

Southern Croquet Federation (SCF) Development Officer Report

Since the last SCF AGM in 2018, I have delivered two 'Going for Growth' multi-club workshops and attended two telephone conferences on the subject of the forum as tool for enhanced communication. No significant grant application activity has been undertaken on behalf of SCF member clubs.

Workshops

On the 15th January a workshop was delivered at Phyllis Court, Henley. Attending were representatives of 7 clubs: - Eynsham CC, Caversham CC, Phyllis Court CC, High Wycombe CC, Harwell CC, Wingrave CC and Wrest Park CC. The feedback on the day was all positive with various attendees discussing the way forward together. In a subsequent follow up to the clubs, the following information has been received: -

- **High Wycombe CC** have a meeting planned for 23rd February to take 'Croquet Matters' forward.
- **Phyllis Court CC** are keen to follow up on the workshop and will phase it in when ready.
- **Wingrave CC (& Wrest Park)** both clubs are planning separate meetings to discuss and launch a project for development.
- **Blewbury CC** also had a workshop session facilitated by Dave Gunn, National Development Officer.

At the time of writing, feedback from the remaining clubs was awaited However, please **see my closing remarks**.

In the afternoon of 15th January, a session was run for the Southern Croquet Federation. Whereas the attempt to use the Club Improvement Tool for a Federation prompted some active and useful discussion, the tool is not really fit for the purpose of Federation Development. A properly worded set of questions and a custom development plan would need to be developed if further progress is to be made.

On the 6th February a workshop was delivered at Winchester CC. Attending were representatives of a further 6 clubs: - Hamptworth CC, Dogmersfield CC, Winchester CC, Littleton CC, Test Valley CC and Basingstoke CC. Again, feedback on the day was very positive. No further information is available at this time but please **see my closing remarks**.

Teleconferences

The two conferences I attended were to discuss the best way to develop a communications tool for Federations. Of course, as Dave Gunn is no longer in post, this initiative has stopped, as far as I am aware.

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Other Development Activity

Winslow CC. As previously reported, Winslow have a long-term aim of moving their club to a new site. Elizabeth Kinsell reported to me back in August that a possible site has been found and that planning permission was being sought for a change of use.

Hartley Wintney. The Federation has quite recently been contacted by Steve Airton, a member of the Hartley Witney Parish Council. There is interest in converting a cricket ground into two croquet lawns and is seeking advice as the best way to proceed. Contact with Duncan Hector was advised. Chris Roberts is already aware of this potential new club.

Closing remarks.

Due to the poor health of my wife, I am not seeking re-election to the post of Development Officer for the SCF. I have enjoyed the three years I have held the post and have been pleased to be able to provide advice and assistance to a number of clubs. Unfortunately, I have not been able to spend much time this year following up with clubs in the wake of the "Croquet Matters" workshops. I wish my successor, Peter Allen all the best for the future and hope he can pursue the openings that may present themselves as a result of the workshops.

Barry Dench

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