

DRAFT

East Anglian Croquet Federation

Minutes of the 33rd Annual General Meeting

31st March 2019

The 33rd Annual General Meeting of the East Anglian Croquet Federation was held at 'The Newport Club', Frambury Lane, Newport, Essex, CB11 3PU

The meeting was opened at 14.00pm by the chairman George Collin.

Present: Tom Anderson (President), George Collin (Chair), Terrey Sparks (Secretary), Arthur Reed, (Treasurer) Brian Havill, (CA Rep), Jonathan Toye (Dev & Eq), Roy Darling, (Newport), Francis Lambert (Newport), Simon Hathrell (Webmaster), Geoff Johnson (Watford), Jan Oldfield (BSE), Lorraine Addy (BSE), Steve Tarrant (Norwich), Celia Pearce (Ipswich), Dan Neale (Histon & Impington) plus Guest Speaker Dave Gunn C.A. Development Officer.

1. Apologies for absence:

Cliff Jones, Bodham, Enfield, Peterborough & Chelmsford.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting:

The draft minutes of the 2018 AGM had been circulated and were available on the web-site. The minutes were proposed by Fran Lambert & seconded by Jonathan Toye as a correct record, which were then unanimously approved by the meeting.

3. Annual reports from the Officers:

3.1 Chairman:

Welcomed The President Tom Anderson and everybody else to the meeting and
Thanked the Officers of the Newport Club for hosting the meeting on the Federations behalf.

3.2 Treasurer:

Arthur Reed circulated the 2018 accounts and a report to the meeting (Appendix 1).

In summary

- * There is still a healthy balance in the Barclays & National Westminster accounts.
- * There was a surplus for the year of £770.28 slightly down on the previous year.
- * He pointed out that the web site hosting fees are shared with the Watford Club.
- * He recommended in view of the healthy state of financial affairs the subscriptions for next year remain unchanged at £20 for standard membership & £10 for associate membership which was agreed.
- * The Statement of Accounts had been approved by The Examiner Trevor Hiorns who wishes to Stand down for next year.

The **accounts** were agreed following a proposal by Johnathan Toye & seconded by Celia Pearce.

3.3 Secretary:

Terrey Sparks presented to the meeting a written report (Appendix 2) outlining that overall things had gone very well during the year and there had been very good co-operation from the clubs.

There were 28 clubs registered of which 26 were full members and 2 associates.

This being the first year of the new standard member does not seem to have impacted much on increasing extra demand for additional tournaments apart from a slight increase in GC 'C' Class tournaments.

There were no particular problems and the published calendar went smoothly and all results and information are published regularly on the website.

3.4 Development & Equipment:

Jonathan Toye reported that The Federation held a good store of equipment for hire currently located at Stow Hall, Downham Market.

Equipment loans continue for New Hall School in Chelmsford, Hickling and Winterton. Alison Maugham of South Ockendon has returned her loaned equipment. Alison is talking to the local council about setting up a croquet lawn in the local park.

We have four new mallets for the equipment store produced by Mike Percival. (Many thanks to the CA for covering the cost of £400).

He visited Maldon CC, Essex to talk to members of their committee about making the game more assessable to disabled people and lots of other development issues. They are currently based at a golf club but are considering a move to a nearby sports ground being vacated by the cricket club. Advice will be given on access there if they go ahead.

Similar advice (on access) given to Ealing CC via a member visiting Norfolk on holiday. I showed her a Bradshaw Buggy in action and some half size mallets.

Advice given to Bury St. Edmunds CC on applying for a loan from the CA towards the cost towards the cost of a replacement mower (as they don't fit the criteria for a grant).

Advice given to Enfield CC on applying for a grant for lawn improvement,

Terrey Sparks and Jonathan attended the Southern AGM at Surbiton on 27th January in order to observe the Club Matters workshop run by Dave Gunn. We hope to run one for clubs attending the EACF AGM on 31st March.

3.5 Coaching:

Due to ill health the Coaching Officer Cliff Jones was not able to attend the meeting. However, during the year had been active both in the region and the rest of the country staging various training events and training courses

3.6 Golf Croquet:

John Noble who was standing down and Tracy Martin who was not at the meeting had submitted comprehensive reports (Appendix 3 & 4) explaining that 2018 had gone very well with all leagues completing their fixtures on time with no major problems.

However, travelling was still a problem and some teams were unwilling to travel despite regionalisation. Also the introduction of the CA tournament format had not been well received and needs to be reviewed.

Geoff Johnson who was willing to undertake the position of League Organiser for 2019 had circulated all clubs asking for suggestions and it was clear that the previous format of doubles and all play all found favour and would be introduced in the future.

3.

3.7 AC Handicap League:

Terrey Sparks reported (Appendix 5) that entry to the league remains static with overall 15 clubs entering the league: The winner of the Play-off was St. Albans who will represent the region in The Secretaries Shield for 2019.

3.8 Indoors (Soham):

Terrey Sparks reported (Appendix 6) outlining the overall position in regards to the indoor carpet for 2108 situated at Soham Leisure Centre in which there had been a 95% take of spaces spread over five week - ends over the winter and went very smoothly. Gross Income amounted to £2,650 from which £2,480 was extracted in hire fees leaving a surplus of £170 to be transferred to funds. From this a small amount had been deducted to cover expenses such as clips and computer cables. He pointed out that after holding the position for six years he would like to stand down and is actively seeking a replacement.

3.9 C.A. Representative:

Brian Havill reported that he had recently attended a SGM arranged by the CA to implement changes to the CA Constitution which reduced the Council from 33 – 12 voting members which will be made up from Federation Club Members from seven constituencies. The nine Federations will make up each constituency with the two midland and two northern ones being combined, each being allocated delegates by number of members. Each Delegate will serve for three years and be elected by constituency members. The Eastern Federation will have two delegates.

3.10 Webmaster:

Simon Hathrell outlined to the members the general running of the site which, continued to operate well and without any particular problems with-in a reasonable cost. There are a number of new changes including a new hosting service at a reduced cost. There have been many attempts of hacking but due to our many layers of protection without success.

The court booking system is working well has been taken up by several clubs and more are expected in the future.

4. Election of the Committee

Following the resignation of John Noble, Geoff Johnson was proposed as (GC League Organiser) By Terrey Sparks & seconded by Simon Hathrell the following were elected members on-bloc to form the Committee following a proposal by Jan Oldfield seconded by Celia Pearce:

George Collin - (Chairman), Terrey Sparks (Secretary), Arthur Reed (Treasurer), Jonathan Toye (Development & Equipment), Cliff Jones (Coaching), Simon Hathrell (Webmaster), Brian Havill (C.A. Representative), Geoff Johnson & Tracy Martin (G.C. Leagues).

John Noble was thanked by the Chairman for his past service.

5. Honorary Examiner:

Trevor Hiorns had indicated that he wished to stand down and was thanked by the Chairman for all his past services. John Noble had agreed to act as the Honorary Examiner and following a Proposal by Arthur Reed, Seconded by Jonathan Toye was unanimously elected.

6. Programme of Events:

The Secretary reported that apart from the AC & GC league fixtures which are yet to be Formulated, all other events which are a repeat of 2018 are published on the web-site. Which, Include both the AC & GC Club Champions & The Ken Wheeler Shield. The dates for the indoor winter programme, are yet to be finalised.

7. Any Other Business:

There was no further business.

8. Date of Next Meeting:

The Secretary was instructed to determine a suitable date & place for the next AGM in 2019.

There being no further business the Chairman closed the meeting at 15.15hrs thanking all those Officers who had put in considerable efforts in preparing their annual reports.

Croquet Matters Workshop

Following the meeting Dave Gunn the C.A. National Development Officer conducted a 'Croquet Matters Workshop' to which all members were invited. The workshop lasted for 90 minutes and covered all aspects on club development covering recruitment, retention & improvements to club image, advertising, training, communication and all avenues in pushing clubs forward.

The Chairman thanked Dave for giving his presentation which he was sure would be useful to our club committee members.

EAST ANGLIAN CROQUET FEDERATION

Treasurer's Report

AGM and Committee Meeting 31st March 2019

1. Bank accounts

Barclays Bank

The balance as at 14th March was **£5,820.13**

Nationwide

There have been no deposits or withdrawals during the past year and the present balance is **£3,575.70**

2. 2018 Examined Accounts

Copies of the accounts have been sent out to clubs and copies of the signed accounts will be available at the AGM. There was a surplus of **£770.28** on the income and expenditure account compared with £895.77 in the previous year. Subscription income remained the same but there was no income from hire of equipment and whilst indoor produced a reasonable surplus it was £100 down on last year. These were the main factors resulting a reduction of some £190 in total income partially offset by a reduction in expenditure of about £60. Website hosting costs have been kept at a very reasonable level thanks to the careful research carried out by Simon Hathrell and should decrease even further now that Simon has changed the hosting arrangements so that the future costs will be shared with Watford Croquet Club.

The figure of £20 for subscriptions paid in advance is for £10 from the Hickling Broad and Winterton-on-Sea clubs respectively who effectively paid for two years' associate membership last year to be eligible to have some of our equipment on loan.

In summary it has been another satisfactory year financially due to the work undertaken by event organisers and other volunteers at no cost to the Federation. The balance carried forward is **£8,417.33**.

In view of this I recommend that subscription rates for 2020 are held at the present rates of £20 for Full Members and £10 for Associate Members.

3. Examiner

Trevor Hiorns has examined and signed the 2018 accounts but does not wish to continue for another year. John Noble has volunteered to take over this role for 2019 subject to agreement at the AGM.

4. 2019 Figures

The attached table shows the entries to events and payments received as at 19th March 2018. We have also purchased 4 new mallets from Mike Percival to add to our inventory at a cost of £400. Jonathan Toye had agreed with the CA's Development Committee that this cost would be covered by the CA and the £400 has now been repaid to us.

A. Reed

Appendix 1a

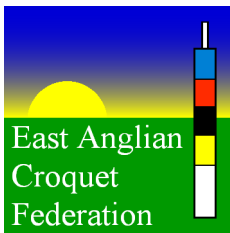
EAST ANGLIAN CROQUET FEDERATION
Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2018

	2018	2017
	£	£
Income		
Subscriptions	560.00	560.00
Equipment hire and sales	-----	50.00
Interest received	3.57	3.57
Net surpluses on playing activities		
GC leagues	83.06	99.00
GC Inter-Counties –Ken Wheeler Shield	-----	32.00
GC Champions Day	12.00	
AC Champions Day –see deficit below	-----	-----
AC League	51.00	54.00
Indoor Croquet	<u>170.00</u>	<u>270.00</u>
	<u>879.63</u>	<u>1068.57</u>
Less Expenditure		
Sundry Expenses	-----	25.75
AGM Hall Hire	30.00	36.00
Website	58.35	59.00
Equipment, indoor	-----	20.05
Equipment outdoor	-----	----
Net deficits on playing activities		
GC Champions Day –see surplus above	-----	8.00
AC Champions Day	21.00	24.00
	<u>109.35</u>	<u>172.80</u>
Surplus for the year	<u>770.28</u>	<u>895.77</u>
Balance Sheet		
Funds brought forward	7647.05	6751.28
Add surplus for the year	770.28	895.77
Funds carried forward	<u>8417.33</u>	<u>7647.05</u>
Represented by:		
Barclays Bank	4861.63	4144.57
Nationwide Building Society	3575.70	3572.13
Debtors and prepayments	-----	58.35
Less creditors –Subscriptions paid in advance	(20.00)	(128.00)
	<u>8417.33</u>	<u>7647.05</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



2019 Annual General Meeting - Secretary's Report

For the year ending 31st December 2018 membership of the E.A.C.F. totalled 28 clubs of which 26 were full members and 2 clubs associates. This was the same number as the previous year. Administration wise things ran smoothly and no particular tricky problems arose. However, in the lower GC handicap range there is a persistent lack of willingness to travel far, resulting in events having to be regionalised.

This was the first year that the new rules for Standard C.A. Membership came into operation in which overall saw national membership of clubs increase from 1,800 to around 5,000 which means that there are still approximately 2,000 UK active club members not registered. This could be because they are not interested or lack of action from club secretaries. I suspect it falls evenly between the two.

I have noticed that because of the influx of new members the popularity of GC 'C' Class Tournaments is on the increase. In this region 3 clubs West Park, Colchester & Hunstanton are now staging annual open events and more are likely to follow if the success of the 'B' level is anything to go by.

So far this increase has not created any demand for 'C' Class Federation Tournament in the region but it is something that needs to be monitored.

From 2019 The C.A. GC Tournament Committee have introduced The Federation Trophy which is to be run on the same lines as the AC Secretaries Shield in which a nominated club from each of the 9 federations proceed to a national knock-out. In the event that this is a new venture there are no guide lines as to which eastern club should represent the region. After a brief e-mailing between committee members it was generally agreed that for this year it should be Hunstanton winner of the GC Handicap League. If this is to be the procedure in the future it needs to be formalised.

No particular problems arose in respect to the published calendar and all events went mainly without too many problems and are fully reported on the federation website thanks to Simon Hathrell our webmaster. The draft calendar for the summer events is also published. Watford have now brought into action their new lawn and now become a 4 lawn club. This gives us more scope to move our tournaments and events more evenly round the eastern area.

For 2018 the area clubs did not bring back any silverware but, Watford came close losing in the Mary Rose to High Wycombe in the final. In the Longman Cup Letchworth lost in the semi-final rounds to Tyneside and Watford also were losing semi-finalists in the Murphy Shield to Hamptworth.

Hopefully, we shall be more successful this coming summer months.

Terrey Sparks
Secretary E.A.C.F.

March 2019

2018 GOLF CROQUET REPORT

APPENDIX 3

LEVEL PLAY

Summary

WATFORD are Champions for the second year in a row. They won five games putting themselves in an unassailable position with one match still to play.

Three matches remained un-played at the end of the season and one match was conceded: Watford were in an unassailable position by 20 September and so did not travel to Hunstanton; difficulties in raising a team due to other commitments and an unwillingness to travel were cited as reasons for other matches being un-played or conceded.

The standard of play was exceptional throughout. Seven teams took part in 2018 down from 12 in 2017: as expected several clubs opted to field teams in the new 3+ league in preference to the Open league.

<i>Results vs.:</i>	Watford	Northants	Hunstanton	Ipswich	Letchworth	Colchester	Enfield	POINTS	NET HOOPS
Watford		4-3 <i>[hoops: 113-118]</i>		4-2 <i>[hoops: 97-82]</i>	4-3 <i>[hoops: 93-97]</i>	6-1 <i>[hoops: 108-97]</i>	4-3 <i>[hoops: 108-101]</i>	10	+24
Northampton	3-4 <i>[hoops: 118-113]</i>		7-0 <i>[hoops: 107-55]</i>		6-1 <i>[hoops: 106-74]</i>	w/o	3-4 <i>[hoops: 92-91]</i>	6	+90
Hunstanton		0-7 <i>[hoops: 55-107]</i>		0-7 <i>[hoops: 55-100]</i>	4-3 <i>[hoops: 112-107]</i>	4-3 <i>[hoops: 90-84]</i>	4-2 <i>[hoops: 90-62]</i>	6	-58
Ipswich	2-4 <i>[hoops: 82-97]</i>		7-0 <i>[hoops: 100-55]</i>		1-5 <i>[hoops: 100-110]</i>		5-1 <i>[hoops: 104-68]</i>	4	+56
Letchworth	3-4 <i>[hoops: 97-93]</i>	1-6 <i>[hoops: 74-106]</i>	3-4 <i>[hoops: 107-112]</i>	5-1 <i>[hoops: 110-100]</i>		3-4 <i>[hoops: 86-82]</i>	5-2 <i>[hoops: 90-67]</i>	4	+4
Colchester	1-6 <i>[hoops: 97-108]</i>	def	3-4 <i>[hoops: 84-90]</i>		4-3 <i>[hoops: 82-86]</i>		4-2 <i>[hoops: 84-72]</i>	4	-9
Enfield	3-4 <i>[hoops: 101-108]</i>	4-3 <i>[hoops: 91-92]</i>	2-4 <i>[hoops: 62-90]</i>	1-5 <i>[hoops: 68-104]</i>	2-5 <i>[hoops: 67-90]</i>	2-4 <i>[hoops: 72-84]</i>		2	-107

Issues

The match format worked well, though some players continue to advocate the old format. Options for 2019 would be to: leave as is; revert back; or, modify the current format. There are strengths and weaknesses with all options.

Distance of travel within the EACF area has clearly been an issue for some clubs. Dividing the league into two areas would mitigate this but would need at least eight teams taking part to make it viable: four clubs per area would allow all play all twice, once at home and once away (that is, six matches each year plus a final).

In addition to issues surrounding distance of travel and match format, arranging matches also remains an issue for some. It might be worth revisiting the idea of fixing dates before the start of the season if there was general support.

John Noble

2018 INTERIM GOLF CROQUET REPORT

B (3+) LEAGUE

The new League was well received and 12 teams took part – 5 in the North/East area and 7 in the Central/West area – with approximately 60 players taking part through-out. Suprisingly all matches were played, some needing a slight extension on the 30th August completion date. Grumbles about the format cropped up throughout the season but this is something that the Committee is obviously considering.

Home team captains did have the responsibility to submit the results to the CA but some seemed unaware of this and others just didn't bother, despite Tracy sending out clear instructions on how to proceed.

The Final was held at Newport on Sunday 30th September between Ipswich and Enfield. Ipswich were unable to field their best team and requested a new date but Enfield, quite reasonably, rejected this. Enfield won 4-3 (100 hoops to 101).

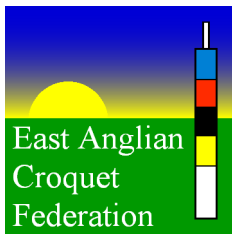
HANDICAP LEAGUE

24 teams took part in the League this year, we lost Thorpeness, Southchurch and Enfield (E) but gained an additional Norwich team. The season kicked off with the first match between the two Northampton teams on 19th April. There were a high number of conceded matches during the season – mainly due to the extreme weather conditions – and, as usual, some of the North/Mid area matches were difficult to get played at all – there were 5 matches conceded in that area and one match went unplayed as the team were trying to fix their last match for a week after the semi-finals !

The Final was held at Newport on Saturday 29th September between Hunstanton and Northampton with Hustanton clinching the trophy with a 10-8 win (96 hoops to 94).

With the loss of Thorpeness only 5 matches were played using the one-court format: two at Sudbury and three at Meldreth. Feedback continues to be positive.

Tracy Martin
24.10.18



2019 Annual General Meeting
A.C. Handicap league Report

Teams from 15 clubs entered the AC Handicap league during 2018 the same number as the previous year. The Beds/Herts region attracted 7 Entries and was won by St. Albans. The Essex/Suffolk region attracted 5 entries and was won by Ipswich. The Cambs/ Norfolk region had 3 entries and was won by Norwich. Unfortunately, Ipswich due to holidays and national fixtures could not turn out a team and had to withdraw and their place was taken by the second place team Newport in the league Play-Off.

All three successful clubs took part in the regional play-off held at Wrest Park on 1st October on a cold and blustery day. St Albans reigned supreme winning all their games and will therefore represent The Eastern Region during 2019 in the National Event 'The Secretaries Shield'.

All League and Play-Off results are published on the Federations web-site.

Terrey Sparks
AC League Organiser

March 2019

2019 Annual General Meeting
Soham Report Year Ending 31st December 2018

It has been another very successful year indoors at The Soham Sports Centre where the Federation ran 5 week-ends over the winters split by the summer months. This year, as agreed we dropped the October session as it ran into the end of the summer season and proved difficult to attract players. Participation in the sessions was high and we have a good rapport with Claire the manageress who is most accommodating to our requirements.

On each day we can accommodate 16 participants split into 8 pairs and over the period we averaged 95% of this figure, ie15 per session. This brought in a gross income of £2,650 from which £2480 was extracted in hall hire fees (£480 rising to £520 from the November session per week-end the last increase being 3 years ago.) leaving a surplus of £170 to be transferred to Federation funds. From this there has been some small expenditure on items such as clips, computer cables and other miscellaneous item.

As a point of interest I have heard a rumour that the centre are trying to raise finance to extend the gymnasium which would take in the current storeroom. This would leave us with nowhere to store our carpet and equipment a bit of a problem. However, this was tried some years previously and fell through. We will just have to wait and see what arises in the future.

Vacancy
(Managers Chair)



This is my sixth year of managing the indoor carpet at Soham and I am starting to feel jaded and in need of a rest. Also someone with a bit more enthusiasm and youth is needed who might be able to bring in some fresh ideas. I would therefore, like to stand down.

However, I am not just going to disappear but, will be quite happy to carry on until a new face can be found. I am not planning to give up playing indoors and would be willing to help out running the occasional session.

I shall start asking around for a volunteer.

Terrey Sparks
Indoors Tournament Organiser

March 2019