

# Southern Croquet Federation

Annual General Meeting by Zoom  
Tuesday 24 November 2020 at 11.00am

## **Present:**

**Chairman:** Chris Roberts.

**Committee:** Peter Allan, John Beckerleg, Frances Colman, Steve Fisher, Ian Harrison, Brian Jamieson, Richard Jenkins, Richard Peperell, Roy Tillcock and David Warhurst.

**Club representatives:** Alex Ball (Basingstoke), David Long & Paul Wolff (Blewbury), Art Wardle (Bransgore), Peter Adams & Carol Jamieson (Caversham), Roger Barnacle (Dogmersfield & Winchester), Roger Booth (Eynsham), Steve Bennett & Janet Trueman (Hamptworth), Ian Shore (High Wycombe), Roger Goldring (Phyllis Court), Sally Prewer (Ryde), Lesley Hunter & Gillian Pett (Thames Valley) and Richard Keighley (Wingrave).

**Apologies:** Anthony Hardwicke (Bradfield College).

## **1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 19 November 2019**

Approved.

## **2. Matters arising**

Little progress had been made with the issues of proxy voting at General Meetings and minor changes to the Constitution. The Committee would be addressing these and constitutional changes would be presented to the 2021 AGM.

## **3. Reports**

### **3.1 Chairman**

Accepted.

### **3.2 Treasurer and Annual Accounts 2019-2020**

Presenting the Annual Accounts, John Beckerleg said it had been a quiet year. Subscriptions from member clubs had held up well, but there had been little of the usual income and expenditure on tournaments. The result was a surplus of £326 on the year. The Accounts had been examined by Raymond Wood.

The meeting unanimously rejected a proposal to carry over 2020 subscriptions into 2021 as (*inter alia*) this could set an unwelcome precedent for the Federation and clubs.

Richard Keighley proposed and Steve Bennet seconded that the 2019-2020 Accounts be accepted. Agreed unanimously.

Roger Barnacle proposed and Ian Shore seconded that Raymond Wood be appointed examiner for 2020-2021. Agreed unanimously.

### **3.3 AC Leagues Manager**

David Warhurst said that despite the difficulties all three AC leagues had been contested during the year. Hamptworth had beaten Phyllis Court Club in the Handicap League and thus would be the SCF representatives in the national Secretary's Shield in 2021.

He explained that he was now stepping down from the role as he was leaving the area.

Chris Roberts thanked David for the work he had done and wished him well for the future.

### 3.4 GC Leagues Manager

Roy Tillcock said that Covid-19 restrictions meant that only the Single Court Clubs League was completed. Caversham were again the winners.

He said that he did not require formal entries for leagues in 2021. Unless clubs told him to the contrary, he would assume that their entries would be the same as in 2020. It was then up to clubs to arrange the fixtures.

Chris Roberts said that in completing some AC and GC leagues, the Southern Federation had done well. Some other federations had played no leagues games at all.

### 3.5 Tournaments Manager

Richard Jenkins said that it had not been possible to contest any of the Federation's tournaments in 2020. The programme proposed for 2021 was:

Champion of Champions GC Handicap Tournament	Hamptworth	13 April 2021
Champion of Champions AC Handicap Tournament:	Hamptworth	14 April 2021
Solstice GC Level Play Doubles Tournament:	Hamptworth	30 May 2021
Armada AC One Ball Singles Tournament	Winchester	15 June 2021

### 3.6 Coaching Officer

Introducing his report, Ian Harrison said congratulations were due to Ian Shore who had been named 'Coach of the Year' for 2019 by the CA.

It had been a difficult year for coaching; most Academy courses had been cancelled and several clubs had resorted to *ad hoc* coaching. However, he had completed a series of eight AC video coaching modules, addressing players with 9+ handicaps, which were available on the Basingstoke website. High Wycombe had announced plans to create a Central Croquet Academy, which would be more convenient for most SCF clubs and players than the current three Academies. During the year he had attended two CA Coaching Committee meetings.

Ian Shore said that the new Central Croquet Academy at High Wycombe had ambitious plans for 19 courses between February and May 2021.

Richard Keighley said that coaching *via* Zoom was worth developing and commended the new GC coaching book, '*Every Shot is Tactical*', by Stephen Custance-Baker.

### 3.7 Development Officer

Peter Allan said that Covid-19 restrictions had limited his visits to clubs. Unfortunately, Great Bedwyn had closed and he was unclear whether White Horse was still active. However, Bradfield College had joined the CA. During the year he had worked with Caversham and Hamptworth on grant applications to the CA. He had taken part in two CA Development Committee meetings *via* Zoom and was part of a group looking at ways of increasing participation in AC. With Chris Roberts, he had also taken part in the CA's bi-weekly Federation Focus Group meetings, which were a good forum for exchanging information and ideas.

Ian Harrison welcomed the emphasis on schools, where commitment to croquet very much depended on there being a knowledgeable and enthusiastic teacher.

Roy Tillcock said that there had been insufficient interest in forming a new club at Brighstone on the Isle of Wight and the idea had been abandoned.

### 3.8 Webmaster

Steve Fisher said that keeping the website up to date was a challenge. Encouraging clubs to directly input and edit information of their events, league fixtures and results would help. He would liaise with Ian Shore about putting information about the new Central Croquet Academy on the SCF website.

### 3.9 Southern constituency member of the CA Council

Frances Colman explained that she had been asked by the CA Council to stand for this position in 2019 when no other candidate had emerged from SCF member clubs. The position carries a four-year term and would be subject to election again before the CA AGM in 2023. She was chairing two groups of the CA Competitive Play Working Party, concerning developing competitive GC at national, inter-club and club levels, and was a member of a third group. She also continued as Chairman of the GC Handicap Committee. As a member of the GC Tournaments Committee, she was director of the GC Federations Shield and the new GC Women's Open Championship. The 2020 GC Federations Shield was postponed to 2021, when Phyllis Court would represent the SCF with High Wycombe also competing as holders.

Janet Trueman and others commented on the increasing difficulty securing a place in the GC National A, B and C-level competitions, especially those with handicaps towards the top of the range for each tier. Richard Jenkins said that Hamptworth's initiative of a B/C level competition, with handicaps of 5+, had been well-supported. Frances Colman and Chris Roberts (who both sit on the GC Tournaments Committee) said that a new Series of GC tournaments at 0+ level was being introduced for 2021 to satisfy a known demand in that skills area. An increase in tournaments that are oversubscribed was a reflection of the increasing popularity of the existing National A, B and C-Level Series competitions and whilst a close watch would continue to be kept on the demand at all skill levels, it would be unrealistic to have a separate Series for each handicap level.

Chris Roberts commented that the AC community was slow to develop a comparable Series of tournaments set-up in that code. Richard Jenkins said that Ann Beard at Hamptworth was promoting advanced AC play for those with handicaps of 7+ and Chris Roberts added that Phyllis Court were also running two such tournaments in conjunction with both High Wycombe and Blewbury.

The meeting expressed its thanks to Frances for her considerable efforts during the year.

### 3.10 Reports from AC and GC Handicap Officers

There had been no activity by either officer due to Covid-19 restrictions.

## 4. Prize giving

Chris Roberts said that not all tournaments and leagues had been contested because of Covid-19 restrictions. He acknowledged the winners of those leagues that had been completed.

<b>AC A-Level League</b>	<b>High Wycombe</b>
<b>AC B-Level League</b>	<b>High Wycombe</b>
<b>AC Handicap League</b>	<b>Hamptworth</b>
AC Champion of Champions Handicap Tournament	Not contested
AC 'Armada' Handicap Doubles Tournament	Not contested
GC A-Level League	Not contested
GC B-Level League	Not contested
GC Handicap League	Not contested
<b>GC One Court Clubs League</b>	<b>Caversham</b>
GC Doubles Only League	Not contested
GC Champion of Champions Handicap Tournament	Not contested
GC 'Solstice' Doubles Tournament	Not contested

## 5. Election of Committee

Chris Roberts reminded the meeting that the entire Committee had to be elected at each AGM. Nominations were as in the following table.

Janet Trueman proposed and Steve Bennett seconded that the nominees be elected *en bloc*. This was agreed unanimously.

Chris Roberts said that Anthony Hardwicke would have particular responsibility for developing croquet in schools and would try to integrate the activities of those schools that were currently active.

Chris Roberts	Chairman
John Beckerleg	Treasurer
Brian Jamieson	Secretary
Peter Allan	Development Officer
Ian Harrison	Coaching Officer
Richard Jenkins	Tournaments Officer
Steve Fisher	AC Leagues Manager
Roy Tillcock	GC Leagues Manager
Richard Peperell	AC Handicapper
Richard Jenkins	GC Handicapper
Steve Fisher	Webmaster
Anthony Hardwicke	Club Member
Frances Colman **	Southern constituency member of the CA Council

\*\* : This post is not decided at the AGM. Please see the 3.9 above.

## **6. Safeguarding**

Chris Roberts said that the CA was expecting Federations to appoint safeguarding officers. It was pointed out that, given its demographics, the croquet world needed to be aware of the needs of vulnerable adults as much as of children. The CA website had a page on safeguarding, including a model policy which could be the basis of a safeguarding policy.

## **7. Vote of thanks**

Janet Trueman expressed the meeting's thanks to the Committee for their work during the past year.

November 2020