory standard of courts in League play
  - i. This is an issue for some SWF clubs but it would be a significant task to quality control this
  - ii. Stephen noted that analysis of results indicated a clear advantage for the home team

### **10. Rep to CqE Report**

- a. None received

### **11. AOB**

- a. CqE Diploma nominations by 31<sup>st</sup> July – reminder to go in Cygnet. **Action: Linda**

### **12. Dates of next meetings**

- a. 8<sup>th</sup> July – several people are not available for this and as it is a crucial meeting in terms of preparing for the AGM we need to re-arrange. Can people make 15<sup>th</sup> July?
- b. 9<sup>th</sup> September
- c. 14<sup>th</sup> October
- d. 24<sup>th</sup> November
- e. 5<sup>th</sup> Dec – provisional

## **Appendix 1: SWF Volunteer of the Year Award**

Paul has proposed a new award, and discussed this with Brian who thought it was a good idea.

### Rationale

1. Many clubs struggle with volunteers.
2. Those who do volunteer might not be the best players (unlikely to win leagues etc.)
3. Many volunteers sacrifice their own development for the benefit of their clubs
4. Clubs are not always great at recognising their volunteers' contributions.

### Proposal

To raise the profile of volunteers and raise awareness in our clubs, a series of awards, certificates and trophies from the SWF

1. All clubs invited to nominate their volunteer of the year  
SWF action: all nominees receive SWF certificate
2. SWF considers all the nominations and decides on a short list of four  
SWF action: all short-listed volunteers receive a SWF medal
3. From the short list of four, SWF decides on 'the Club Volunteer of the Year'  
SWF action; winner receives a trophy (to be returned at the end of the year) and a permanent smaller trophy

### Questions

1. Criteria
2. Publicity: Cygnet, Monthly Zoom
3. Decisions
4. Funding certificates, awards and trophies

Linda replied: It sounds like a good idea - I may be making too much of a mountain but should we think about introducing it for next year? I'm thinking about the amount of preparation we might want to do and this might take us a while.

I think it would be helpful to sound out members at a Zoom meeting and maybe get one or two non-committee members involved in drafting the criteria etc. We could then kick it off with a dedicated Zoom meeting in the autumn to look at Sport England parameters of volunteering etc so clubs can think about it over the winter.

We could officially launch it at the AGM