

Minutes of the SCF AGM held at 10:30 at Winchester Racquets and Fitness on 21st November 2016

The meeting was attended by:

Committee : Chris Roberts (Chair) and Frances Colman - *Phyllis Court*; Martin Brandt - *Basingstoke*; Rita Nunn - *Winchester*; Steve Fisher - *Harwell*; Barry Dench - *Bransgore*; Gillian Pett - *Thames Valley*; Richard Keighley - *Wingrave*; Richard Jenkins - *Hamptworth*;

Club members: David Warhurst and Ian Shore - *High Wycombe*; Pauline Wood, Raymond Wood and Don Rutherford - *Phyllis Court* ; Ian Harrison - *Basingstoke*; Art Wardle - *Bransgore and Hamptworth*; Glynnis Hassell - *Dogmersfield*; Peter Wingent - *Littleton*; John McMordie - *Aldermaston*; Jerry Wilde - *Hamptworth*; Judy Walker, Joan Grove, Roy Tillcock, Jim O'Keefe and Vernon Gibbs - *Ryde*; John Clode and Gary Brennan - *East Dorset*; Richard Skidmore - *Wingrave*

Apologies were received from: Tony Newport - *Eynsham*; Paul Wolff - *Blewbury*; Norma Rayne - *Thames Valley*; Janet Trueman - *Hamptworth*; Colin Morgan, Raghu Iyer and Roger Goldring - *Phyllis Court*; Leonard Oakenfold and David Brown - *Bransgore*

1. Previous minutes

These were accepted as a true record and there were no matters arising.

2. Reports

As all reports had been sent to each club contact in advance they are not reproduced here but only any discussion.

- Chris Roberts after presenting the chairman's report reminded the members that if they had any relevant club croquet news should be sent to him to put on the website.
- There was no discussion concerning the secretary's report from Steve Fisher
- After Rita Nunn presented her report as treasurer there were questions about the premium bonds mentioned in the accounts and whose name they were in. They were in Rita's name. Chris thanked Rita for all her work as treasurer over the years and made a presentation to her of what appeared to be chocolates. The accounts were approved with all in favour - though it did happen later in the meeting.
- Martin Brandt presented his report and the corresponding trophies as AC League Manager as did Frances Colman as GC League Manager. John Clode asked if consideration could be given, in those cases where we now have a final between the North and South of a division, to having semi-finals and finals. This would mean that the two best clubs from North and South still had a chance of winning. A specific suggestion was to allow the number ones to play at home against the number twos and that the winners of these two events would meet in the final. There was some support from the room for this idea which will be considered further by the committee.

- Richard Jenkins, the Tournament Officer, presented his report. This was followed by a discussion on whether or not the various events Armada, Solstice and the Champion of Champions in GC and AC should be held on a weekday or during the week and also whether or not some or all of these events might be held at locations alternative to Hamptworth. It was pointed out that some of the events required four lawns which cut down the choice considerably. When asked to express a preference for the day of the week there were more in favour of mid-week however most chose not to state a preference and of course the meeting was held on a Monday which itself gives a bias. It was also pointed out that we need to encourage the younger players for which a weekend is more practical. It was felt that a questionnaire should be produced. The committee will see to this.
- Richard Keighley's Coaching Officer report was uncontroversial.
- Following Barry Dench's report in which he mentioned the U3A there was some discussion on interactions with U3A. It turns out that a number of clubs have good relations with the U3A and obtain a level of income from them though not many attracted new members by this route. Following on from the U3A discussion it was mentioned that work had been done in conjunction with the *Help for Heroes* charity where some of those recuperating showed an aptitude for croquet. It was also suggested that we could promote croquet in a similar way as *Walking for Health* in doctors surgeries and in the community. Chris Roberts suggested that SCF funds could usefully be spent on paying the costs of courses which were for the benefit of croquet as a whole rather than the individual. These include coaching and refereeing courses. Nobody objected so this proposal will be considered by the committee. We were reminded that up to £150 could be applied for in connection with National Croquet Day. The possibility of using development funds on an improved web presence was mentioned. There was also a query about the position of Great Bedwyn. It seems that they are short of members.
- After the reports of Handicapping officers (Chris Roberts for GC and Frances Colman for AC) in which Frances had highlighted the difficulties she had as a CA handicapper where she did not have enough information about the AC games and where she felt that not enough was being done to enforce the proper use of handicap cards; Raymond Wood said that perhaps the smaller clubs may not put enough effort into setting correct handicaps. There was support for bringing AC practice in line with GC within the federation. This will also be considered by the committee.
- Frances Colman gave her report as our representative on the CA Council .

3. Changes to constitution

Steve Fisher went through the proposed changes to the constitution which had been circulated to all member clubs in advance of the meeting. There were no objections in principle but some minor tweaks to the wording which will be applied. In addition some new points we brought up from the floor however these cannot be considered this time as the revised words have to be prepared before the meeting in line with our constitution. A vote was held with all in favour of the revision with minor adjustments. Steve will produce an updated constitution which will go on the SCF website. The items for future consideration were:

1. Item 2 on the region of influence
2. Item 12 - guaranteeing a right of appeal

4. Election of committee

Chris Roberts explained that we have exactly one candidate (Ian Harrison) to replace Richard Keighley as coaching officer and one candidate (David Brown) to replace Rita Nunn as treasurer. The new committee was approved unanimously.

5. AOB

Ian Harrison asked should we have a publicity person as he considered this, though linked to development to be a separate role with distinct characteristics for the person carrying out the job. It was suggested that the committee might consider creating a new post.

The meeting closed at 12:37