

Minutes of the AGM of the Welsh Croquet Association held at Dyffryn Gardens on Saturday 22nd July 2000

Present

J Evans, J Grimshaw, C Williams, I Burridge, T Golesworthy, K Ham, S Harding, S Mackay, G McElwain, D Morgan, T Mrozinski, P Pristavec, A Trickey, D Trickey, S Tudor, C Tuthill, E Williams

Apologies

W Prichard, B Marsh

In the absence of the Chairman, J Evans as Deputy took the chair.

Item 1. Minutes of the Meeting of July 17th 1999.

The minutes of the meeting of 17th July 1999 were read to the meeting. P Pristavec proposed and G McElwain seconded that they be accepted as a true record and the meeting approved.

Item 2. Matters Arising.

C Williams reported on the issue of Domain and its impact upon WCF membership.

There is a suggestion from the WCF that they may scrap the separate status of full and observer member. Such a development would mean that under the WCF constitution, Wales could not remain within the CA domain and retain its separate WCF membership. The Welsh CA believe that, if this suggestion were implemented, it should withdraw from the Domain and preserve its independent status. This would not preclude WCA members from individual membership of the CA.

A proposal from the WCA is awaited.

Item 3. Chairman's Report.

The Acting Chairman welcomed members to the meeting and explained that as the only member of the committee without portfolio, he had been persuaded by the others to act as Deputy Chairman.

He reported on the success of Wales in winning the inaugural World team 14-point Championship in Italy. The team comprised I Burridge, J Evans and C Williams. Much publicity had been forthcoming following this success and thanks must be recorded to L Williams for her hard work in this field.

The Welsh CA had also sent A and B teams to Dublin in May to play matches against Ireland. Although both matches ended in defeat, the experience was most enjoyable. Carrickmines is a wonderful place to play and the lawns were in superb condition.

He complemented the ground staff at Dyffryn for the continued improvements in the lawns and also thanked Dyffryn Croquet Club for its support of WCA events and for the use of the lawns.

The Welsh Championship had returned to a full entry this year and a special welcome was made to first-time entrants S Tudor, T Golesworthy and K Ham.

Item 4. Accounts.

The accounts were presented to the meeting which showed a deficit for the year to 31st December 1999 of £144.15 resulting in a balance in hand of £456.95. The principal items of expenditure had been lawn hire (£175) and match expenses (£121.95). The Treasurer explained that the match expenses were in respect of entertaining visiting teams. The standard of hospitality received when the Welsh CA made visits abroad was exceptional, and we are obliged to reciprocate when these teams visit Wales if we are to continue to undertake international fixtures.

In consideration of the revenue shortfall for the second consecutive year, C Tuthill proposed and J Grimshaw seconded that Welsh Championship entry fees should increase to £20 and that the WCA membership fee, which had not increased since the formation in 1987, should be set at £6. I. Burridge agreed the Championship proposal but proposed an amendment that the membership fee should increase to £10 for playing members, but should remain at £5 for those who did not wish to take

part in Welsh CA events, but still wished to support the Association. S Harding seconded this amendment and the meeting approved it by 11 votes to 5. These therefore become the rates for 2001.

D Morgan proposed and S Tudor seconded that the accounts be accepted and the meeting agreed.

Item 5. Fixtures and Events.

The match against the CA at Dyffryn in August has been cancelled by mutual consent, and the lack of enthusiasm by either party for this contest means that it is unlikely that this fixture will be continued at least in the near future. However, a match against the Scottish CA is scheduled for August Bank Holiday weekend and this will go ahead.

The Golf Croquet World Championship is to be held in Cairo in October but no Welsh player has come forward to participate. K Ham indicated that he might be interested.

In 2001 it is probable that both Ireland and Canada would like to visit and that we are due a trip to Switzerland. The meeting agreed that we should continue to play this type of fixture but that the limited resources in terms of both finance and players meant that we should be careful not to plan too many events in a year. As a guide it was decided that a maximum of two Home matches a year was within our means. It was agreed that the Secretary should enter discussions with other associations to prepare a sustainable programme.

Item 6. Election of Officers and Committee.

J Grimshaw stood down as Secretary but is prepared to continue on the committee as Treasurer. C Williams had been nominated as Secretary. There being no other nominations, the Committee was deemed elected.

Chairman	W Prichard
Deputy	J Evans
Secretary	C Williams
Treasurer	J Grimshaw

Item 7. Any Other Business.

E Williams said that Dyffryn House was on the market but that there was no further news.

I Burridge was encouraged by the number of potential A Class players now in the membership of the Welsh CA.

C Williams said that he had established a Welsh CA web site, and that the annual newsletter would be distributed by e-mail to those able to receive it, and by post to others.

He also said that a vote of thanks should be recorded to J Grimshaw who had been instrumental in the formation of the Welsh CA in 1987 and had been its Secretary since that time. The meeting agreed.