

SOUTHERN CROQUET FEDERATION

Minutes of Annual General Meeting

Held at the WINCHESTER Tennis & Squash Club

Saturday 24th March 2012

Attended by:

Committee: Martin Brandt (Chairman & i/c AC, Basingstoke), Rita Nunn (Treasurer, Winchester), Frances Colman (i/c GC, Phyllis Court), Chris Roberts (Development, Phyllis Court).

Club Members: Harry Studwell & Norma Rayne (Thames Valley), Jo Burnaby (Winchester), Geoff Youd (High Wycombe), Ian Harrison (Basingstoke), Dave Morgan & Ray May (White Horse), Clive Thompsett (Littleton), Jane Wolfe & Paul Wolfe (Blewbury), Richard Keighley (Wingrave), Janet Trueman & Richard Jenkins (Hamptworth).

Apologies were received from:

Committee: Jim Pertwee (Secretary, Thames Valley), Richard Stevens (Coaching, Hamptworth), Brian Fisk (Rep to CA & Handicapping Officer, Hamptworth).

Club Members: Ryde CC (date clashed with their AGM), Jim Bartlett (Harwell), Margaret Skelton (Lymington), Ian Burn (White Horse), Gillian Pett (Thames Valley), Steve Woolnough (Reading), Vivian Thomson & Raymond Wood (Phyllis Court).

Pat Kennett

The meeting observed a period of silence in the memory of former committee member Pat Kennett, who passed away in December.

Minutes of the 2011 AGM

The Chairman apologised for these having not been fully circulated prior to the meeting, and this will be rectified by their display on the SCF website shortly.

Formal approval will be sought at a later date.

Matters Arising

Unfortunately, due to ill health, Secretary Jim Bartlett had had to stand down from his posts as Secretary and GC Officer during the past year and the completion of the 2011 AGM minutes had had to be drawn from the memories of those committee members present.

The meeting accepted that this was the best outcome in the circumstances.

Chairman's Report (Martin Brandt)

The Chairman reported that it had been a difficult year with the loss of Pat Kennett and Jim Bartlett from the committee as mentioned above.

He thanked Jim for all his work over the years.

He also thanked Frances Colman and Jim Pertwee for stepping in to fill these roles.

He thanked the rest of the Committee for their support and efforts.

He also reminded all clubs that the Federation had an indoor croquet set for use at no charge to any Federation club.

Secretary's Report (Jim Pertwee)

Nothing to report as Jim Pertwee has just taken over this post (see 'matters arising' above)

Treasurer's Report (Rita Nunn)

[See appendix 'A'](#)

The Treasurer presented the Accounts and acceptance was proposed by Norma Rayne & seconded by Ian Harrison.

The Treasurer stated that the subscription should be unaltered for 2012 but should be reviewed 2013. Acceptance of this was proposed by Richard Keighley and seconded by Clive Thompsett. Both of these proposals were carried by the meeting.

Association Croquet Report (Martin Brandt)

[See appendix 'B'](#)

Additionally, the Advanced League organiser Steve Woolnough reported in writing via the Chairman that the 2012 season will likely follow the same arrangements as 2011 with an evening format again.

Presentation of Association Trophies

The Handicap League was won by Ryde who, though not represented at the meeting, retained the trophy already in their possession.

The Advanced League was not run in the 2011 Season, and so the Trophy remains held by Blewbury.

Golf Croquet Report (Frances Colman)

[See appendix 'C'](#)

All GC matters had been dealt with at a meeting in December to which all Clubs were invited. A report of this meeting and all the decisions subsequently made about playing formats, rules, participating teams, etc. are included in appendix 'C'.

Over all there are healthy participation numbers for the 2012 Leagues.

The meeting also heard that, similar to last season, an end of this season GC meeting will be held at 1030 on Saturday 10th November at Winchester.

Presentation of Golf Croquet Trophies

The Level Play League was won by Winchester who retained the Cup (cup not present).

The Handicap League was won by Littleton and presented to Clive Thompsett on their behalf.

The committee had agreed that the Cup that had been awarded to the winner of the Level League in 2011 should henceforth be awarded to the winners of the new 'Doubles Only' league that will debut in the 2012 season. And therefore a new trophy will be sourced for the winner of the Level League.

Coaching Officer's Report (Richard Stevens. Read in his absence by the Chairman)

[See appendix 'D'](#)

Brian Fisk had stood down from this post at the end of the 2011 season and Richard Stevens had come forward to take on this role.

Richard has already contacted all SCF Clubs offering coaching for the 2012 season.

Development Officer's Report (Chris Roberts)

[See appendix 'E'](#)

In summary, all Clubs were encouraged to think about their development and the monetary and other assistance that is available from the CA.

The CA are keen to promote croquet as 'sport' rather than a pass time and whilst there was room for all to enjoy, this was their preferred direction and that competitive singles play was to be encouraged wherever possible.

Regional Representatives Report (Brian Fisk. Read in his absence by the Chairman)

[See appendix 'F'](#)

Pat Kennett had stood down from this post during the season and Brian Fisk had come forward to take on this role.

Handicapping Officer's Report (Brian Fisk. Read in his absence by the Chairman)

See appendix 'G'

The meeting agreed that, henceforth the SCF would have Handicapping Officers for both AC & GC. Brian Fisk will retain the AC roll and Chris Roberts was appointed the GC roll by general consensus.

Clubs were reminded that they should all have appointed 'Club' Handicapping Officers in their ranks.

Election of SCF Committee Officer's for 2012

Following the committee's appointment of fellow member Frances Colman to the role of GC Officer, a vacancy now existed for the 'Member without portfolio'.

The Secretary had informed Clubs of this vacancy and also that Gillian Pett (Thames Valley) had been nominated for this post.

She was formally proposed by Richard Keighley, seconded by Janet Truman and accepted by consensus.

Chris Roberts had already been accepted as Handicapping Officer (GC) – *see above*.

The following officers presented themselves for election and/or re-election:

Chairman	Martin Brandt
Secretary	Jim Pertwee (co-opted during 2011)
Treasurer	Rita Nunn
AC Officer	Martin Brandt
GC Officer	Frances Colman (took on role during 2011, previously committee 'Member without portfolio')
Rep to CA	Brian Fisk (took on role during 2011, previously committee member 'Coaching Officer')
Development Officer	Chris Roberts
Coaching Officer	Richard Stevens (co-opted at end of 2011 season)
Handicap Off. (AC)	Brain Fisk

It was proposed by Richard Keighley, that all the above should be accepted *en block*.

This was seconded by Janet Trueman and accepted by consensus.

Armada Tournament

This was won in 2011 by Frances Colman & Chris Roberts (Phyllis Court) who were presented with the Trophy.

The 2012 Tournament will be held on Saturday 23rd June, once again at Winchester.

The meeting heard that the committee had decided that, like it's GC equivalent '*The Solstice*', the hosting of the Armada Tournament would be offered to all SCF Clubs from 2013 onwards.

Solstice Cup

This was won in 2011 by Charlie von Schneider & TJ Johansen (Phyllis Court) who were not present but retained the Cup for a third consecutive year.

The 2012 Tournament will be held on Sunday 17th June, at Ryde Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club.

Any Other Business

Paul Wolfe (Blewbury) stated he had had difficulty in obtaining dates and other SFC information and from the Federation and the website in particular. The committee said that they had recognised that this was a problem and that all would be rectified in the next few weeks.

Paul Wolfe (Blewbury) informed the meeting of a new AC Singles Tournament that had been arranged as a join enterprise with their neighbours at Harwell

The two clubs are only 4 miles apart and this 2 Day event will take place on 21st & 22nd July.

This was heartily endorsed by the committee who wished them every success.

The committee proposed that the timing of SCF AGM's should, from now on, be at the end of the playing season. The Chairman said that therefore that the date of the next AGM would be Saturday 24th November 2012. This would mean that the SCF financial year would be a shortened one for this year only.

This was formally proposed by Richard Jenkins, seconded by Geoff Youd, and carried by consensus.

Date of next AGM

1000 for 1030, Saturday 24th November 2012 at Winchester Squash & Tennis Club.

Minutes by Chris Roberts & Frances Colman

[See the following pages for appendixes](#)

Appendix 'A'

SOUTHERN CROQUET FEDERATION
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
 1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006	
	£	£	£	£	£	£	
Income							
Subscriptions	358.00	348.00	319.00	319.00	282.00	273.00	
Armada Trophy	50.00	60.00	60.00			25.00	
Solstice Trophy		105.60	278.11	245.00	34.25	113.95	
CQC/Improvers					115.00	454.41	
GC Referees Course/AC Coaching		30.10			173.00		
Laws course		31.20					
Total Income	408.00	574.90	657.11	564.00	604.25	866.36	
Expenditure							
Secretarial Expenses/Admin	13.48	12.00	30.00		18.00	21.09	
Trophies/engraving	213.17	105.40	136.98		17.62	34.00	
Lawn fees	140.00	40.00					
Room Hire AGM/Committee Mtgs		30.73				62.00	
CQC/Improvers					162.41	350.41	
GC Referees Course/AC Coaching					78.00		
Development Eynsham						150.00	
Gifts/donations	91.96						
Travel expenses	139.00	98.40					
Equipment	1251.00						
Total Expenditure	1848.61	286.53	166.98	0.00	276.03	617.50	
(Deficit)/Excess of Income over Expenditure	(1440.61)	288.37	490.13	564.00	328.22	248.86	
BALANCE SHEET							
Current Assets							
Lloyds TSB Bank Account	1895.29	3347.40	2983.73	2557.40	2029.02	1667.18	
Cash						(2.00)	
Premium Bonds	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	500.00	
Debtors (travel expenses)			78.80				
Total Assets	2395.29	3847.40	3562.53	3057.40	2529.02	2165.18	
Current Liabilities (Secretary exps)		11.50	15.00		35.62		
Net Assets	2395.29	3835.90	3547.53	3057.40	2493.40	2165.18	
Represented by:							
Funds Brought Forward	3835.90	3547.53	3057.40	2493.40	2165.18	1916.32	
Excess of Income over Expenditure	(1440.61)	288.37	490.13	564.00	328.22	248.86	
Less net Accruals							

Plus Debtors							
Total	2395.29	3835.90	3547.53	3057.40	2493.40	2165.18	

SOUTHERN CROQUET FEDERATION

Costs Breakdowns

	2011	2010	2009	2008	2007	2006
<u>Trophies/engraving</u>						
Solstice medals/cups	65.72	75.90	61.98		17.62	
AC league Cup band/engraving			75.00			
Adv League engraving		8.00				34.00
GC League:-						
Handicap cup	120.00					
“ engraving	27.45					
Armada Trophy engraving			11.50			
<u>Lawn Fees</u>						
Armada	40.00	40.00				
AC League final	50.00					
GC League final	50.00					

Appendix 'B'

Association Croquet Officer's Report

6 teams took part in the Northern Division of the handicap league competition and 6 in the Southern Division.

As an experiment it was agreed that the winners of each division would play the runners-up of the other division in the semi-finals and then the winners of the semi-final would play off to determine the winners.

Eynsham won the Northern division, with High Wycombe as the runners up.

Winchester won the Southern Division with Ryde the runners up.

The final was between Ryde and Winchester, with Ryde retaining their title and therefore qualifying for the Croquet Association Secretary's Shield competition in 2012.

This year the competition will revert to the winners of the Northern Division playing the winners of the Southern Division.

The same 12 teams will participate.

Martin Brandt

Appendix 'C'

Golf Croquet Officer's Report

All GC matters had been dealt with at a meeting in December to which all Clubs were invited. A report of this meeting and the decisions subsequently made about playing formats, rules, etc. are included in appendix 'C'.

The meeting also heard that, similar to last season, an end of this season GC meeting will be held at 1030 on Saturday 10th November at Winchester.

Report from GC end of season meeting

Meeting Chairman

SCF Committee member i/c Golf Croquet - Frances Colman

Club Representatives

Basingstoke	- Ian Harrison
Blewbury	- Susan Tilbrook
Bransgore	- Roger Price
Dogmersfield	- Roger Barnacle
Eynsham	- Brian Hitchins
Hamptworth	- Vic Stillwell
Harwell	- Jim Bartlett
High Wycombe	- Michael Bowker
Littleton	- Brian Hall
Phyllis Court	- Chris Roberts
Ryde	- Roy Tillcock
Thames Valley	- Norma Rayne & Jim Pertwee
White Horse	- Ian Burn & David Morgan
Wingrave	- Richard Keighley
Winchester	- Jo Burnaby
Winslow	- Liz Kinsell
Caversham	- Vernon Hewett (did not respond to contact)

The purpose of the meeting was to give Clubs an opportunity to air their views on the past seasons' GC League Competitions following the changes that were made this year, and to decided the way forward for the 2012 season.

Unfortunately, Jim Bartlett was unable to join us due to ill health and had said that he wished to stand down from his SCF roles as Golf Croquet Officer and Secretary.

I informed the meeting that I had taken on the first of these roles and asked those present to consider a nomination to take on Jim's secretarial duties with immediate effect. I am pleased to say that Jim Pertwee (Thames Valley CC) jimpertwee@btinternet.com volunteered to do this without hesitation. Both he and I are prepared to stand for these posts at the AGM on 24th March.

There then followed a general discussion about the format for League Competitions and it was soon agreed that the current '4 rounds of play', including both doubles and singles, was the most popular of those suggested. There was also good support for both the Level and Handicap Leagues and so these will continue in 2012. A few Clubs said that they would prefer a Doubles Only Level Play League and it was agreed that this too would be included in the 2012 programme, meaning there will be three GC Leagues in total.

We then moved on to discuss the format of matches and amongst those items raised, was the desire that there should be interaction between all players of both teams and to remove the 'repeated games' of the 2011 format. It was agreed that the 2012 format would be altered to accommodate this. (See the agreed 2012 format attached).

It was also requested that a clear method be identified to determine precedence between Clubs that end the season tied on League points, rather than having to resort to hastily arranged tie break matches. After much discussion about altering match formats to facilitate an odd number of games, it was decided instead that a reference will be made to hoop scores to break end of season ties. Therefore a drawn match can still be recorded as a result.

The full list of criteria for deciding the League position precedence will therefore be:-

- 1 League Points.
If two clubs are tied:-
- 2 The result of the match between the tied clubs.
- 3 The total net hoop score (hoops 'for' and hoops 'against') in the match between the tied clubs.
- 4 The total net hoop score (hoops 'for' and hoops 'against') in every match in that league.
- 5 The total gross hoop score (hoops 'for' only) in every match in that league.

Most Clubs expressed a desire that there should be a geographical North / South split of leagues to limit travel distances. Everyone accepted that this would only be possible if a sufficient number of Clubs entered each league. To this end I suggested that a 'staged entry process' would allow Clubs to gauge the interest of others before committing themselves to a confirmed entry. Clubs will, therefore, be sent an initial entry form before Christmas, to be returned to me by 13th January. At this point it will be clear whether entry numbers are sufficient for North / South splits to be implemented and decisions will be made. All Clubs will then be informed of these decisions and will have the opportunity to confirm, alter or withdraw their entry from any of the Leagues by the final closing date of 1st February. This will give Clubs plenty of time for fixture making before the start of the season. Everyone agreed with this proposal.

Any League that is arranged with a North / South split will require a play-off to decide an outright winner and it was agreed that such a play-off will only be contested by the winners of the two divisions. Furthermore, it was decided that any play-off will be played on a date and at a venue that will be fixed and advertised before the start of the season. Clubs will be invited to host any necessary play-offs in due course.

It was agreed that for Leagues where there is no North / South split, there will be no play-off or final, and the winner will be decided by the criteria aforementioned alone.

Problems were encountered this season with the reporting of results and their display on the SCF web site. It was agreed that a standard score sheet will be issued to all Clubs, for both captains to complete and counter-sign, before the winning Captain (or in the event of a draw, the home Captain) returns it to the League Manager. Amended instructions for web site entries made directly by Clubs, will be circulated in due course. Clubs not making direct entries to the web site themselves will have their results included by the league manager once their score sheet is received. This way there are two methods by which the web site can be updated.

There was a proposal to drop the league rule that requires Clubs to field players as 1, 2, 3 & 4 in order of their handicap. This was agreed and Clubs will now be able to select their team order as they so wish. Clubs will still be required to declare their team order at the start of a fixture and to maintain that order throughout that fixture.

Other League rules will be reviewed and amended, if necessary, once participatory numbers are known. Rules will be circulated with any changes highlighted.

Concerns were raised about an imbalance of the handicap rankings between Clubs. It was recognised that this was partially as a result of the historic interaction between Clubs that involved only doubles level play where handicaps had no bearing. Consequently many SCF clubs are now only encountering the need for handicaps for the first time. This imbalance was not unexpected and, in time, by proper use of the CA Automatic Handicap System this problem will be reduced. Clubs were reminded that they should all have an appointed handicapping officer to oversee handicaps and adjust those that are found to be out of synch with other Clubs. The SCF Handicapping Officer and the League Manager are available to advise Clubs in this regard and will endeavour to attend as many league matches as possible to offer comment and recommendation. Returned score sheets will also be a useful source of information.

Roy Tillcock (Ryde) was concerned about having encountered instances of poor Croquet Laws knowledge being displayed in some League games. It was agreed that all Clubs will make a concerted effort to improve their players knowledge and understanding of the laws for the coming season. It was also decided that the 2012 league rules would include a requirement for each Club Captain to be armed with a laws book at every fixture.

GC League matters having been exhausted, I then went around the table with a call for 'any other business'.

Richard Keighley (Wingrave), who sits on the CA coaching committee, highlighted a GC coaching course that he is running at the start of the season and invited anyone interested in that to contact him. He also said that he would run other such courses if there was a demand.

Chris Roberts (Phyllis Court), SCF Development Officer, reminded Clubs that grants are available from the CA of up to £ 5000 for development projects, subject to application. It was clear to him that Clubs providing 'good value' to the CA (with qualified coaches, referees, hosting tournaments, etc.) were seen in the best light when grant decisions were made, but regardless of this he encouraged Clubs to avail themselves of this facility.

I passed on a reminder from SCF Chairman Martin Brandt (Basingstoke) that the SFC have an indoor croquet mat and associated equipment that is available to all Clubs to use and anyone interested should contact him.

Frances Colman
SCF Golf Croquet Officer
frances@luxtersfarm.com

Appendix 'D'

Coaching Officer's Report

I have just been appointed as the Federation Coaching Officer.

I am here to help and will listen to any requests.

My preference is to visit clubs and run a one day reduced 'Bronze' course 9.30 to 4 with an hour for lunch.

The ideal number is six, made up from one club or an amalgam, if there are more than six candidates an assistant would be required (i.e. an experienced player who can demonstrate).

A charge of £10 per head for your club funds should be made. Lunch and petrol money would be gratefully received.

A mid-week day is preferable. Hamptworth is also available as a venue.

Richard Stevens

Appendix 'E'

Development Officer's Report

This first year in post started with a steep learning exercise about what the role entailed.

The CA helpfully supplied a 'Guide for New Development Officers' which had been prepared by our own Pat Kennett, who as well as being on the SCF committee, also chaired the CA's Development Committee.

Pat's sterling work in this and other CA roles was duly recognised and recorded at the first CA meeting that I attended after her failing health forced her to relinquish her duties.

As well as being guided by that helpful document, I am indebted to my professor John Munro who had been in this post for many years and who knew the CA procedures back to front.

Only this week I had cause to telephone John who now lives in Gloucestershire.

I have attended the two formal meetings of The CA's Development Committee in London and sat in judgement of grants applications by Clubs from around the country.

This has been an eye opener as to the way to make such bids and just as importantly the way not to do it!

In the Southern Croquet Federation area there have been several avenues of inquiry for Development assistance explored in the past year; some were on going, some were initiated with the year and others are yet to get beyond the 'ideas' stage.

In the former category, **Hamptworh Croquet Club** now have four fully established lawns and a fifth under construction. A CA grant was applied for and granted, and the conclusion of this this was overseen by John Munro.

Rather behind Hamptworth in a time line was the relocation grant applied for by **High Wycombe Croquet Club** and I was pleased to see this one through myself.

I visited the proposed new site, prior to the CA meeting when the grant was to be discussed, and was able to champion the cause all the better for having done so.

An excellently presented application by HWCC won much praise from the CA Development Committee who awarded a sizeable grant plus loan on very favourable terms.

This along with funds from the Town Council and other funding institutions should see HWCC's future on a firmer footing when eventually they do move from Battersby Manor, their home for 30 years, to a new site at a multi-sports centre at Hazlemere to the north of High Wycombe.

At the 'stalled stage' of relocation is the case of **Basingstoke Croquet Club**, who I also visited this year.

Again re-location is the proposed project, and similarly to HWCC, a move into a multi-sports facility is being looked into.

No CA grant has yet been applied for but I have recorded with the CA, the likelihood of an application being forthcoming sooner rather than later.

There have been no other major projects that have involved my SCF Development Officer's role, but a few smaller projects have yielded some improvements for the Clubs concerned.

Blewbury Croquet Club now have an on-site lavatory adjoining their Pavilion.

White Horse Croquet Club have had a visit from the CA's Southern Area Lawns Advisor George Noble of the Surbiton Club, and he also made visits to the aforementioned new sites proposed by High Wycombe and Basingstoke.

Still at the 'ideas stage', I have been in communications with a lady wishing to start a new Club in Salisbury, and although she has had a set back with her proposed location, her group of mainly U3A members, remain keen to progress the project.

The new Club will very likely apply to join the SCF if they get the project off the ground, even though they would technically be in the SW Federation area, they favour joining the SCF.

Similarly, bordering our area, a former Phyllis Court member has already formed a new Club in the village of Little Gaddesdon near Berkhamsted (south Hertfordshire).

I have offered her guidance and grants advice as the Development Officer of East Anglian Federation (in which they are technically located), lives inconveniently near The Wash.

Little Gaddston Croquet Club, who have one lawn, but it is a rather nice one on a bowling green, will almost certainly be applying for membership of the SCF in the coming months.

On a less positive note, for those that don't know, **Eynsham Croquet Club**, no longer have use of the cricket pavilion that had provided vital facilities on playing days.

I heard only last week that it has been completely burnt to the ground with unknown full consequences for the playing of croquet this season.

More news on that when I get it, but my commiserations to Eynsham for this predicament.

Back to the positives; I am in the early stages of discussions with some schools, with whom I have various ideas to 'spread the word' of croquet.

I have a contact at Eton College who is especially keen, as too is the Director of Sport at Magdalen College School in Oxford.

And, in what will probably be a more recreational interest, I have been approached by The Mary Hare School (for the deaf) in Newbury and Caldicott Prep School who are the north of Slough.

Returning to our existing SCF member Clubs, I have to say the I have been disappointed not to have had any enquiries to the e-mail that I sent to all secretaries (copied for good measure to all GC representatives, just because I had their addresses to hand), when I offered assistance in CA Grant applications.

I posed the following questions:

Could your lawns do with some attention?

Are they as level as you would ideally like them to be?

Do you need a replacement lawn mower?

What about an irrigation system?

Are your accommodation facilities all they could be?

Is your security up to scratch?

Are your lavatories as conveniently located as they could be?

Perhaps you have other ideas that would enhance your Croquet Club?

The CA has monies available for all these projects and others besides, and I am surprised that no

Clubs have even made an inquiry.

Perhaps you are all 'as happy as can be' with everything in your croquet world??

Please give this some thought, the grants application process is not a swift one and so forward planning is everything.

I should like to pass on the CA's stated aims for the development of Croquet in the UK.

By necessity I will summarise, that the CA is keen to promote Croquet as a Competitive Sport rather than a pleasant pass time.

Whilst there is room for every type of play and player, Clubs that promote competitive croquet will be seen in a better light when they look to the CA for assistance.

As too will Clubs who contribute something back to the CA to assist the development of the game, by encouraging their members to become coaches and referees, and/or even just becoming individual members of the CA.

And on the subject taking out a CA membership, there really is 'no time like the present' as a new membership drive currently sees single first time subscriptions slashed from £42 to just £12, and dual membership from £ 63 to just £19.

This offer is currently explained in full on the CA web site and I will circulate a link to that page shortly to all Clubs.

And finally, and this bit is about the actually playing of the game (hurrah!)

Please will all Clubs please support tournaments that are being staged within the Federation for our own players and visitors from further afield.

Hamptworth and particularly Richard Jenkins there, is leading the way with this, with his regular GC handicap tournaments held over the winter months.

These are terrifically popular, nearly always over-subscribed and really great fun.

What better way than to developed your members interest in the more competitive side of our sport?

As handicap events, every standard of player can be accommodated and players with handicaps of 12 have played alongside those playing off 0.

If handicap play isn't your thing, graded level play tournaments for specific handicap ranges are a super idea where players can compete alongside like skilled opponents.

Both Hamptworth and Phyllis Court are hosting CA listed 'B' level tournaments in the range of HC 4 - 8 this season, and Hamptworth are even trying one a 'C' Level (HC range approx. 7 – 10).

On the AC front a new joint venture Tournament hosted by Blewbury and Harwell is very encouraging news alongside well established Six Lawns Tournament hosted by Winchester, Littleton and Hamptworth.

Please do encourage your members to support these tournaments, which are aimed at mid and high handicap players and ideal as first steps on the competitive ladder.

Please also consider hosting a Tournament yourself too.

I will be delighted to advise about this help is even on hand to manage on the day if your desire.

If you enjoy your croquet, as presumably you all here do, let's be positive about our game and strive to make it a dynamic and attractive proposition for new and existing players.

Development is about moving forward, not sitting on our hands.

Please work with me on this.

Chris Roberts
Development Officer
Southern Croquet Federation

Appendix 'F'

CA Delegate's Report

I took over this role in October from my late wife Pat Kennett.

Here is a report of the December CA Council meeting:

The following is an edited extract of the provisional minutes of the December Council meeting. Members stood in memory of Nigel Graves and Pat Kennett, former members of Council who had died since the last meeting.

The Treasurer reported a forecast surplus of about £6.7K before transfers for 2011, though warned that the accounts were still incomplete and had not been to the independent examiner. The budget for 2012 was approved. The increases requested by the Development and International committees in their budgets had been implicitly approved as part of the overall budget. Jeff Dawson, Patricia Duke-Cox, Richard Hoskyns, Barry Keen and Tim King retire by rotation this year and must notify the Hon. Secretary by 1st March if they wish to seek re-election. Patricia had already said that she did not, and Jonathan Kirby had notified his intention to resign from the date of the AGM.

Elections are needed for the representatives of the clubs in the South-East and London, Yorkshire, East Midlands, North-West and Southern Federations this year.

Bill Arliss enquired whether we were bidding to host an AC World Championship in 2013 and, if so, on what basis. Jonathan Isaacs was particularly concerned that the dates and venues should be made known as soon as possible, to assist in planning the rest of the calendar. Jonathan Kirby replied that a bid was being assembled to submit to the WCF in March, with a view, if it was successful, to signing it off in July 2012.

Membership figures had been circulated, showing that the number of individual members had reduced by 10 over 2011, but the number of clubs had increased by 6 to 185. The figures showed that all but one of the clubs that had joined in the two previous years were still members. Bill Arliss gave notice that a new edition of the GC Laws was likely to be agreed some time in 2013.

I also attended a meeting of the handicap committee, here are the highlights:

The list of CA and Club handicappers is being validated to bring it up to date.

Amendments have been proposed to bring the GC rankings in line with AC rankings i.e.. which events are used to calculate the rankings.

Odd numbered handicaps above 12 are not to be used.

Very High Bisquers: it was agreed that (a) that the maximum handicap should be 30; (b) players must always play off their correct handicap (unless rules of a competition require play to be off a lower one); and (c) all such games must be recorded on both their and their opponent's cards

The importance of players having their handicap cards with them for qualifying games was stressed and WA pointed out that in SECF GC matches where a player does not have their card they have to play off a handicap of 2 bisques lower.

Brian Fisk

Appendix 'G'

Handicapping Officer's Report

My role is to co-ordinate handicapping across the Federation. As it happens I am also a CA handicapper (AC) and sit on the CA Handicapping Committee though neither of these roles is directly connected with my SCF role. There has been a change in the CA policy on handicappers and it has been decided to separate the role into separate AC and GC handicappers. I will continue as an AC handicapper and, subject to ratification, Chris Roberts will become a GC handicapper. Strictly speaking Chris's role is independent of this Federation but I have no doubt Chris and I will work closely together on handicapping.

The major activity to report on for the last year is that we introduced a handicap GC league for 2011 which was most successful. I am not 100% sure that all the GC handicaps across the Federation are correct but the more handicap games that are played and find their way onto people's cards can only help to harmonise handicaps across the Federation.

I would also like to remind all CA affiliated clubs that they should have a named club handicapper with whom I and the CA can liaise. In practice I see no problem with having a separate GC and AC handicapper but one person should act as the club handicapper for communication purposes. The club handicapper's job is to keep an eye on people's handicaps within the club and take any required action to correct handicaps that are clearly out of step. My role is to assist club handicappers perform a similar role at Federation level.

I wish everyone a very successful 2012.

Brian Fisk

[End of Minutes \(plus Appendixes\) document](#)