

Minutes of the 26th Annual General Meeting of the South East Croquet Federation held at Surbiton Croquet Club on Sunday 16 February 2014

The following 28 Clubs were represented:

Caterham (J Gilbert); **Canterbury** (F Hughes & R Loram); **Cheam** (J Cobbold); **Compton** (H Smith); **Dogmersfield** (J & R Catt); **Dulwich** (P Newton & J Reddish); **Ealing** (M Sherratt); **Ember** (M Lambert & R Dollimore); **Guildford & Godalming** (M Thompson); **Hampstead Heath** (R Hilditch & B Havill); **Hassocks** (C Corker); **Hurlingham** (A Bingham); **Ivychurch** (G Croxford); **Lodsworth** (A Brooks; R Carline & T Johnson); **Merton** (C Doswell); **Old College, Dulwich** (R & C Brook); **Phyllis Court** (H Midgley); **Preston** (J Munt); **Purley Bury** (J & ? Belcher & R & A Sherwin); **Ramsgate** (T Longman & R Loram); **Reigate Priory** (M Peacock); **Roehampton** (E Phillimore; A Wilkinson & D Mooney); **Rother Valley** (D Smith & A & A Sugarman); **Royal Tunbridge Wells** (J Diamond & J Chapman); **Ryde** (R Tillcock; A Trucker & R Harris); **Surbiton** (Q Barrett; R Bird; D Mooney & G Noble); **Sussex County** (W Arliss & D & D Gaitley) and **Woking** (M Hague).

Apologies for absence were received from:

M & L Holdsworth (Littlehampton); J Isaacs (Committee/Sussex County); D Beck (Surbiton); D Francis (Medway); A Oulton (Rottingdean); B Williams (West Wittering); S Vallis (Angmering); J Elliott (Bishop Duppas); M Pulsford (Surbiton); S Carter (Dulwich/Sydenham); A Gryce (Dulwich); S Lightbody (Dulwich); P Flowerday (Caterham) and P Sherwin (Littlehampton).

The minutes of the 25th AGM held on Sunday 27 January 2013 were approved as a true and accurate record.

Matters arising from the minutes

The Chairman (W Arliss) drew attention to the trophies on display. The Chairman expressed the hope that all trophies would again be returned by the holders before the end of the forthcoming season for consistent engraving and subsequent re-presentation at the 2015 AGM.



Approval of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2013

The Treasurer (H Smith) presented the accounts and invited questions about their contents. The accumulated cash assets of the Federation (£6,254 as at 31 December 2013) 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 and should be addressed to the Development Officer (Michael Hague) in the first instance. The Treasurer drew attention to the increase in lawn hire fees set down by the CA which would have an effect on the charges imposed for SECF events in 2014.

J Diamond (Royal Tunbridge Wells) proposed and T Johnson (Lodsworth) seconded a proposal that the accounts should be approved. This was carried *nem. con.*

Annual Subscription for 2013

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

Increase of tournament fees

It was agreed that fees for entries to SECF events would have to be increased in line with the increased lawn hire charges set down by the SECF. The Secretary announced that he would insert the appropriate figures (determined by the Committee) on the 2014 application form.

Report on the further development of the SECF web site

The Webmaster (W Arliss) reported that more information about member Clubs would be included. He reiterated that the reporting of League results via the site was favoured and added that he had brought up to date the section on handicapping. Useful links would be added in the "Links" section if Clubs made their position known. In response to enquiries it was asserted (by J Diamond) and widely accepted that post code identification (whatever that might be) was not easy. There was little or no enthusiasm for the inclusion of more history of the Federation on the site. The League Organiser (R Hilditch) echoed the Webmaster's plea

that all results should be reported via the site to avoid occurrences such as that when both participating teams reported separately that they had lost the same match.

GC Laws and Handicapping

The Chairman alluded to but did not explain the changes in the laws. He provided more information about the changes in the GC handicapping system which had been approved by the CA Committee and were about to be ratified by the Council. He referred to the width (or breadth) of the range within the "scratch" handicap band. In at least one instance, a scratch player (who could have remained nameless but was actually identified as Simon Carter of Simon Carter Menswear) had achieved an absurdly high index by winning many handicap games (many of them against the Secretary). This indicated that "something had to be done". The result was a year long trial of "effective handicaps". These would have no effect on anyone with a handicap of 4 or more but would require those with handicaps of 3 or less (fewer?) to give more additional shots in handicap games.

Proposal that all participants in the GC Handicap League with handicaps above 10 should be required to play off 10

The Chairman suggested that this might be unnecessary since it was proposed the Club Handicappers should be required to allocate handicaps of 11 or 12 only if that could be "adequately justified" by testing or matches played. The proposal was put to a vote and was defeated by 16 votes to 9.

Report on 2013 Leagues and Events

The League Organiser (R Hilditch) reported that the "failure rate" (matches not arranged or played) was again commendably low (despite Dulwich's abject performance) and invited acclamation for the following:

AC "A" League winners: **Surbiton**

AC "U" League winners: **Caterham**

AC "B" League winners: **Merton and Woking** (play off required)

GC Level League winners: **Ryde**

GC Level Restricted League winners: **Royal Tunbridge Wells**

GC Handicap League winners: **Merton** (East winner) and **Littlehampton** (West winner) to play off.

AC Team Doubles Champions: **Medway**

Ladies' Team Champions: **Surbiton**

Golf Croquet Team Doubles Champions: **Royal Tunbridge Wells**

Golf Croquet Team Singles Champions: **Sussex County**

The GC Southern Challenge Division One Champions: **Dulwich**

The GC Southern Challenge Division Two Champions: **Winchester**

Representatives of (most of) the winning Clubs collected the trophies and were applauded and photographed, some more than once.



Development Officer's report

The Development Officer (M Hague) reported on the progress made by Clubs who had received grants from the Federation and/or the CA.

Lodsworth would start using their newly constructed lawn in April but would be officially opened on 10 May 2014. They had 60 members and had received wonderful support from their neighbours, Rother Valley.

There was bad news from Crawley. They had become the victims of some municipal overspending on the park project but would continue with 2 and a half lawns and a dilapidated clubhouse. The future was rather bleak.

Guildford and Godalming were putting together a plan to build a clubhouse on the existing footprint of the former bowling club building and to reseed the area given to them to form four courts. It was hoped to start work in the coming season. There would be a significant enhancement of the facilities when this large project was completed.

Cheam had used the grant from the Federation for initial publicity to remarkably good effect. They had recruited a staggering 90 members (to use one lawn) and had a waiting list of 17.

Caterham had 2 new lawns and a new clubhouse was proposed.

A major new development was under way at Medway. The Club were pushing on with the construction of 4 courts on a new site although they would continue to operate at their present location (Cobdown Sports and Social Club at Ditton) during the 2014 season. They were looking forward to playing on their new courts in 2015. Further fundraising was in hand to build a clubhouse. The beginning of the 2016 season had been set as the target date for completion.

Dogmersfield were to be commended. They had half a lawn and 45 members. They were "very social; very good and very happy".

The Development Officer issued his usual plea for any equipment found to be surplus to requirements (however insignificant or dilapidated) to be donated to the Federation for onward transmission to the needy.

Coaching Officer's report

The Coaching Officer (J Isaacs) was in New Zealand. Attention was drawn to the Academy report in the Gazette. It was emphasised that bespoke coaching could and would be arranged on request. Any Club seeking such a course should make contact with J Isaacs and he would endeavour to get suitably qualified coaches to meet their requirements.

Election of Officers and Committee for 2013-14

The following persons offered themselves for election and were not opposed.

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 by acclamation.

The 2014 League Rules

The League Organiser (R Hilditch) reported that the one hour time limit in GC matches (agreed at last year's AGM) had worked well and would be retained. The split of the GC Handicap League had also been well received. A play off would be arranged between Merton and Littlehampton. It was suggested and accepted that, in 2014, the fixtures in the Handicap League should be completed by 14 September to enable the necessary play off to be completed before the end of the season.

2014 Events

The Secretary announced that the dates for the 2014 events had been fixed and would be published on the Calendar which was presently in draft but would be published in due course. The dates were 17/18 May: AC Team Doubles; 2 July: AC Ladies' Day; 5/6 July: GC Southern Challenge; 3 August: GC Team Doubles and Singles. The date and venue for the One-ball Teams event would be announced if there were sufficient support for a tournament.

Other business

There being no further business, the meeting closed and Club members' representatives moved furniture; partook of an excellent lunch prepared and served by George Noble and his team of Surbiton members; moved furniture again and took part in the Club Conference convened to explain and discuss the proposed changes to the CA structure and funding.