

# SOUTHERN CROQUET FEDERATION

## **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

**held at the WINCHESTER Tennis & Squash Club**

**on**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2014 at 10.30am**

### **Attended by:**

*Committee:* Chris Roberts (Chairman, Development Officer and GC Handicapping Officer - Phyllis Court), Jim Pertwee (Secretary - Thames Valley), Rita Nunn (Treasurer - Winchester), Martin Brandt (AC League Manager – Basingstoke), Richard Jenkins (Tournaments Officer – Hamptworth), Brian Fisk (Representative to CA and AC Handicapping Officer – Hamptworth) - Gillian Pett (Member w/o Portfolio - Thames Valley).

*Club Members:* Richard Harris (Secretary Elect – Ryde), Val Pertwee (Thames Valley), Steve Fisher & Ivo Ponting (Harwell), Pauline Wood & Raymond Wood (Phyllis Court), John Ambrose, Clive Thompsett, Susan Waite & Brian Hall (all Littleton), Janet Trueman (Hamptworth), Paul Wolff (Blewbury), Roy Tillcock (Ryde), Roger Parsons (East Dorset), Ian Harrison (Basingstoke), Roger Price & Barry Dench (Bransgore), Dave Morgan (White Horse), Martin Purcel (Aldermarston).

### **Apologies were received from:**

*Committee:* Frances Colman (GC League Manager - Phyllis Court), Richard Keighley (Coaching Officer - Wingrave)

*Club Members:* Yvonne Cunnane (Little Bedwyn), Norma Rayne (Thames Valley).

### **Welcome**

The Chairman welcomed all those that were attending and thanked them for making the effort to come to the AGM.

### **Address by Jeff Dawson**

Jeff Dawson is the the immediate Past Chairman of the CA and had been invited by the SCF Committee to speak of the proposed changes in the relationship between the CA, Federation and Individual CA Membership.

The CA proposes that membership of the Association be offered to Federations, who for historical reasons to do with funding from outside sources, were established as autonomous bodies. This necessity no longer exists and Jeff certainly hoped that all Federations would indeed become members of the CA. The mood of the meeting was in favour of this and a formal decision would be made by the SCF Committee in due course.

There was a time factor mentioned, but only in so much that, any Federations not becoming members by October 2015 would lose their representative's seat on the CA Council.

Jeff also spoke about possible changes in the CA 's membership arrangements for individuals, and the desire that all croquet players should become members of the National Governing Body(NGB). He detailed proposals that were likely to be tabled to effect this change (and these would probably be done in stages), and would, in any case, be subject to approval by a Special Meeting next year. Clubs' per capita levies would rise as a result but only by £1 above inflation per annum and eventually from the current £8 per head to £15 approximately. This did still represent tremendous value for money when compared to the charges made by most other sports for the running of their NGBs.

Jeff frequently gave way to questions from the floor and one in particular is worthy of note. It was suggested that the 'general club player' had little or no interest in croquet outside their club premises, competitive or otherwise and, therefore, questioned the value of the CA to them. Jeff responded by detailing all that the CA did for croquet, both the obvious but in particular, all the hidden work that even the most social only player benefited from. The administration of rules, coaching, refereeing, advancements in equipment, bursaries for

young players, start-up grants for new clubs and development grants for existing clubs, were all things that the 'general club player' had benefited from either in the past, or would likely do so in the future. Several other questions were raised before the Chairman drew the discussion to a close and thanked Jeff for coming to address the meeting and for informing us all so well. Jeff did not stay on for the AGM proper and was wished a swift resumption of his Saturday plans.

## **The AGM**

### **1. Minutes of the AGM held on the 23 November 2013**

These had been circulated to all Clubs via their Secretaries. Extra Copies were available for distribution at the meeting.

### **2/3. Matters Arising and Approval**

There were no questions or queries about the 2013 Minutes and they were duly approved by the meeting and then signed by the Chairman.

Proposed by Clive Thompsett, Seconded by Richard Harris.

### **4. Chairman's Report (Chris Roberts)**

I am pleased to welcome you all here today and trust that you will contribute to this meeting by bringing to the attention of the SCF Committee matters that concern you and your clubs. We cannot promise to answer all questions immediately, as some will doubtless require consultation and/or research in order to give a full response, but all will be addressed as soon as practicable.

I thank the SCF committee from the outset of this report for their work on your behalf. Jim Pertwee stands down at this meeting from his role as Secretary and we thank him, for volunteering in the first place (so much better than a 'pressed man') and then for the communications work that he has undertaken whilst in office. Enjoy your croquet and feet up time Jim. Thank you.

I am pleased to report that our desire to support a main objective of the CA to promote competitive play has been continued this season and the increase in entries for our team league competitions in 2014 was heartening.

It was particularly pleasing that we were able to launch a new AC B-Level League and also, that despite (or perhaps because of) the threat of closure, our top A-Level League not only survived, but increased their match tally by playing each other 'home and away', and completed all the fixtures very promptly indeed.

I am sure that Martin will detail clubs' AC achievements in his report but I must mention Oxford University, who qualified as our representatives in the national Secretary's Shield handicap competition and got all the way the final. Congratulations on representing our Federation so marvellously.

In GC too, it was good to see an increased participation in our top Level Play League, with Littleton 'stepping-up' and High Wycombe returning to the top flight after a few years without a ground.

I pay tribute to High Wycombe, who have manfully stuck to their task of finding a new home, when having suffered a series of setbacks, the club could easily have folded.

Had not the enthusiasm of its members seen them through, they would not now boast a lovely two court facility that is such an improvement on their previous abode.

It is a just and tangible reward for the time spent waiting for decisions from the Council and obtaining the financial backing required.

This time last season, I had great pleasure in welcoming Great Bedwyn Croquet/ Bowls Club as a new members of our Federation, and I am pleased to report that I have heard that the venture continues to thrive. Apparently, although only just over a year old, they have now even sprouted an AC wing!

Great Bedwyn were recipients of a small grant for publicity from the SCF, which was matched by the CA. This allows me to highlight to all our clubs that financial assistance for your development is available from both these sources upon application.

Committee members with the briefs for the management of various SCF activities will report shortly, and it is not my intention to cream off the highlights of their reports

Communication between the Federation and member clubs, has been good in some areas and not so in others.

The interaction between Federation League Managers and clubs own league representatives has been very good; fixture dates and match results were reported in a timely fashion by most and our website was always showing an up to date picture of fixtures, results and league standings.

Communications between the Federation and Club Secretaries however, was somewhat more sporadic, and again nothing was heard from some member clubs all year!

You will probably know if I'm referring to your club, when I say, that it concerns me greatly that it appears that a few club secretaries are still filtering out SCF communications that they personally have no interest in, and thereby deny information and croquet opportunities such as tournaments and coaching courses to their members.

This is most unhelpful and does your club members a dis-service.

This information blockage at some clubs, is particularly important given what Jeff Dawson spoke of earlier. How many clubs have discussed the proposed changes to CA membership that will likely affect all of us? Brian Fisk is your representative on the CA Council and, so far as I know, there has been little discussion between him and you all on this subject and, just as last year, I urge you to communicate with him and have your say: [master@brianfisk.net](mailto:master@brianfisk.net)

Moving on to the SCF's exposure at National Level, so as to still leave aside our own SCF competitions and tournaments for other committee members to report on:

Some of our SCF clubs have again played their parts in the CA's tournaments calendar and again I congratulate Ryde, East Dorset, Hamptworth, and Winchester in this regard.

Ryde hosted the English National Golf Croquet Singles Championship (second only in importance behind the British Open).

East Dorset held the AC Western Championships.

Hamptworth - the AC Selectors Weekend, the GC National and Open combined Doubles tournaments and again the National Final of GC B-Level Series.

And finally Winchester staged the Final of the National Charity One-Ball competition.

Well done to you all for attracting these high profile events to your courts and some of the best players in the country to our Federation area.

Before I close, please can I again ask you to highlight the SCF website to your membership, as this hosts all the croquet activity in our Federation area and is another good organ for getting information out to you. Having a link to the SCF website from your own club site would be very useful indeed.

Please ask your club web-master to contact me: Chris Roberts, [info@kickphoto.co.uk](mailto:info@kickphoto.co.uk), 079 7378 7710.

The committee elected later in this AGM will convene a meeting of their own this afternoon and set out plans for next season.

I am confident that we can all look forward to more successful and enjoyable croquet in 2015.

**Comment** - Paul Wolff (Blewbury) was concerned about the distribution of e-mails etc. This problem was addressed and highlighted in other parts of this report. It is the responsibility of club's own officers to pass on information to all their club members.

## **5. Secretary's Report (Jim Pertwee)**

Jim reported that there had only been one meeting of the Committee and that was after the last AGM.

He reported that when problems or comments had been received the Committee had been able to deal with them by e-mail or telephone. This had worked very well. He then went on to explain that his main responsibilities were to circulate to Clubs through Secretaries and Chairpersons action or comment for Clubs. This should have been better but that he was not kept up to date, contacts that he had were different to those on the web and that Secretaries quite often did not disseminate information. He appealed for help and asked that Clubs keep the Secretary up to date with Club Officers, their telephone number and e-mail. Club details were probably better displayed on the web. He then went on to say that he had enjoyed his short stint as Secretary and the cooperation he had had from Clubs, but that his enthusiasm was not quite so fervent as it used to be. He wished his successor (subject to later election, Richard Harris from Ryde) - all the best in the role.

## **6. Treasurer's Report (Rita Nunn)**

### **Income**

Subscriptions were slightly down as a result of the Reading having been disbanded as a separate club, so now the SCF membership is now only 21 clubs, nine of which paid late.

A set of hoops were sold to Thames Valley for £150.

Tournaments brought in £570 in all, and a CQA coaching course added a further £200.

### **Expenses**

The lawn hire fees and trophies/engraving costs against the above tournament and CQA course income totalled £1,120, giving a deficit of £350. Much of this involved two new trophies for the GC and AC Champion of Champions tournaments, and another one for the AC B-level Advanced League, inaugurated in 2014. These totalled £324.

Our engraving and lawn hire fees costs are presently higher than entries income gained from tournament entries. This is mainly due to the fact that our league competitions (all of which incur engraving costs and two of which involve lawn hire fees for finals) are free to enter and hence raise no income.

**Generally our funds are still healthy, with an excess of income over expense of £184.**

### **Balance Sheet**

The creditor this year is engraving costs that were due to be incurred, and related to this year but had not been paid by the end of the financial year. The bank balance brought forward, added to this year excess, gives us a healthy £3301.95 in funds at year end.

In view of the increased costs, particularly for engraving a larger number of trophies, and as our subscriptions have not increased for some considerable time, it is proposed that they be increased this year to £20, with £25 for late payment (late payment being deemed to be after 1 February 2015).

At Annex A is a copy of the Accounts.

Acceptance of the accounts was proposed by John Ambrose (Littleton) and Seconded by Pauline Wood (Phyllis Court).

The Accounts were approved by the meeting and Mr CR Wood was asked to remain as the auditor.

**Comment** A short discussion took place on the increase of subscriptions by clubs and also if it was necessary to impose an entry fee for the leagues. It was decided that both should stand as agreed.

## **7. Association Croquet League Manager's Report (Martin Brandt)**

This year we were able to expand and had two Advanced Leagues in addition to the Handicap League. The Advanced A-Level League had three entrants and was retained by Blewbury. The new Advanced B-Level League had four entrants and was won by Aldermaston. Phyllis Court tied with them on the same number of league points but had lost the match between the two teams.

In 2013, the winners of the AC Handicap League, you might recall, was Oxford University. This meant they represented the SCF in the Secretary's Shield, a Croquet Association competition for the champions of each Federation. They reached the final where they played Bowden. Unfortunately one of their players fell sick the day before the match, which meant they had to concede two games and consequently lost 5-2.

The Handicap League this year was again divided into two divisions (North and South). Oxford University won the Northern Division, with Blewbury as runners up. The Southern Division was, as usual, a tight affair, with three teams tied on the same number of points at the top and the bottom team was only two points behind! Winchester were the winners, with Littleton as runners up. The play-off final between the two divisional winners was kindly hosted by Littleton, and Oxford University won that 6-1 against Winchester. So they will get another chance at the Secretary's Shield next year.

### **AC trophy winners**

**A-Level League**

**Blewbury**

**B-Level League**

**Aldermaston**

**Handicap League**

**Oxford University**

**Armada Doubles Tournament**

**Frances Colman & Chris Roberts (Phyllis Court)**

**Clubs' Handicap Champions Tournament**

**Richard Smith (Hamptworth)**

## **8. Golf Croquet League Manager's Report (Frances Colman)**

*(Read by Chris Roberts in Frances' absence)*

This time last year, I stood here and said "I am pleased to report that **most** clubs had played their part in the smooth and timely running of the GC leagues programme this season."

Two things have changed: You will have noticed that I am not standing here (but shouting this via Chris from South Africa), and I am pleased to report that, ***ALL*** clubs played their part in the smooth and timely running of the GC leagues programme this season!"

As a result of this, again I did not feel it necessary to hold a end of season GC 'wash-up' meeting as we used to do, as I believe that anything that needs discussion can be covered at this AGM.

I am pleased to report that all League Matches were played on time and the results have been available on the web site throughout the season.

Last year I noted that there was a problem with some players not presenting their handicap cards at matches, and so for the 2014 season, a 'consequence' for non-compliance was introduced, with the offender being required to submit their card to me within seven days. I am pleased to report that this season, probably as a result of this new rule, only a very few cards failed to be presented on match days, and all the 'offenders' duly complied with this new rule.

2014 did, of course, see the introduction of the CA's 'effective handicaps' for those playing off 3 or less, and it would be fair to say that this was not universally popular, at least at the out-set. Now that the season has ended and I have had time to assess match and individual game results in the whole, it appears to me, that the ratio of wins to losses at all levels, is now closer than it was. As a 3 handicap, I was personally affected by the new rules, but enjoyed the greater challenge of giving away more extra turns, and won 60% of my games, which is close to the 50% ideal that any handicap regime strives to achieve. Doubtless Chris, as a CA and Federation Handicapper, will say more on this in his report.

My concern of last year, about instances when clubs failed to fulfil all their fixtures, resulting in a distortion of the league tables, has thankfully not occurred this season. However, the rule that I introduced to cover such an event is in place and will be implemented if need be.

Once again, there was a good spread of winners in our GC Leagues this season.

In the Level Play League, it was a repeat of 2013 with Ryde tied on league points with Winchester and again winning the league by virtue of their victory in the head to head match between them.

In the Handicap League, Phyllis Court 'C' won the North Division and Ryde won in the South. Winchester hosted the final for the first time and Phyllis Court 'C' prevailed.

In the Doubles Only League, Harwell completed their league programme undefeated and headed the table by a point from last year's winners Eynsham.

I see that we have representation from a number of our GC Leagues winners and would ask our Chairman Chris Roberts to do the honours and present the trophies (*see winners list*).

**Comment** There was a discussion on the state of lawns, as both White Horse and Thames Valley had considered the very dry Harwell lawns unplayable. Brian Fisk reminded everyone that the lawns are only considered to be unplayable when they are so wet that balls do not roll properly across their surface and that there is nothing in the laws of croquet stating that lawns can be deemed too dry. Indeed players at the top level of our sport value greatly the challenge of playing on super fast lawns. Host clubs should advise visitors with as much advanced notice as possible if their lawns are not fit for play.

- There was also discussion on teams cancelling pre-arranged matches, simply because they could not field their desired full strength team. This must not happen. A fixture is exactly that, and teams are honour bound to field what ever team they can to fulfil the fixture on the arranged date.

- Another point - made earlier - was whether set weeks or some other time frame arrangements should be made for matches to be played. This notion was not popular amongst those assembled and so the present system of clubs arranging their own fixtures will continue. However, it was stressed by the Chairman that the scheduling matches near the end of the deadline in late August, was folly and invited fulfilment difficulties if such fixtures were rained-off leaving no time for a re-arrangement before the deadline.

- Roy Tillcock (Ryde) asked that results from SCF Level League matches be forwarded to the CA rankings system. The Chairman said that he and Leagues Manager Frances Colman had noted that the South-East Federation had arranged for their Level League results to be included last year and therefore, it was only right that the SCF's should be similarly treated. It was agreed that this would therefore be done and submitted by the SCF to avoid duplication.

### **GC trophy winners**

**Level League**

**Handicap League**

**Doubles only League**

**Solstice Doubles Tournament**

**Clubs' Handicap Champions Tournament**

**Ryde**

**Phyllis Court 'C'**

**Harwell**

**Helena Fensome & John Chalfont (Phyllis Court)**

**Lexie Oakenfold (Bransgore)**

## **9. Tournament Officer's Report (Richard Jenkins)**

In June, both the SCF 'Solstice' and the 'Armada' Doubles Tournaments were held at Hamptworth.

I am pleased to report that for the second year in a row the GC Solstice was again well supported, with the maximum 16 pairs accommodated and two pairs waiting in reserve.

Unfortunately, though, this year, we were only able to attract five pairs for the AC Armada instead of the eight pairs that contested the 2013 event here at Winchester.

For the second year, the AC & GC Handicap Singles 'Champion of Champions' Tournaments were held at Hamptworth. The response was, yet again, good for the GC event, with ten entries mirroring the 2013 staging, but it was disappointing to see that the AC event attracted only five entries, compared to 12 in 2013, with the Manager Rita Nunn stepping in to even up the number to six.

We must **all** support these Tournaments better and any useful feed back is always welcome.

To start with, can all member club secretaries and AC & GC contacts, please make a 'hard wire' diary note of the October dates for both these events as soon as they are advertised, and then please work towards these dates to be the highlight of the SCF Season!

It would be so good if all SCF clubs could run, as a minimum, at least a GC and/or AC internal handicap competition, so that the entry for the 'Champions' Tournament is in fact that full of that season's champions and not just a club representative. That is the aim!

However, this next year in particular, I must emphasize that all entrants for SCF Tournaments, are representing their clubs, and therefore need to get their clubs permission to enter. Every club has their own way of selecting their entrants.

The rule for the GC Solstice is that each SCF club has a place for one pair guaranteed.

If the entry numbers do not reach 16 pairs using the one per club allocation, then further entries from clubs already allocated will be offered such remaining places by ballot.

### **Staging a tournament at your club**

It has always been my belief that all clubs with a minimum of two lawns, can run a very good and successful tournament with a mix of 8 to 10 players drawn from your own club, the SCF and indeed the rest of the South of England! A profit of at least £50 can be made for the host club. We started that way at Hamptworth! Be brave, there are so many medium/high handicapped players out there who want to play competitive croquet. As your Tournament Officer I can help, if you want me to. All you have to do is ask!

## **10. Coaching Officer's Report (Richard Keighley)**

*(Read by Richard Jenkins in Richard's absence)*

When I was appointed as the Federation's Coaching Officer in November 2013, I was aware that, thanks to the initiative of Richard Jenkins, Hamptworth Croquet Club was offering a series of coaching courses in March 2014 to be run by Cliff Jones (Croquet Quest Academy). These courses were to have some financial support from the Federation, and when they took place as planned, they were very well attended. There were a total of 70 entries involving 61 people. The majority of those attending belonged to clubs in our area, but the courses were open to all. The details were as follows:

- a) GC Coaching (handicaps 3-9) - 24 attended (*fully booked*)
- b) GC Laws and Referees Course,  
with an optional second day for  
aspiring referees CA qualifying exam. - 19 attended (*10 took the exam and 7 passed*)
- c) AC Coaching (handicaps 14+) - 17 attended

A feature of all the above courses is that every participant was presented with a substantial booklet dealing with the topics covered on each course. The feedback received was almost entirely favourable.

Two further courses were staged at Hamptworth in August and September respectively, again involving Croquet Quest Academy:

- a) GC Perfecting every stroke - 16 attended (*fully booked*)
- b) AC Perfecting the Break - 10 attendees

In April, and by request, I organised a GC Beginners and Improvers Course at Winslow Croquet Club, involving two coaches. *(In my other capacity as GC Coaching Coordinator, co-opted to the CA Coaching Committee, I ran GC Handicap Play courses at Wrest Park and Wingrave. I also ran an 'Introduction to AC' course at Leighton-Linslade).*

Looking ahead to 2015, I am aware that Richard Jenkins is proposing to run a further series of courses at Hamptworth and I have discussed what he has in mind with him. In addition to the type of course run this season, Richard is considering the following:

- a) A Coaches Qualification Course (for both AC and GC)
- b) A Club Handicappers course. In practice, anyone can be appointed as a club handicapper but what knowledge and experience do post holder actually they have?

For my part, I wonder whether there are any clubs in our area who would welcome and be prepared to host GC Improvers Courses with emphasis on Singles and Handicap play. At some clubs, social doubles remains the norm at club sessions, but they may have members who wish to have an opportunity to play competitive singles. Please contact me if there is interest. Also, the 'introduction to AC' course I ran was well received. There are good coaches in our area who would be willing to come to a club to run such a course on request.

## **11. Development Officer's Report (Chris Roberts).**

Last year I reported that there had been a good deal of activity on the development front in the past year. Sadly I have to report the opposite situation this past season.

Most of this I put down to being my fault, as having taken on the Editorship of the Croquet Gazette, another non-croquet related job and still supposedly working full time, I have not been able to devote the necessary time to the SCF's Development Officer's roll.

The CA Development Committee, sit twice a year to judge grant applications from clubs from all around the country and I have been able to attend all the meetings bar one since I took on this roll.

It is odd though that only two applications have been received from SCF Clubs – perhaps you all have everything that you need and want for nothing?

If so, excellent! If not, think about it!

Assistance is at hand for any capital project that will enhance your croquet offering, so please contact me to discuss if you wish.

You may remember that Frances and I took croquet to Magdalen College School in Oxford in 2013, for what we hoped might be that start of something really quite big. Croquet as a timetabled sport with in the school's P.E. programme – what better way to breed a next crop of young players. Sadly, that first year's enthusiasm fell rather flat when the promised tennis court to play on failed to materialise and the rugby field offered in stead was, as unsuitable a surface as you would imagine. The School too lacked the interest in the project that had been hinted at beforehand and despite Frances and my efforts in travelling to Oxford twice a week, we really were getting nowhere. In 2014, my changed working arrangements demanded the time than had been devoted to the project and that was that for croquet at the school.

I have had the briefest of dealings with new croquet enterprises at Wokingham and Salisbury and informed them of both start-up and development assistance that is available, but again, other pressures on time have not allowed these avenues to be further perused.

Whilst happy to fulfil the Development Officer's roll for another year, I will be delighted to learn of anyone who is interested in taking over from me either sooner or later, as I am conscious that my other commitments are preventing me doing as good a job in this post as I would like to be doing.

## **12. Handicapping Officer's Report**

### **Association – Brian Fisk**

He gave a brief verbal reports as AC Handicap Officer, in which he stated that he had only been called upon once during the season to make a manual handicap adjustment for one player who had rapidly improved'.

A short discussion ensued but nothing of note was recorded.

### **Golf - Chris Roberts**

This has been a difficult year for GC handicaps with the CA Handicap Committee's introduction, perhaps too hastily, of the trial 'effective handicap' system.

This sought to balance more fairly the chances of victory between players with low handicaps and those in the mid to high range, where it was considered with some good evidence, that the better players were winning too often and too easily, and, putting it bluntly, having an easy time in handicap games. It should be born in mind that a perfect handicap system seeks to level the playing field to the extent that one wins 50% of one's games, not nearly 90% as some good players had been achieving. The trial solution was that players with handicaps of 3 and below would play off a more punitive 'effective handicap' grade, such that they

would concede more extra turns to their higher handicapped opponent and thus a more even contest would result.

Players who had achieved their low handicapped status by dint of a good percentage of their victories having come from handicap play, were given the dispensation to have their grades adjusted upward, so as to avoid being harshly treated. But this opportunity was missed by many, who duly found the season rather harder going than would otherwise have been the case with suitable handicap adjustment.

It is fair to say that this system was not universally well received, much has been written and spoken about its implementation during the season.

Two working parties are currently studying the whole issue in this close season and statistics have been gathered from many clubs to see if the 'effective' system did produce more balanced results or not.

A study of our Southern Federation League results for 2014 showed that, in our Federation, whilst some may disagree, there is little wrong the handicaps overall. Of the 12 clubs in our two handicap divisions, none won all their matches, and none failed to win at least once. Indeed 12 of the 30 matches were actually draws!

GC Leagues Manager Frances, forwards all league result sheets to me for inputting to the website, and so I get to see everything and can monitor 'unusual' results as a series should they occur. This season, I have not had cause to be concerned about any club or individual player having a handicap grade that appeared 'wrong' in terms of playing ability, and nor have I had any reported to me that have been born out upon investigation. The CA handicap committee will report soon and give instruction for the forthcoming season, which will be communicated to you via your handicap officer (if you have one, and you should have) and/or your GC teams organiser. Brian sits on that committee and may have more to say in his report shortly.

In closing, I would earnestly encourage those clubs who do not currently participate in our handicap leagues to please seriously consider an entry for 2015.

I am more than happy to assist you in setting up handicaps at your club, and putting you on the road to competitive singles play that your players will enjoy if you give them the chance to experience it.

### **13. Report from the SCF Federation Representative to the CA (Brian Fisk)**

I am elected by the clubs in this region to be their representative on CA Council. I hope that over the past year I have represented your views on Council and I certainly believe that I have been very much involved in all the key debates in that time. I plan to keep this report short so as not to bore you with minutiae but am very happy to answer questions either now or any time in the future.

The two main issues that have been discussed over the past year have been GC handicapping and restructuring of the CA, clubs and federations. As it happens I've been somewhat involved with both, sitting on the CA Handicap committee and the Federation working party.

I'm sure a number of you have views on the GC handicapping saga and I will be very happy to talk to anyone so that we can factor your views into the ongoing debate. As a committee we were pushed into this year's trial and whatever the rights and wrongs of that we need to learn from it so that we can get it right for next season. So you have a golden opportunity to speak now.

At the recent CA AGM, it was decided to make a small step forward and to allow Federations to become members of the CA. On a personal note I'm disappointed that we didn't go further but the view is that we need consensus to move forward any further. I represent the clubs in this region on Council, so I'd like to hear your views on the matter. If you keep quiet I shall do my best to guess what you wish.

I now have a new role on Council, I am chairman of the AC Tournament committee, which means I also sit on the CA Management Committee. The Management Committee oversees the work of the other committees and acts as a buffer between the individual committees and Council. The Tournament Committee plans the tournaments that are sponsored by the CA such as the Eights and the Peels (to name a couple) and also co-ordinates the CA Calendar of events (the fixtures book). I am personally responsible for all the Inter-Club events (The Inter-Club, Mary Rose, Secretary's Shield, and the Longman Cup). This year I managed the finals of these events over a weekend in Nottingham. I also sit on the AC Laws Committee but have nothing of significance to report on that,

I promised to keep it short and I have.

**Comment** A big discussion about handicapping ensued. Brian said that he would forward comments if submitted to him.



## **14. Election of SCF Committee Officer's for 2015**

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

That this list be voted on *en block*, was proposed by Roy Tillcock, seconded by Pauline Wood, and was then approved unanimously by the meeting:

| <b><i>Committee post</i></b> | <b><i>Nominee</i></b>   | <b><i>Proposed by</i></b> | <b><i>Seconded by</i></b> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Chairman                     | <b>Chris Roberts</b>    | Richard Jenkins           | Rita Nunn                 |
| Secretary                    | <b>Richard Harris</b>   | Chris Roberts             | Frances Colman            |
| Treasurer                    | <b>Rita Nunn</b>        | Chris Roberts             | Richard Jenkins           |
| GC League Manager            | <b>Frances Colman</b>   | Chris Roberts             | Rita Nunn                 |
| AC League Manager            | <b>Martin Brandt</b>    | Chris Roberts             | Rita Nunn                 |
| Development Officer          | <b>Chris Roberts</b>    | Richard Jenkins           | Martin Brandt             |
| Tournaments Officer          | <b>Richard Jenkins</b>  | Chris Roberts             | Rita Nunn                 |
| Coaching Officer             | <b>Richard Keighley</b> | Chris Roberts             | Richard Jenkins           |
| Handicapping Officer (AC)    | <b>Brian Fisk</b>       | Chris Roberts             | Raymond Wood              |
| Handicapping Officer (GC)    | <b>Chris Roberts</b>    | Richard Jenkins           | Jim Pertwee               |
| Member w/o Portfolio         | <b>Gillian Pett</b>     | Chris Roberts             | Brian Fisk                |

The following post was not due for election at this AGM.

|                      |            |     |     |
|----------------------|------------|-----|-----|
| Representative to CA | Brian Fisk | n/a | n/a |
|----------------------|------------|-----|-----|

This will be Brian's third full year in this post. The Representative to CA post is elected for a three year term.

## **15. Any Other Business**

The agenda listed AOB items had already been dealt with earlier in the meeting, but the Chairman raised the desire to align the SCF's GC Leagues position precedence criteria, with that of the AC Leagues. Specifically to insert 'match (or rubber) wins' as the second criteria behind League Points, and before the 'Who beat whom' criterion. This was agreed as desirable and the GC League rules would be adjusted to reflect this for the 2015 season.

## **16. Date and location for the 2015 AGM**

This would be decided by the Committee and communicated to SCF Clubs in due course, but was very likely to remain in November.

The meeting closed at 1.45pm

Jim Pertwee  
Secretary