

EACF COMMITTEE MEETING – AGM 26 February 2025

Secretary's Report

This year has not been quite as straightforward as last year for reasons I will elucidate later in this report.

The membership of the Federation has now grown to thirty-nine clubs of which thirty-two are full members and seven are affiliates. New clubs are West Mersea, All Seasons and Old Brentwoodians.

I am pleased to report that Northampton and Ipswich Croquet Clubs are now fully operational in their new locations.

Administratively there is nothing unusual to report. Subscription notices were issued in December 2023 rather than at the beginning of the year and virtually all clubs paid their subscriptions in good time. The exceptions were principally because the relevant contacts we have for clubs had either changed without letting us know or had similarly changed e-mail addresses so that they failed to receive the notice.

The AC and GC leagues have, in the main, gone according to plan but there are concerns about their future in some respects. For example, the Essex/Suffolk AC league was reduced to just two participants and the Eastern Area Open GC league was a non-starter due to a lack of entries. These and other related matters will be separately addressed later in this meeting.

In AC congratulations are due to Enfield, Newport and Peterborough for winning their leagues and to Peterborough for winning the Chairman's Cup for the third year in a row. The Anderson Shield final between Wrest Park and Pinchbeck will be played early in 2025 and bad weather caused the AC Champions Day to be abandoned; it proved impossible to reschedule it – a great pity as it had more entrants than ever before. In GC congratulations are due to the Suffolk team for winning the Ken Wheeler Shield, to Watford for winning the GC Open Trophy, to Leighton Linlade for winning the GC B Level Trophy, to Unity (Sudbury), Colchester, Newport Oaks and Stony Stratford Blues for winning their handicap divisions and to Colchester for winning the final, to Kevin Connolly for winning the Champions Day GC Level Play and to Stuart Stafford for winning the GC Handicap.

On the National field, congratulations to Hertfordshire on winning the AC Intercounties for the first time since 1908, to Peterborough for winning the Secretary's Shield for the first time and to Cambridge who were again successful in the Varsity match. Commiserations to

Meldreth who lost in the final of the Federation Cup to Phyllis Court A team having beaten Phyllis Court B team I the semis.

All in all a successful year for the regions clubs, but a mixed one for some elements of the leagues. There will probably have to be some changes made this season.

Fran Lambert
Secretary

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