

**Minutes of the 25th Annual General Meeting
of the South East Croquet Federation
held at Surbiton Croquet Club
on Sunday 29 January 2012**

The following 24 Clubs were represented:

Bishop Duppas (S Day); Bookham U3A (M Pulsford); Caterham (J and O Gilbert); Canterbury (R Loram); Compton (H Smith); Crawley (P Constance; A Jenkinson and L Nash); Dulwich (S Whiteley; D and J Reddish); Ember (M Beaney and R Dollimore); Dogmersfield (J and R Catt); Hampstead Heath (R Hilditch); Littlehampton (M and P Sherwin); Merton (C Doswell and N Furse); Purley Bury (P Davey and P Hinton); Ramsgate (R Loram); Reigate Priory (G Gunton); Roehampton (S Davies; D Mooney and T Salem); Rother Valley (C Minchin); Royal Tunbridge Wells (J Diamond); Surbiton (D Beck; C Dalziel; N Furse ; D Mooney; M Pulsford and G Noble); Sussex County (W Arliss; D and G Gaitley; J Isaacs and A Rew); Sydenham (R Laver); West Wittering (R Bird and J Cooper); West Worthing (K and M Webb) and Woking (M Hague; M Holland; E Mackenzie-Gray and B Jones).

Apologies for absence were received from:

M and L Holdsworth (Littlehampton); R Shipp (Preston); A and M Oulton (Rottingdean); R Tillcock (Ryde); J Whitehead (Hayes, Bromley and Keston); S Vallis (Angmering); G Higgins (Hampstead Heath); S Roberts (West Chiltington) and D Luker (Worthing).

The minutes of the 24th AGM held on 20 February 2011 were approved as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising from the minutes

The Chairman (W Arliss) drew attention to the newly acquired and newly refurbished trophies on display and pointed out that all of the trophies now had sufficient space to accommodate the names of winners for several years.

Approval of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2011

The Treasurer (H Smith) apologised for the lack of copies of the accounts; presented them orally and explained their contents. The accumulated cash assets of the Federation (£7,289 as at 31 December 2011) would, she said, continue to be distributed by way of development grants and loans to members of the Federation as the Committee thought appropriate. Applications for financial assistance for suitable projects were invited.

It was resolved that the meeting would delegate approval of the accounts to the Committee following their approval by the Independent Examiner. The Secretary agreed to send out copies of the accounts to all Club representatives as soon as they were sent to him.

Annual Subscription for 2012

The Treasurer's proposal that the annual subscription rate should be maintained at £10 was approved *nem. con.*

Report on the Development of the SECF web site

The Chairman, using a sophisticated combination of smoke, mirrors and light projection, illustrated the operation of the new facility for reporting the results of League matches via the web site. This would not be compulsory but it would be helpful to both the Web Master and League Organiser to receive an automatic email containing the relevant information.

The Chairman also drew attention to the proposed individual Club entries on the site. He accepted, when pressed, that an extra box would be required to reveal both a Club's location and its correspondence address, which might be different and also accepted that a link would be created between the SECF site and a Club site so that, where the Club did not wish to take on the additional task of updating information already available on its own site, no harm would be done.

Report on 2011 events

The League Organiser (R Hilditch) reported the following successes:

"A" League winners: **Woking**

“U” League winners: **Reigate Priory A and Surbiton** (who had not yet played to determine the entrant to the Secretary’s Shield)

“B” League winners: **Woking**

GC Level League winners: **Dulwich**

GC Level Restricted Handicap League winners: **Sussex County**

GC Handicap League winners: **Ivychurch A**

Representatives of the winning Clubs collected the trophies.

The Secretary reported the following further successes in 2011:

AC Team Doubles Champions: **Guildford and Godalming**

Ladies’ Team Champions: **Purley Bury Queen Bees**

Golf Croquet Team Doubles Champions: **Littlehampton**

Golf Croquet Team Singles Champions: **Ramsgate**

One Ball Team Champions: **Littlehampton**

The League Organiser said that he had transcribed all of the Rules relating to the Leagues into separate Rules for each League to render them more readily intelligible.

Development report

The Development Officer (M Hague) reported that West Worthing Croquet Club had started well with equipment provided by the CA and the Federation and had taken advantage of an offer from Woking to collect from them their 1982 croquet hut, which was surplus to their requirements and was found to be susceptible to dismantling.

An opportunity had arisen towards the end of the 2011 season to take over a defunct bowls club in Cheam. A recruiting drive was being planned for March 2012 and if successful, the new club would be seeking court equipment from the CA and the Federation. The CA had provided a grant of £200 towards the cost of launching a new club and the Federation had made a modest grant of £75 towards the cost of advertising the Cheam launch.

Ember Croquet Club (part of the Ember Sports Club) had sunk a bore hole for water to irrigate its one and a half courts as the first phase of a project to improve its playing facilities and revitalise the section. The CA had made a grant of £2,500 towards the cost of the second phase and the Federation had made a grant of £200 further to assist the Ember Croquet Club in completing the project. The next phase would involve installation of the pipework and the sprinkler system and it was envisaged that the whole system would be in use by late spring or early summer 2012.

Crawley Croquet Club had been informed that an application by Crawley Borough Council for a £1 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore Worth Park to its former Victorian glory has been successful. Of this sum, £40,000 had been earmarked to relay the two and a half croquet lawns and to install an irrigation system. The Fund could not assist with the replacement of the dilapidated wooden hut presently used by the Club. The Club was engaged in fund raising to acquire a “log effect”, vandal proof, chalet style pavilion which would fit into the character of the site, at a project cost of £25,000. Work was provisionally planned to start in autumn 2012 with applications for grants from the CA and SECF being made in time for the 11 February 2012 meeting of the CA Development Committee.

West Wittering Croquet Club now had a 21 year guarantee of tenure and the Club was moving swiftly to establish good facilities. It had already carried out the first phase (basic groundwork) but subsequent work had been delayed by adverse weather conditions. It was now ready to proceed. The CA had made a grant of £1,500 and a loan of £1,000 towards completing the project and the Federation had made a further grant of £200 to assist the West Wittering Club.

The Development Officer also drew attention to the Golf Croquet Holiday in Corfu which will take place from 13 to 22 May 2012. Contact Ian Cobbold at telephone number: 0208 624 0533.

Coaching Report

The Coaching Officer (J Isaacs) produced a schedule of the coaching courses for 2012 and said that details of all courses, including prices, could be seen on the Croquet Academy website at www.thecroquetacademy.org.uk or in the CA's 2012 Fixtures Book. Those interested could book on line or by contacting the Entries Secretary (John Low) at 34 Eley Drive, Rottingdean, East Sussex BN2 7FH. Telephone: 01273 388910.

The courses would be as follows:

20 - 22 April: AC Silver Course for handicaps 6-11 to be managed by Nigel Polehill

21/22 April: AC Bronze Course for handicaps 12-18 to be managed by Frances Low

21/22 April: AC Triple Peel Course for handicaps 4 or less to be managed by Cliff Jones

25/26 April: A Guide to Successful Tournament Management to be given by Cliff Jones

28/29 April: AC Improvers Course for handicaps 18+ to be managed by Daphne Gaitley

28/29 April: An Introduction to Association Croquet for handicaps 20+ to be managed by Pat Jackson

28/29 April: A Course in Advanced Play for handicaps 6-12 to be managed by Cliff Jones

19/20 May: GC Improvers Course for handicaps 4+ managed by Daphne Gaitley

19/20 May: Introduction to AC for GC Players of any handicap to be managed by Jonathan Isaacs

7/8 August: Supervised High Bisque Tournament for handicaps 14+ managed by Frances Low

The Coaching Officer also said that he wished to compile a list of the coaches practising in the region so as to arrive at a starting point for a programme of development of coaching.

Election of Officers and Committee for 2012-13

The following persons offered themselves for election and were elected unopposed:

Chairman: **Bill Arliss** (Sussex County)

Secretary: **John Reddish** (Dulwich)

Treasurer: **Hilary Smith** (Compton)

Committee members: **Michael Hague** (Woking); **Richard Hilditch** (Hampstead Heath);

Jonathan Isaacs (Sussex County); **Roger Loram** (Canterbury and Ramsgate) and

George Noble (Surbiton).

The elected SECF CA Representative **David Mooney** (Roehampton and Surbiton) is also a member of the Committee

Election of Auditor (Independent Examiner)

The Treasurer proposed Graham Thompson (Compton) as an appropriately qualified candidate and the meeting approved his appointment *nem. con.*

Election of the SECF Representative to the Croquet Association

The Chairman said that the Federation's Representative is elected to serve a three year term and an election was due to take place this year. The incumbent was prepared to stand again but Clubs would, in due course, be invited by the Secretary to nominate further candidates if they thought fit. The closing date for nominations would be at the end of July 2012.

The 2012 League Rules

The League Organiser (R Hilditch) opened a debate on the requirement that handicap cards should be produced at all SECF AC League matches and events, proposing a motion that players who were unable to produce a completed card should be required to play with a handicap of 2 steps below their declared handicap. Representatives questioned whether such a Draconian sanction would be appropriate and suggested that the matter should be

referred to the CA Handicapping Committee. J Diamond (Royal Tunbridge Wells) suggested that the Federation should make the production of a card a requirement and review the question of a sanction later. Hilary Smith (Compton) proposed a formal amendment to a like effect: that all AC players must have their handicap cards available for inspection when playing in SECF AC League matches and any default should be reported to the League Organiser and to the relevant Club Handicapper but that there should, for the time being, be no further sanction. The amendment was passed by 14 votes to 3. The motion, as amended, was then passed *nem. con.*

The League Organiser raised the question of the nomenclature of the newly introduced GC League, pointing out that the use of the letter "B" had caused confusion since that letter was already in use to designate the AC Beginners League. After a debate during which, for few apparent reasons, the letters "X" and "W" received some support, it was agreed that the letter "R" should be used to describe the GC Level Play Restricted Handicap League.

The League Organiser invited consideration of the handicap restriction applicable to the GC "R" League, noting that it had been agreed in 2011 that, experimentally, teams should have a combined handicap of at least 16 and that, unlike in the CA Murphy Shield competition, there should be no exclusion of players by reference to their low handicap. He said that all of the 2011 participants in the League had been consulted and had produced a variety of responses. After discussion, it was agreed (by a majority of 13 votes to 7) that the minimum combined handicap should be retained at 16 and that players with a handicap of less than 3 at the time the match is arranged should be excluded from participation in the "R" League.

A proposal that the play-off rule applied to the U League should be extended to all of the Leagues was rejected as commanding insufficient support.

The Southern Challenge

The Chairman drew attention to the proposal for a new Level Play GC Club Teams Tournament to be held at Southwick and Surbiton on 7 and 8 July 2012, the details of which had already been circulated. D Beck (Surbiton) suggested that it might be more appropriate for the First Division to be contested at Surbiton and the Second Division at Southwick, having regard to the fact that the majority of the Clubs whose teams would probably be members of the First Division were situated in the northern part of the region. The Chairman agreed to reconsider the venues in the light of the entries received and said that an early request for entries would be issued by the Secretary so that the position would be clarified by no later than 5 March 2012.

Other 2012 Events

The Secretary announced that the dates for all of the 2012 had been fixed and would be published on the Calendar which was presently in draft but would be published soon. The dates were 26/27 May: AC Team Doubles; 4 July: AC Ladies' Day; 7/8 July: GC Southern Challenge; 5 August: GC Team Doubles and Singles and 19 August: One-ball Teams (the last date having been changed to avoid conflict with the Closing Ceremony of the London Olympic Games).

J Isaacs (Sussex County) drew attention **to the** Charity April Fools One Ball Competition to be held at Southwick on 1 April 2012 involving pink dress for all and automatic entry to the Winchester Charity One Ball Championships on 12 and 13 May 2012 for the winner. It was noted that this would not affect entries for Winchester gained by participation in individual Club's Charity One Ball tournaments.

Other business

There being no further business, the meeting closed and Club members' representatives partook of an excellent lunch prepared and served by George Noble and his staff.