

Minutes of the 36TH Annual General Meeting of the South East Federation held on Saturday 26th November, 2022.

Committee members present were: Andrew Stewart (Chair), David King (Treasurer), Jon Diamond (Webmaster), John Low (League & Tournament Organiser), Richard Carline (Coaching & Safeguarding Officer), Mike Akester (Development Officer), Carol Driver (CA Council Rep), Ian Cobbold (Retiring CA Council Rep) and George Noble.

The following representatives were present: Jenny Lugton, Jacky Waite (Cheam), Pat Hobart (The Croqueteers), Jon Diamond (Royal Tunbridge Wells/Committee), Anne Alecock (The Croqueteers), Janet Overall, Penny Hinton, Carol Driver (Purley Bury), Richard Carline (Sussex County/Committee), Sara Anderson, Colin Brim (Woking), Frank Collins (Caterham), Hilary Bird (Guildford & Godalming), Clive Hayton, Liz Farrow (Sussex County), Bob Clark (Littlehampton), Andrew & Fiona Fall (Compton), David King (Sussex County/Committee), John Low (Sussex County/Committee), Ian Cobbold (Cheam/Committee), Tony Elliott, Simon Turner (Ealing), Roger Sutton (Sussex County), Michael Akester Hove Beach/Committee), Jane Sheridan (Sydenham), David Cooke (Ember), Frances Low (Rottingdean), Nigel Barton (Royal Tunbridge Wells), George Noble (Surbiton/ Committee), Andrew Stewart (West Worthing/Committee).

Apologies for absence were received from Trevor Longman (Ramsgate), Angela Mac Millan (Worthing), Simon Carrington (Ember), Andrew Sinden (Ivychurch), Jonathan Isaacs and Samir Patel (Committee).

Minutes of the last AGM held by Zoom on 7th November 2021 were adopted with no objections.

Election of officers for 2022 The Chairman: Andrew Stewart (West Worthing), and Treasurer: David King (Southwick) were elected unopposed. The post of Secretary is vacant at present.

Treasurer's Report which was given by David King is attached together with the final accounts. These were accepted unopposed.

Fixing the rate of the annual subscription for 2023. The committee had decided that the annual subscription charge should remain the same.

The amount of tournament and league fees for 2023: The Committee has agreed that the fees for League entries will remain the same. As regards Tournament Fees these will be reviewed once we know the lawn hire fees for 2023.

Appointment of the Auditor: The accounts had been examined by Clive Hayton who is willing to carry on in this role next year.

Chairman's Report . A copy of the report is attached. In his report the Chairman made an appeal for more club members across the Federation to step forward and join the Federation Committee. Without support it is difficult for the Federation to function properly. At present we are urgently in need of a Secretary. Also required is an assistant for the Development Officer who has a very large area to cover. Also Tournament and League Organiser would appreciate some assistance. Any offers of help should be made to the Chairman or any members of the committee.

Webmaster's Report: Jon Diamond reported that the website is going well. Items of news or events from clubs are always welcome and will be added to the website when received. He also picks up news from clubs who have RSS feeds from their sites.

Accurate statistical information on the use of the website is not readily available but it would seem from a show of hands at the meeting that clubs are viewing the information on the site when they require information

As far as the Facebook page is concerned we only have 32 followers at present which is low. More followers would be welcome as our page would then become better known. Jon asked for clubs to ask for players and friends to visit the page and become followers.

Development Officer's Report:

Mike Akester reported that we had seen three new clubs join the CA from our area this year, Handcross, West London Bowling Club and Woodcote House School. As yet none have joined the Federation. We need to make sure they are invited to join. Hopefully there will be other independent schools in the Surrey area that can join with Woodcote to form a league of their own. There is the possibility of a club at the University of Brighton. Unfortunately the planned stall at fresher's week in September did not take place because the university authorities stopped outside organisations from taking part. However Mike will follow up on this ready for next season. Hove Beach have offered support. If this is successful then universities in Guildford and Canterbury could be targeted.

The CA has appointed a fulltime Next Generation Officer to encourage young people to take up croquet. She has several initiatives under way including setting up a virtual croquet club. Some clubs in the South East have had contact with her. Details can be found on the CA website.

The CA is also involved in setting up a Lawn Maintenance programme to help particularly smaller clubs in dealing with lawn maintenance problems.

Coaching Officer's Report: See separately

League/Tournament Organiser's Report: See separately

A motion was put forward by the Committee to amend the Golf Handicap League Rules as follows:

From – Each match consists of nine 13- point games played according to Rule 19 of the CA GC Rules 5th Edition.

To – Each match consists of nine (first to 7 points) games played according to Rule 21 of the GC Rules 6th Edition.

Roy Tillcock from the CA Handicap Committee spoke at the meeting about the reason the CA had decided to approve the change from Extra Turns to Advantage GC for handicap play. After trials in the Southern Federation of Advantage GC it had been decided that it was a fairer system. He referred to the information on the CA website and in particular the PDF presentation which had been produced by Ian Shore.

There followed a question and answer session and a general discussion. Several participants expressed concern about introducing Advantage next year as not many players are aware of this new system for handicap play and will need to be trained. Also experience from those who have played matches using Advantage have found that the games take longer and this can cause problems managing a league fixture.

The chair suggested we move forward to a vote on the basis that the format for the

handicap league matches will be reviewed and training will be provided particularly for team captains during the winter months.

An online poll was then taken with the result that 69% voted in favour of the motion and 31% against. So the motion to adopt Advantage GC for the Handicap League in 2023 was carried.

A vote of thanks was proposed to Roy Tillcock for the time he had taken in attending the meeting.

Safeguarding

The Chairman reported that the Federation had now appointed a Safeguarding Officer, Richard Carline. The CA is looking for every club to have a safeguarding officer in place by the start of next season and for this to be recorded on the CA website. Clubs should also make sure that the name of their safeguarding officer is prominently displayed at the club so members know who to contact if need be. A paper prepared by Ron Carter had been circulated to clubs with advice about safeguarding.

Report by the South East Constituency Representative(s) of the Council of the Croquet Association:

Carol and Andrew reported that the main focus of the Council at present is the incorporation and the change to a charity. The approval of the Charity Commission is still awaited but hopefully by sometime next year the Croquet Association will have become Croquet England.

The other main areas of focus are Safeguarding and greater diversity in those being attracted to play croquet.

Other Business:

No other business

The Chairman closed the meeting.