



DRAFT

East Anglian Croquet Federation

Minutes of the 27th AGM Meeting

12th April 2014

The AGM meeting was held at the Hyndman Centre, Hospital Road ,Bury St.Edmunds,IP33 3BD.

The meeting was opened at 10:30am by the acting Chairman Terrey Sparks.

Attendees:- Duncan Hector, , Jonathan Toye, Arthur Reed, Simon Hathrell, Peter Allnutt, Terrey Sparks, Howard Bottomley, David Crawford, John Robinette, Ken Wheeler

Apologies:- George Collin, Harry Bruford (Bodham), Mary Moore (Norwich), John Healey (Maldon), Chris Howell, John Skuse, Tom Anderson.

Minutes of previous meeting:-

The minutes had been circulated and available on the web site. The minutes were approved by the meeting.

Officers reports:

Chairman:-

" I'm sorry I can't be with you today. The reason being a clash with an Open University tutorial in Cambridge - The Technology of Music. Perhaps next years Chairman's remarks will be set to music.

I was recently asked what the purpose of Federations was, bearing in mind that we have Clubs and the CA. The answer is the tasks which the clubs and the CA find it difficult or inappropriate to organise. The federations have found a natural niche. No club is forced to join a federation but last year 30 joined ours. The AGM will be reminded of the range of activities which happened last year and of those planned for this.

On the issue of the Federation working party proposals, I intend to remain a neutral chair. Those seeking change are well intentioned and appear to be open to debate. Any crucial changes will be to the CA constitution, voted on by its individual members, which most of us are. The federations may be a forum for debate but I do not think it appropriate for the EACF to adopt any particular position on behalf of the clubs or individual CA members in the region.

Have fun. I shall be thinking about harmony and hope you will be too. George"

Treasurer:-

Arthur Reed circulated the 2013 accounts to the meeting.(Appendix1).

He pointed out there was a surplus of **£538.34** on the I and E account. This was a further improvement. Income had increased due to increased subscriptions and a further surplus on the GC league. Expenditure was slightly reduced as there were no major purchases required for indoor croquet equipment. The adoption of the 2013 accounts was proposed by Arthur Reed, seconded by Duncan Hector and passed unanimously .

It was agreed that 4 new general purpose mallets could be purchased with a ceiling of £500 on the cost. Duncan said that these were available at £60 each compared £200 from the CA. It was agreed that quotes should be obtained as it was suggested they might be available for as little as £45 each.

Re Indoors, it was agreed that two monitors should be purchased for the laptops at a cost of not more than £200 per screen. It was also agreed that Mike Percival should be asked to make a box for them.

Secretary:-

Howard reported that Terrey had handed over but is still assisting him

There are 32 affiliated clubs

Lea Valley U3a decided not to re-join

A further 8 were being chased for the affiliation fee

Coaching:-

Jonathon Toye reported:

North Walsham U3A have returned the gear and have bought more of their own. They may require further coaching.

Two sets are on loan to Thurston.

One set to Histon (who have joined the CA and will apply for a start up set). One mallet was broken - will be given to Mike for repair.

One set to Hethersett.

Scratby are hoping to have their grass ready for use this year. If so they will have a start up set and maybe some coaching.

Wire hoops to Norwich for Come and try it sessions.

We have several sets of hoops, balls, etc ready for loan. Only area of shortage is mallets. Could possibly do with another eight if this is possible.

Golf Croquet:

Jason Carley reported

2013 League Finals

Handicap held at Leighton Linlade on 24th September 2013 - "Enfield vs Ipswich"

After all 16 singles the scores were tied 8-8, and after the two doubles still tied at 9-9.

Ipswich went on to beat Enfield 2-1 in the three hoop play off to take the trophy.

Level Play held at Newport on 29th September 2013 - "Colchester vs Watford"

Watford had led 5-3 and 7-5, but after the last singles games the scores were tied 8-8. Colchester narrowly won the two doubles 7-5 and 7-6 to win 10-8 taking the trophy.

2014 Leagues

Handicap

- MY goals have been to:
- a) attract *new* club entries;
 - b) attract *more* club entries;
 - c) simplify rules;
 - d) create a *fairer* platform.

These goals have been achieved as follows:

- a) At the end of last season I contacted all EACF clubs not participating in the league that had at least two lawns, in an attempt to boost teams numbers:

As a result of this the new clubs are "Fromus", and "Wrest Park";

- b) There are second team entries this year for "Letchworth" and "Northampton";

However with the loss of the second team for "Leighton Linlade" who are consolidating to one team, due mainly to a lower club membership this year.

Overall this gives a net gain of THREE teams:

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	
<u>E</u> astern	5	5	
<u>W</u> estern	5	6	
<u>C</u> entral	5	6	
<u>N</u> orthern	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	
	<u>20</u>	<u>23</u>	(15% increase)

Changes to Rules

These *have* now been simplified.

Since I spoke last year with Brian Shorney (the C.A. Chairman) regarding the need for a fairer handicap structure for players with 0-3 handicaps, the C.A. have introduced *effective* handicaps, now making Handicap games fairer.

In turn I have made some changes to this year rules:

- c) - the total team minimum handicap of '20' has been scrapped, and hence so has the '7 day' handicap change rule;

This still allows for entry by any player of any level, but the better players now give away more bisques (due to *effective* handicaps).

- d) - players with handicaps of 11 and 12 no longer play down as a "10".

This will help to encourage new players to play in the League;

- time limit extended from 50 to 60 minutes to allow for completion of the vast majority of games, but a time limit cuts short overly long games.

It is important to keep as much interest in the latter stages of the competition as possible, and so all clubs entering two teams will now play in the same group block. Last year the two Enfield teams met each other in the semi-final, which is not good for the competition as a whole. This year there will be four different teams.

2014 FINAL Round to be played at "Letchworth" on Saturday 13th September.

Level Play

MY goals for this league: e) attract more club entries;

- f) increase the *value* of this EACF tournament.

These goals have been achieved as follows:

- e) Additional teams this year are Ipswich (N), Letchworth (W) and Newport (N);

Overall this too gives a net gain of THREE teams:

	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	
<u>Western</u>	5	6	
<u>Northern</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	
	<u>8</u>	<u>11</u>	(37.5% increase)

- f) Attracting better players and stronger clubs:

- The Ipswich team will include a "-1" and at least one "scratch" player;

- The Letchworth team is likely to comprise players of "0" and "1" handicaps.

Changes to Rules:

- no time limit, so all games will be played to a conclusion;
- results will be forwarded to the C.A. for inclusion in the national and international GC rankings.

2014 Final Round to be played at "Chelmsford" on Sunday 28th September.

- For *both* Leagues in future the semi-final and final rounds will have a full 13 hoop play-off instead of the "three hoop" in 2013, making it fairer.

- As the date of every match will be stated on the website, I am urging teams to text results to me straight after a match finishes so that I can update the website immediately - other teams can keep up to speed with results as they happen.

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Last year both Final dates were arranged too late on in the season, for some players participating in the Handicap Final this clashed with other appointments. At short notice I could not fix an appropriate date at Letchworth to suit both teams involved, so I was forced to change the venue to Leighton Linlade.

So this year's venues and dates have been arranged prior to the start of the competition, so at least all players are aware of these dates in advance.

Each year I intend to use two previously unused clubs for the two final venues, by pre-judging the likelihood of the home teams progression into the final I should avoid any home advantage.

There are no outstanding entry fees for 2014.

I would like to thank Terrey Sparks and Simon Hathrell for their support.

Jason Carley (EACF Leagues Manager)

Indoors:

Despite having difficulty with the first session in getting the required numbers to turn out the rest of the winter went very well with good support ending in a surplus of £182. The weather was unusually mild and we experienced no call offs due to ice or frost. As an experiment Duncan Hector introduced the use of computerised time clocks for the first time supported by a programme supplied by Simon Hathrell. These were well received by the participants not only being more efficient to operate than manual time clocks but had a better visual impact. It is fair to say they were an improvement on our present system.

CA Rep:

Last year I attended all 3 Council Meetings and the AGM. I also attended 2 GC Tournament and 1 Handicap Committee meetings plus four other meeting of the Federation Working Party. Financially, the CA finished the 2013 year with a £5,900 surplus which is expected to be lower for 2014 due to the bi-annually increase in fees based on the RPI. It is anticipated that from January 2015 fees will increase by around 6% with the club levy increasing by 50p to £7.95 and Tournament Members Subscription by £2.50 to £43. Other categories will increase proportionally.

Most of the year considerable time was spent on preparing the draft report of the Federation Working Party for submission to Council. This was generally felt to be the right way forward but, more consultation was necessary. Once this had been done than by the 2014 AGM the proposal together with the enabling changes would be ready for the membership to decide.

Web Master:-

Simon Hatrell reported the conversion over the winter had gone well and the recent threat from the "heartbleed" bug had not affected the site as we are hosted by a Microsoft IIS server platform.

He did warn us however that passwords could have been hacked and so not to use similar passwords for other activities.

Election of Officers and Committee for 2014 by unanimous support of the attendees

CA Rep – Terrey Sparks

Secretary – Howard Bottomley

Chairman - George Collin

Equipment/Coaching - Jonathan Toye

Treasurer - Arthur Reed

Tournament Secretary - Terrey Sparks

Simon Hathrell –Webmaster

Golf Croquet Rep – Jason Carley

Members without portfolio – David Crawford, Peter Allnutt and Duncan Hector

All the above were voted in en bloc

Auditor - Mark Homan

Arthur Reed confirmed that Mark Homan was willing to stand again and his proposal that he should be re-elected.

Review of the 2013:-

See the EACF web site

CA Federation Working Party

Some discussion took place on the impact to smaller clubs

We were inclined to await further information and guided that Jeff Dawson would keep us informed of progress

AOB:-

No dates for an Autumn Meeting were confirmed