

Minutes of the AGM of the Welsh Croquet Association held via Video Conference at 10am on Sunday 6th November 2022

Present

Rich Waterman (Chairman), Chris Williams (Secretary), Garry McElwain (Treasurer), Sarah Andrew (Llanfairfechan), Geoff Barton Greenwood (Llandaff), Ian Burrridge (Committee), John Evans (Llandovery), Tal Golesworthy, Dayal Gunasekera, Kevin Ham, David Harding, Rick Harding, Sue Mackay, Kathleen Martin (Cardigan), Giles Pepperell, Chris Roberts, Arthur Rowe, Angharrad Walters (Committee)

Item 1. Apologies

Quiller Barrett, Gareth Denyer, Dave Evans, Mike Parry, Colin Prichard, Paul Pristavec, Richard Smith

Item 2. Minutes of the previous meeting on 7th November 2021.

The minutes of the meeting of 7th November 2021 were not read to the meeting, but taken as read. C Roberts proposed and S Mackay seconded that they be accepted as a true record and the meeting approved.

Item 3. Matters Arising.

None.

Item 4. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman reported that the Welsh CA appears to have 10 clubs as members and 35 individual members, which is the most ever individual members we have had.

The Chairman reported that on the Teams front it was "Nice Try but no cigar". The main event in 2022 was the Tier 2.1 AC World Teams Championship at Budleigh Salterton. Wales (Ian Burrridge, Angharra finished a close second to Scotland

On the individual front

Ian Burrridge played in the President's Cup – the CA's top AC selection event. Both Ian and Euan Burrridge played in the Ricki Savage Memorial Trophy which is the CA's top GC selection event. In the GC World Championship in Sussex Wales was represented by Ian Burrridge, who lost in the Plate Final and Chris Roberts.

Giles Pepperell (Llanfairfechan) won the CA's C Level GC final.

The GC Inter-Club competition for the John Evans Trophy was won once again by Llanfairfechan Seagulls who beat Llandovery in the final at Llanidloes.

The Glamorgan club has success in the South West Federation winning the Autumn Short Croquet tournament at Budleigh Salterton and winning Division 2 of the Parkstone Trophy (AC Advanced League), and thus were promoted to Division 1 in 2023.

The Chairman thanked John Evans for all his works and effort around Wales supporting all the new clubs.

Item 5. Constitutional Amendment

The committee proposed that section 5 Finance be amended to change the financial year to be from 1 October to 30 September. The amended version is attached to these minutes.

The amendments were proposed by Ian Burrridge and seconded by Garry McElwain. All present agreed to the amendments and so they were passed nem con.

Item 6. Accounts.

Following the passing of the previous motion to change the financial year, the accounts for both 2021 and 2022 were presented to the meeting. The 2021 accounts showed a deficit for the year to 31st December 2021 of £1972.44 and a balance of £2039.61. Income was £1261.12 and expenditure

£3233.56. The increased expenditure was almost wholly due to the donation of £2000 to the Glamorgan Club for the work they did to the lawns.

The 2022 accounts showed a surplus for the year of £45.23 and a balance of £2084.84. Income was £1286.83 and expenditure £1241.60.

Currently the Welsh CA operates on a small profit each year and pays all of the entry fees for the Home Internationals and half the entry fee for WCF team events.

Rich Waterman proposed a record of thanks to Garry McElwain and Chris Williams for preparing both sets of accounts.

The acceptance of both the 2021 and the 2022 accounts were proposed by Tal Golesworthy and seconded by Sue Mackay.

Item 7. Reports from clubs

Written reports from a number of clubs had been received and are attached to these minutes. A few further verbal reports were given to the meeting.

Rich Waterman had visited the Cambrian Coast club who were now having to play indoors.

John Evans said he had been very impressed with the play from Llanfairfechan players at the Welsh GC Team final at Llanidloes.

Llanfairfechan reported that they were now 32 years old as a club and that the vast majority of members now only played GC. They have 2 lawns. One is exactly full size whilst the other is slightly smaller. There is space for it to be full size but it would be very expensive to make it full size. Currently most of the AC is played on short lawns, but it is hoped that there will be more full-lawn AC in future.

It was reported that Welshpool had joined the CA and that we needed to contact them.

Item 8. Fixtures and Events.

The Secretary reported that in 2023 there will be the following events

April 29-30 Welsh GC Championship

Aug 11-13 Welsh AC Championship

May 20-21 AC Home Internationals in Pendle

June 10-11 GC Home Internationals in Carrickmines

Aug 2-5 European Teams in Cheltenham

GC Teams

It is planned that the event will be run again in 2023 with the heat at Merthyr Mawr and Llanfairfechan at the end of July followed by the final again at Llanidloes in September. It was clarified that the event was only for Welsh clubs.

Item 9. Election of Officers and Committee.

Under the constitution the three Officer bearers are elected for three-year terms whilst the two ordinary members are elected annually. The following committee had been elected in 2021

Chairman	R Waterman (retires 2023)
Secretary	CN Williams (retires 2022)
Treasurer	GJ McElwain (retires 2024)
Committee	MJ Evans, AR Walters

The following new committee was elected for 2022-2023

Chairman	R Waterman (retires 2023)
Secretary	CN Williams (retires 2025)

Treasurer	GJ McElwain (retires 2024)
Committee	IJ Burrige, AR Walters

Rich Waterman thanked the Secretary for all his hard work over the year.

Item 10.Election of Selection Committee

The following were elected to the Selection Committee. IJ Burrige, AR Walters, CN Williams.

Item 11.Any Other Business.

None.

Date of next meeting

The 2023 AGM will be held by video conference at a date after the end of the 2022 season. Probably in early November (Sunday 5 November possibly).

The meeting closed at 10.52

Proposed Amendment to Constitution

That the financial year be changed to 1st October to 30th September
and

As an interim arrangement the 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022 will be revised to 1st January 2022 to 30th September 2022

and

That the constitution be amended as follows to implement the change.

5. Finance

(a) The membership ~~and financial~~ years shall be from 1st January to 31st December

(b) The financial year shall be from 1st October to 30th September

~~(b)~~ Affiliated Club and Associate Member subscriptions shall be determined at the Annual General Meeting

~~(d)~~ Subscriptions must be paid by May 31st

~~(e)~~ The accounts will be prepared by the Treasurer and presented for approval at each Annual General Meeting. A person appropriately qualified or experienced (who shall not be a member of the Executive Committee) shall examine and report on the presented accounts.

Reports from clubs for 2022

Welsh Club 2022 reports

Annual Report from Cardigan Croquet Club

We had to move from the Cliff Hotel due to building extensions and our playing area no longer being available. We now play on the King George V Playing Fields in town

We now have only one lawn instead of two, that quite small with a less good surface and no indoor facilities. The grass however is cut regularly for free by the groundsman - rugby / football / bowls and tennis also use the Playing Fields. We have no charges to pay and this means that we can be self-supporting on our membership, our equipment having been bought by a Welsh Gov Sports Fund Grant

We have 14 members who have happily played there April -October
We have played 2 away matches against Llandovery and Aberdovey but felt that we do not have the facilities to host home matches. For this same reason, we have not joined any Welsh competitions

We have linked with the local Parkinsons Support Group and several members and their carers come weekly to watch our members play and we are delighted that one of them has become a playing member

We are to have our AGM in Novemberhappily in the Cliff Restaurant !

Kathleen Martin Club Sec

Glamorgan LT&CC – report for the WCA AGM 2022.

This season has been a good one on the lawns with the Advanced League team winning the 2nd division for promotion to the top division in the South West Federation (SWF). Other teams have had varying successes with a general improvement in the league positions. As a club we also won the top division of the SWF short croquet event held in October. Members have been the backbone – at least in numbers - of the AC and GC teams for Glamorgan at the Counties event and the equivalent in the Home Internationals for the Welsh CA.

The lawns at GLTCC have settled well, with visiting teams complimentary of the standard of them. This is due to the hard work put in by the Lawns Advisory Group – or LAGs! – of Mike Parry, Jim Beach and John Evans.

Membership has remained steady throughout the year, with a small number increasing overall membership. We are beginning to tap into the population around Bridgend, but there remains work to be done here.

Paul Pristavec
Secretary, GLTCC

Llandovery Croquet and Bowls Club

Annual report 2022

We had a very successful 2022 season with membership increasing to 26 playing members. We continued to hold club afternoons on Tuesdays and Thursdays which were very well attended by a dozen or more members. For club afternoons we set out 2 courts, 35 yards by 20 yards, on our bowling green. On Thursday mornings we lay out one full size court. We only play GC at Llandovery.

We had mid-week matches with Cardigan at home and with Llanidloes and Mumbles both at home and away. One of our teams was successful in winning the South Wales section of the WCA Inter Club competition, but our hopes were dashed when we were heavily defeated by a strong Llanfairfechan team in the final at Llanidloes.

At the end of the season, we held what should have been the final of the All Wales GC Handicap. Due to a lack of interest from other clubs, it ended up being just a West Wales event involving Mumbles and Llandovery, with 4 players from each club taking part. It was played under Advantage croquet rules, which proved to be very successful as many games ended up with a net score of 7-6.

During the year we successfully obtained a grant from Sport Wales which, combined with a donation from Llandovery Rotary Club, enabled us to buy 2 new sets of balls and a set of Ultra stainless steel hoops from the CA. These proved to be slightly more difficult to run than our old cast iron hoops.

We continue to maintain the bowling green ourselves, using Duncan Hector's recommended lawn treatments, and with the help of a part time groundsman who has cut the grass twice weekly. This has produced a good fast playing surface which has undoubtedly helped improve the standard of play.

John Evans

Llanfairfechan and North Wales Croquet Club

Report on 2022 season

The Club continues to increase its profile and maintain membership numbers above 60. We have individual members who are leaping up the World Rankings and we made two nominations for CA Most Improved Player. Our teams are also strong. We were second time winners of the Welsh Croquet Association (WCA) GC Teams tournament and winners of the Snowdonia Cup, a local competition with both codes of the game.

We again hosted the Northern heat of the WCA Team Golf Croquet Championship. This was a success despite the attempts of the moles to ruin one edge of a lawn. We increased our team players for both GC and AC. Our AC coaching sessions are steady recruiting events and we will continue them next year.

We were not happy with the rebranding of the Croquet Association to Croquet England. Representation to name the CA Croquet GB or Croquet UK received negative responses written in Legalese.

We continue to work to improve the lawns and we are grateful to the members who toil in their spare time on both the outside and inside spaces.

Sarah Andrew, Secretary

Mumbles Croquet Club

Report on the 2022 season

Mumbles Croquet Club (MCC) started in 2019 so this report relates to our fourth season. The club has an arrangement with the Mumbles Bowling Club to use their green on a Monday and Sunday. After having played the 2021 season on cricket outfield of Ashleigh Road Playing fields we were able to return to the Mumbles Bowls Green where the lawns were sufficiently refurbished. However, holes caused by foxes remains a problem. With Covid restrictions more relaxed we abandoned the online booking system.

This season we attracted more members, including a U3A Ukulele group, which brought our membership up to 43. We had a passing interest displayed by a few local young people which has led us to review our safeguarding procedures and associated DBS checks.

During the season we had two successful doubles internal competitions, the winners being Andrew Wright & Irene Bevan and Kath Wright & Andy Skelling respectively. One of our members, Martin Jones, won the Glamorgan Grimshaw cup; a cup which apparently doesn't currently seem to exist! However, we provided Martin with a temporary cardboard and foil replica.

During the year we obtained a grant from Sports Wales for a set of primary balls and a set of Foxy hoops balls, this enables us to set up a practice area should the two main lawns become overcrowded. Foxy hoops are, theoretically ideal for a shared bowls/croquet lawn, however experience of these narrow stem hoops reveals that repeated use of the holes results in loose hoops. This is not a problem with the more conventional 'carrot' stem hoops.

On Wednesday the 21st September we hosted a friendly match with the Llandovery club, which Llandovery won by 9 games to 7. On the following Saturday, the 24th September, four members went to Llandovery to take part in an advantage croquet competition, which seemed to work out satisfactorily.

Richard Wood

(Secretary)

17 Oct 2022

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