

Southern Croquet Federation

Frances Colman – Southern constituency member of the CA Council

~ Report to the AGM ~

I have attended several meetings of the CA Council since my last report
I have also attended the CA Special General Meeting and Annual General Meeting this year.
In addition to attending these meetings, there has of course been much e-mail correspondence and phone conversations besides.

The CA Special General Meeting in March approved the proposed changes to the governance of the CA that had been well publicised in most of the previous year's Gazettes.

Elections took place in the constituencies where the number of nominations exceeded the available council places and 12 Constituency members with voting rights were elected to form the bulk of the newly slimmed-down CA Council.

It was disappointing that nominations for the Southern Constituency area were not forthcoming from members of SCF area clubs.

I had of course been the holder of the 'near equivalent' post of SCF representative on the CA Council, and having served in that role for some years, I had hoped that others would have come forward to take over. However, as the deadline for nomination loomed, I was approached by some Officers of the CA, persuaded to stand and I agreed to do so.

As the only nominee, I was duly elected without the need of a ballot.

The appointment is for a period of three years by which time we will need a successor to be identified, and preferable more than one candidate will emerge so that we can have a contested election.

CA Club membership fee

The designation of 'primary clubs' for all players proved useful in the well aired argument from several clubs, including two from the SCF, who objected to a proposal that CA capitation fees would be paid by all clubs with whom an individual had a membership.

As I reported previously, the CA had dropped that proposal from the agenda for an upcoming meeting, the idea has not been resurrected since, and everyone seems to be content with the fairness of the system for calculating CA Club membership fees going forward.

Croquet at BBC Countryfile Live

Following two successful appearances by croquet at this huge event at Blenheim Palace, the CA have again been invited to repeat the exercise in early August 2020.

The difference this time, is that there will be a change of venue to Windsor.

This is a fairly recent decision and the details of the move are not yet known, but the change of venue will bring about some differences to the logistics, not least because there is no croquet club located near by (as is the case with Eynsham CC and the former venue of Blenheim Palace).

I will update all SCF clubs once I know more about the 2020 edition of the Countryfile Live event.

~

For Countryfile Live 2019, I again took on the not inconsiderable task of recruiting approximately 60 volunteer croquet playing helpers to staff this four-day event.

All SCF clubs were circulated and sufficient volunteers were eventually found to cover the commitment, with a team leader taking charge each day.

Volunteer numbers were bolstered by prominent figures in UK croquet.

I was pleased to be able to attend on some of the days, and the feedback was that the whole exercise was another success, both in terms of giving croquet a presence and likely recruitment of future croquet players for clubs nationwide.

There is a need to 'focus on the purpose' however and this year there were far too many children being allowed to use the facility as if it were a pitch & putt or crazy golf attraction, which got in the way of serious croquet promotion and possible recruitment of realistic potential players.

Eynsham CC, the most local club to the event, played a prominent role again in preparing the playing area, providing the equipment and clearing away afterwards, and a big thank you is due to them.

Keeping in touch

I will continue to bring CA Council matters to the attention of CA members and clubs within the Southern constituency and I encourage communication to be two-way please.

I very much welcome approaches from clubs and individuals if there is anything that you wish to discuss with me, or you wish bringing to the attention of the CA Council.

Frances Colman