



East Anglian Croquet Federation

Minutes of the 29th Annual General Meeting

20th March 2016

The 29th AGM of the East Anglian Croquet Federation was held at the Bygrave Croquet Club, the Moat House, Bygrave, Baldock, Herts SG7 5EF.

The meeting was opened at 10:30am by the Chairman George Collin.

Attendees:- George Collin, Arthur Reed, Duncan Hector, John Noble, Simon Hathrell

1. Apologies for absence

had been received from Howard Bottomley (secretary), Terrey Sparks, Jonathan Toye, Tracy Martin, Jean Healey.

2. Minutes of previous meeting:-

The draft minutes had been circulated and were also available on the website. The minutes were approved by the meeting.

3. Officers' reports:

3.1 The **Chairman** reported his observation that there appeared to be an increasing interest in 1-day events instead of longer ones. Most GC events were already 1-day affairs, and this trend now appeared to apply to more AC events as well. Matches and tournaments for both AC and GC organised by the EACF in recent years were already 1-day events, and these appeared to be continuing satisfactorily. (The only 2-day EACF event, the AC Anderson Shield, has not been staged since 2012.)

3.2 The **Treasurer** circulated the 2015 accounts to the meeting (Appendix 1).

In summary:

- There is still a healthy balance on the current a/c at Barclays
- A surplus for the year of £515
- A surplus from the GC leagues
- No change to the fees for 2016: **Agreed.**
- It was **agreed** that the EACF should continue to build funds slowly in anticipation of the eventual capital cost of replacing the carpet at Soham, although it was hoped that CA funds could be obtained to support this as well.
- There were no immediate plans to change the Federation's accounting and funding arrangements with the CA following the recent change in the relationship.

The accounts were **agreed.**

3.3 The **Secretary** had been detained by a family illness and did not provide a report.

3.4 **Development & Equipment**

Jonathan Toye was absent but subsequently provided a report (Appendix 3).

3.5 Golf Croquet

John Noble circulated a summary of the GC Level Play and Handicap Leagues for 2015, and the corresponding plans for 2016 (Appendix 2). Although several clubs had yet to respond to his enquiries, the latest expectation was that there would be the same number of teams (11) as last year in the Level Play League, and perhaps 2 more in the Handicap League, bringing the total to 25 for the latter.

- A new match format had been designed for use at clubs with only one court available. A standard score-sheet form for this format will be added to the EACF website. **Action: JN and SH.**
- It was noted that the CA's standard daily rate for court hire was increasing from £30 to £31, and the EACF would adopt the same increase where applicable.
- It was agreed that notification of league entries was needed earlier in the year in order to be ready for play to start in April.

3.6 Indoors

Terrey Sparks provided a report in his absence. The 2014-15 winter season had been well attended and showed a profit, but the 2015-16 winter less so, particularly in the October weekend.

3.7 CA Representative

Terrey Sparks reported that the CA finances are in good shape, with a surplus of some £33,000. About £20,000 of this had been earmarked for the development fund, and £10,000 to pay for a website programmer in preparation for the addition of a large number of new CA members from clubs following the change in organisation.

The CA has decided that every member will receive 6 editions of the Gazette in paper form in the first year, and then in subsequent years there could be an option for members to receive it in electronic form instead, perhaps in return for a reduced membership fee.

From 2017 the current CA "Tournament Members" will be re-designated as "Premium Members" with an annual fee reducing from £43 to £40, while "Non-Tournament Members" will be re-designated "Supporters" and have a fee reduced from £22.50 to £20. The Student fee will be reduced from £16 to £15, and the Overseas Member fee will remain unchanged. To balance those changes the Club Levy will increase by £1 per club member.

There will be a revised scale of fees for new CA member clubs, dependent on size, which applies for the first 3 years.

The number of CA individual members is stable at around 1700, and the number of CA member clubs has increased from 168 to 175.

A National Croquet Day is planned for Sunday 5th June. Clubs can choose how to take advantage of this.

3.8 Webmaster

Simon Hathrell reported that the website had been operating without any significant problems. Recent work had concentrated on improving the security of the Court Booking System, and migrating the mechanisms for managing passwords into the same technical framework used by the rest of the EACF website.

2 new clubs, Newport and Colchester, plan to start using the Court Booking System for the 2016 summer season.

4. Election of Officers and Committee members for the 2016 year

- Howard Bottomley had indicated his wish to stand down as **secretary**, and a replacement is required. **Position vacant.**
- Terrey Sparks indicated his wish to stand down from organising **winter events at Soham**, but was prepared to continue with his other responsibilities. **Position vacant.** Meanwhile DH agreed to ensure that weekend dates for the 2016-17 winter season would be booked at Soham in good time. **Action: DH.**
- Tracy Martin indicated her wish to stand down from the committee. **Not replaced.**
- The remaining officers and committee members were **re-elected unopposed.**

5. Election of the Auditor

Re-election of Trevor Hiorns as examiner was **agreed.**

6. 2016 Programme

- The 2016 summer programme is now all arranged with dates and venues, with the exception of the final of the GC Level Play League which is still only provisionally on 25th September, venue to be confirmed.
- The 2016 AC Club Champions tournament is scheduled for 17th April at Wrest Park. As of 20th March there were still 3 remaining vacancies.

It was suggested that it would be useful for the EACF to obtain the names of all the champions from member clubs after the end of each summer season, so that they could be notified directly of the EACF AC and GC club champions tournament dates at the earliest opportunity.

7. CA Federation arrangements

The new arrangements for Federation relationship with the CA have now technically come into effect, though individual club members should not see any change until 2017.

8. AOB

No other business was raised.

9. Next meeting.

The next committee meeting is set for **2pm on Thursday 27th October at Bygrave.** The date and venue of the next AGM should be decided at that committee meeting.

SJH
March 2016

EAST ANGLIAN CROQUET FEDERATION

Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2015

	2015 £	2014 £
Income		
Subscriptions	540.00	600.00
Equipment hire and sales –CA Grant	483.00	94.00
Interest received	7.10	7.10
Net surpluses on playing activities		
GC league	100.00	190.90
GC Champions Day	00.00	30.00
GC Inter-Counties –Ken Wheeler Shield	30.00	24.00
AC Champions Day	00.00	00.00
AC League	70.00	10.00
Indoor Croquet –see deficit below	---	385.00
GC Masterclass	30.50	
	<u>1260.60</u>	<u>1,341.00</u>
Less Expenditure		
Sundry Expenses	----	20.76
AGM Hall Hire	---	88.00
Website	51.00	48.99
Equipment, indoor	199.99	366.52
Equipment, outdoor	483.00	60.00
Net deficits on playing activities		
Indoor –playing	11.00	
-		
	<u>744.99</u>	<u>584.27</u>
Surplus for the year	<u>515.61</u>	<u>756.73</u>
Balance Sheet		
Funds brought forward	5,434.05	4,677.32
Add surplus for the year	515.61	756.73
Funds carried forward	<u>5,949.66</u>	<u>5,434.05</u>
Represented by:		
Barclays Bank	2,398.16	1,860.16
Nationwide Building Society	3,560.99	3,553.89
Debtors and prepayments	50.51	20.00
Less creditors	(60.00)	
	<u>5,949.66</u>	<u>5,434.05</u>

Arthur Reed
Honorary Treasurer

I have examined the books and records of The East Anglian Croquet Federation. The above accounts are in accordance therewith and with the information and explanations I have received.

Trevor Hiorns
Honorary Examiner

EAST ANGLIAN CROQUET FEDERATION

Treasurer's Report

AGM and Committee Meeting 20th March 2016

1. Accounts

Barclays Bank

The balance on the account is **£2438.16**

Nationwide

There has been no occasion to make any transactions on this account and the present balance is **£3560.99**

2. Bank Mandate

The signatories on the accounts are currently The Chairman, The Treasurer and The Tournament Secretary. No change is necessary.

3. 2015 Examined Accounts

Copies of the accounts have been circulated and copies of the *signed* accounts will be available at the AGM. There was a surplus of **£515.61** on the Income and Expenditure account compared with £756.73 in 2014. Subscription income was down slightly due to 2 members deciding not to renew. The subscription for Peterborough was received too late to be included in the 2015 accounts so has been carried forward to the current year. Our Development Officer, Jonathan Toye, secured a grant of £483 from the Croquet Association for the purchase of 4 new mallets to add to our stock of equipment plus repairs to some of our existing mallets. A healthy but reduced surplus was achieved on the GC league because EACF now pays the costs of lawn hire for the semi-finals as well as the final of the GC handicap league. The AC league also produced a surplus of £70 because this was the first year that all participating clubs had paid the £10 entry fee. Other outdoor events generally broke even or generated a small surplus. The indoor weekends made a small loss of £11 compared with a substantial surplus last year. This was due to a significant drop in the number of entries for the October and December weekends and the committee will keep this under review to see if any changes in the indoor programme are necessary. The only capital cost on indoor equipment was £199.99 on a box and padlock to house the two monitors purchased in 2014.

The cost of website hosting was £51, a small increase on 2014. We are grateful to Duncan Hector for offering a venue for our meetings thus avoiding the AGM Hall Hire costs incurred in previous years.

The prepayment of £50.51 is for website hosting in 2016.

The £60 shown against creditors is for the lawn hire charges owed to Colchester CC for hosting the GC level GC league final.

In summary the balance carried forward is **£5,949.66**.

4. Examiner

Trevor Hiorns has examined the 2015 accounts and signed the Statement of Accounts.

A. Reed

2016 EACF Golf Croquet Leagues Report

1. HANDICAP LEAGUE

Finals.

Ipswich will host the final on Sunday 2 October 2016. Watford (11 September) and Colchester (18 September) will host the two area semi-finals.

Changes in 2016.

23 teams played in 2015 (see attached spreadsheet). Downham is the only new club to have expressed an interest in playing in 2016 so far. Stony Stratford may enter two teams this year.

The EACF Committee discussed how best to include one-lawn clubs in our competitions and agreed to trial a system in this year's Handicap League. In essence, where a one-lawn club has been drawn to host a match, then it will be played by teams of three players on each side rather than teams of four, and over ten games (one double, nine single games) rather than 18. Where a multi-lawn club hosts a one-lawn club, then the match will be the normal four-player format.

The one-lawn format will give results ranging from 5-5 to 10-0, broadly comparable to the 9-9 to 18-0 results from the usual four-player matches. The ten games will be made up of nine singles games – that is, each player playing each opponent (H1 v A1, H1 v A2, H1 v A3, H2 v A1, H2 v A2, H2 v A3, H3 v A1, H3 v A2, H3 v A3) – and one doubles game H1H2 v A1A2. This will mean five rounds of games: everyone playing in the first round; H1/H2/A1/A2 will each sit out one round, while H3/A3 sits out two rounds (rounds 2 and 4). It is much clearer when you see the scoresheet!

It is possible, where two or three strong multi-lawn teams vie for the top slot in a group that the team which had played away in a single-lawn game could be disadvantaged in terms of numbers of games won. The ranking in that circumstance is most likely to be decided by the "who-beat-whom" rule. Moreover, any concern is outweighed by the opportunity offered to players who are members of one-lawn clubs.

The rules will be changed to reflect the inclusion of one-lawn clubs as discussed above.

The formal country-wide adoption of the handicapping system trialled in our region last year means that the other rule changes made last year can be rolled forward to 2016 without further amendment.

2. LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE

Finals.

Location to be confirmed, the final will be held on Sunday 25 September or 9 October 2016.

Changes in 2016.

11 teams played in 2015 (see attached spreadsheet). I have no indication so far that any new clubs will enter the league in 2016. There will be no substantive change to the rules.

Home captains rather than the league manager will take responsibility for submitting the results for inclusion in the WCF Golf Croquet Grading System.

3. FINANCE

The lawn fees payable for finals (two) and semi-finals (two) should be in line with the CA guidance (£30 per lawn in 2015). No other expenditure is expected. The 2016 Budget is shown below:

Estimated Income	Handicap	250	25 teams @ £10
	Level Play	<u>110</u>	11 teams @ £10
		<u>360</u>	
Estimated Expenditure	Handicap	180	3 x 2 @ £30
	Level Play	<u>60</u>	1 x 2 @ £30
		<u>240</u>	
<u>Net Income (Expenditure)</u>		<u>120</u>	

Dr John Noble

March 2016

2016 EACF Development Officer Report

Fromus Club (Benfield, Suffolk) is closing but is reborn as Thorpeness, near Aldeburgh, using an ex Bowls club with pavilion. Potentially a much better setting.

An attempt to establish a Golf Croquet club at Sawbridgeworth on the cricket ground has unfortunately not come to fruition.

There is a good range of gear available to new clubs for loan from our equipment store (though following the debacle at Hethersett I will insert a clause in the loan document about taking care of the stuff and the costs of replacement).

Current arrangement for borrowing equipment involves registration with EACF; free loan for a year; £50 for next year; £100 for subsequent year. Most clubs return stuff after first year.

Jonathan Toye March 2016