



Minutes of the 39TH Annual General Meeting of Croquet South East (South East Croquet Federation) held on Saturday 15th November, 2025 by Zoom.

Committee members present were: Andrew Stewart (Chair), David King (Treasurer), Jon Diamond (Secretary/Webmaster), Bob Clark (Tournament Organiser), Douglas Shand (Development Officer).

Clubs represented: Andrew Stewart (SCCC, West Worthing), Julie Sheahan (Merton), Chris Barham and Jon Diamond (Royal Tunbridge Wells), Ann Alecock (The Croqueteers), Andrew Walker and Bob Blightman (Aldershot Traction), Bob Clark (Littlehampton), Carolyn Doswell (Merton), Simon Ling (Reigate Priory), Ian Cobbold (Cheam), Trevor Longman (Ramsgate), David King, Clive Hayton, Bill Arliss, Robin Wooton, Nira Scutt (SCCC), Douglas Shand (Guildford & Godalming), Tony Elliot (Ealing), Shirley Kavanagh (Merton), Martin Daniels (Bromley), Andrew Sinden (Ivychurch), Penny Hinton (Purley Bury), Fiona Fall (Compton)

1. Apologies for absence

The following had been received: Angela McMillan (Worthing), Samir Patel (Surbiton), John Bateson (Medway), Liz Farrow (SCCC), John Low (SCCC), Jane Sheridan (Sydenham), Richard Carline (SCCC), Alan Grundy (Surbiton)

2. Minutes of the last AGM held by Zoom on 15th November 2024 were adopted with no objections.

3. Election of committee for 2026:

Officers: Chairman: Andrew Stewart (West Worthing/SCCC) and Secretary Jon Diamond (Royal Tunbridge Wells) were re-elected unopposed. Ian Cobbold (Cheam) was elected Treasurer unopposed.

Committee: Richard Carline (SCCC) Coaching & Safeguarding Officer, Matt Cook (Caterham) League Organiser, Bob Clark (Littlehampton) Tournament Organiser, Douglas Shand (Guildford & Godalming) Development Officer and Dr Alan Grundy (Surbiton) were all elected/re-elected unopposed.

4. Chairman:

Andrew Stewart presented his report. He highlighted the changes to Croquet England which meant that the Trustees were no longer aligned with CSE. Following the Constitution change the Trustees would be informally invited to Committee meeting.

The Constitution amendment was approved without dissent.

He drew the attention of the meeting to two documents issued by Croquet England namely the Volunteers Charter and the Five Year Strategy which would be produced in the next 3 months.

He also drew attention to the excellent results for our clubs, with Roehampton winning the European GC league together with the CqE Tier 1 & Tier 3 Inter Club Competitions . Guildford & Godalming coming 2nd in the Tier 2 GC event. In AC Surbiton won the Tier 1 Competition with Hurlingham winning the Tier 2. Sussex County won the Federations Secretary's Shield.

5. Treasurer:

The report was given by David King and is on the website together with the final accounts. These were accepted unopposed.

He highlighted that the accounts were healthy, but with decreasing balances due to decreasing entries to our Tournaments. The registration fee was proposed to increase to £25. This was accepted unopposed.

There was no pipeline of grant requests.

Clive Hayton was thanked for his work in examining the Federation Accounts and he confirmed that he would continue in his role as Independent Examiner for another year.

Tournament and league fees for 2026: The Committee proposed that the league entry fees should be unchanged at £5 per entry. Tournament entry fees will be fixed when the lawn hire charges have been published by CqE, but were assumed to be the same as this year.

6. Webmaster:

Jon Diamond reported that the website is operating well. He especially thanked John Low for service over the last few years providing updates to scores and results.

7. Development Officer's:

The report is on the website. Douglas Shand highlighted that of the £44K Croquet England had awarded in grants, £13K had gone to South East Clubs this year. Hove Beach, Cheyney and Chichester. A starter kit had been issued to Brighton College and Guildford and Godalming ran a very good junior section this summer which was popular.

Douglas is hoping to organise a small group in the south east to assist in reaching the clubs in our large area covering Sussex, Kent, Surrey and parts of London. Anybody willing to help should contact him.

He wanted to target an overall increase in club member by 10% this year (to 2500).

He has also had several contacts with Bexhill Bowling Club who would be adding Croquet this year.

Given that Jean Farguson was in the Guinness World Records for the oldest competitive croquet player at 99, (pictures are available on the website in the

Carnival) he suggested a competition between clubs for the youngest competitive player, which Andrew supported.

8. Coaching Officer/Safeguarding Officer's:

A copy of the report is on the website.

Academy Courses for next year will be on the website shortly. Appreciation was expressed for the efforts that are being made to promote AC and it is felt that these are making progress in helping AC to be more popular.

9. Leagues:

A copy of the report is on the website. John Low was not present but the Chair thanked him for his long service and wished him well in the future. Matt Cook would be taking over.

10. Tournaments:

A copy of the report is on the website. Bob Clark advised the meeting that we are suffering from late withdrawals and clubs not knowing about our events. It would be necessary to keep on messaging clubs after the initial registration.

The change to one day for the South East Challenge South was approved and all tournaments would be starting at 9:30am.

The issue about Dgrades instead of Handicaps would be referred to the Committee.

Bill Arliss commented on the decrease in competitive playing and would provide a spreadsheet documenting player days.

11. Reports by the CqE Trustees:

Andrew Stewart, Samir Patel and Carol Driver were all Trustees. The Chair had already mentioned areas that Croquet England are working on in his report but also mentioned the 5 year strategy is being finalised and should be ready in the New Year.

12. AOB:

Bill Arliss mentioned a new country-wide GC team tournament at Sussex County on 20th/21st June.

Tony Elliott suggested we should generate some publicity around the AC MacRobertson/Team events being held in our area in 2026.

The Chair closed the meeting at 11:10am.