

Minutes of the AGM of the Welsh Croquet Association held at Dyffryn Gardens on Sunday 2nd August 2009

Present

WdeB Prichard (Chairman), MJ Evans (Vice Chairman), CN Williams (Secretary), GJ McElwain (Treasurer), IJ Burrige, KGF Ham, SM Mackay, AJ Mrozinski, DR Walters, P Pristavec, RH Smith, MR Hayes

Apologies

J Bowen, EB Marsh, DW Scott, T Golesworthy, L Potter

Item 1. Minutes of the Meeting of 3rd August 2008.

The minutes of the meeting of 3rd August 2008 were read to the meeting. MJ Evans proposed and GJ McElwain seconded that they be accepted as a true record and the meeting approved.

Item 2. Matters Arising.

There is no unsold stock of shirts, because the shirts had been ordered 'bespoke'. GJM will take another order of shirts. Anyone wanting one should get in touch with Garry.

There has not been much progress over a Welsh Golf Croquet Championship. K Ham will have another look at various options. The Secretary was actioned to put out an email to ask who would be interested in playing and whether they would favour a 1 day or 2 day event. The event could be run in one day as a straight knockout. In two days we could play an all play all single game event with 8 or 10 players.

The match in Canada was cancelled, because we could not raise a team to travel. The home match against Ireland in early July 2009 was also cancelled, because the Irish could not raise a team.

Item 3. Accounts.

The accounts for 2008 were presented to the meeting and they showed a surplus for the year to 31st December 2008 of £71.63

The good news is that we are still in surplus. The subscriptions and entry fees were both down slightly in the year. The Welsh CA had also given a grant to the Dyffryn club to cover the cost of a set of Dawson balls, so that the club could be completely Dawson.

The Secretary reported that we have 33 paid up members in 2009 and about another six or seven who would pay if they were approached. Many players only pay when they are seen by one of the committee members and this is usually at the Inter County Championship.

The accounts were proposed by IJ Burrige and seconded by DR Walters.

Item 4. Chairman's Report.

The Chairman thanked the Dyffryn club for giving up their lawns once again for the Welsh Championship and he complimented the ground staff at Dyffryn for the continued improvements in the lawns.

The Chairman congratulated the Home Internationals team for finishing second again this year and for beating England for the first time ever in the Home Internationals.

Item 5. Fixtures and Events.

The Secretary reported that the 2009 handicap weekend for the Trickey Trophy had been won by David Richards. The Wales team failed to defend the European Team Championship in June; losing to Canada in the quarter finals. Wales also fielded a second 'B' team, which had a couple of good wins, but failed to reach the knockout stages.

Ian Burrige, Chris Williams and David Walters represented Wales in the WCF World Championship in Florida in June, whilst Cliff Jones represented Wales in the 2008 European Championship in Jersey.

Kevin Ham and Roger Bowen represented Wales in the European Golf Croquet Championship at Budleigh in June.

Wales will be visiting Switzerland in September to defend the Coupe des Vallees. The only fixture we are due to play in 2010 is Scotland away.

The secretary pointed out that it is a continual problem raising teams for these matches and it would be a shame to have to cancel any of them.

Item 6. Election of Officers and Committee.

IJ Burrige was nominated for the committee and elected nem con and there being no other nominations for the other positions, the committee was deemed elected.

Chairman	WdeB Prichard
Deputy	J Evans
Secretary	CN Williams
Treasurer	GJ McElwain
Committee	IJ Burrige

Item 7. Any Other Business.

There was a long discussion on the position of Wales and the relationship with the WCF and the CA. The consensus of the meeting was that Wales wants to play in the proposed 2010 World Team Championship and how can we ensure that this happens. It was pointed out that there are a number of obstacles in the way. Wales is currently in the domain of the CA and the Llanfairfechan club in north Wales, has recently benefited from a large grant from the CA. To date the Welsh CA has not had a concept of member clubs, but this can be re-visited. Moreover Glamorgan would not be guaranteed a place in the Inter County Championship if Wales was out of the domain. If we were to seek to leave the domain again, then the clubs in north Wales would have to be consulted.

There is also the question of Wales's status in the WCF and whether we should really be Associate members or not. Wales pays £105 a year for Associate Membership. Observer members pay nothing. It was pointed out in the meeting that we should also look at the possibility of becoming full members of the WCF. In order to do this an association needs to be recognised by five bodies, eg clubs or federations and needs to have fifty members. Full membership, which would cost £210 per year, would give us one vote in the WCF Council and one vote was significant at the recent meeting in Florida.

The 2010 AGM will be held on the Sunday of the 2010 Welsh Championship.