

## **Minutes of the AGM of the Welsh Croquet Association held at Cheltenham on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

### **Present**

IJ Burrige (Chairman), MJ Evans (Vice Chairman), CN Williams (Secretary), GJ McElwain (Treasurer), GS Denyer, DL Gunasekera, TF Jenkins, R Waterman

### **Item 1. Apologies**

P Pristavec, KE Jones, AL Rowe, SM Mackay, RQ Barrett, TJ Goleworthy, CCT Roberts, RH Smith, DR Walters

### **Item 2. Minutes of the previous meeting on 1st July 2018.**

The minutes of the meeting of 1st July 2018 were not read to the meeting, but taken as read. MJ Evans proposed and DL Gunasekera 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 on the playing side there had not been much success in the last year. Wales had finished third in the 2018 GC Home Internationals and fourth in the 2019 AC Home Internationals at Budleigh.

On the individual front Rich Waterman represented Wales in the 2018 European AC Championships in Sweden and qualified for the knockout where he lost to the eventual winner Jose Riva. Ian Burrige and Peter Balchin represented Wales in the 2019 European GC Championships at Budleigh with Ian progressing to the knockout stage.

The Chairman reported that the second Welsh Championships to be held at Cheltenham had gone well and was very friendly and that it was a surprise that the Cheltenham club turned round a few weeks later and said that they were unable to host us in 2019.

With regards to forthcoming events there will be an AC World Championship in Melbourne, Australia in February 2020 and a GC World Team Championship in Spain – probably in June which could lead to a possible clash with the AC Home Internationals. Wales will be hosting the 2020 GC Home Internationals at Nailsea in mid-July. The 2020 AC Home Internationals are scheduled to be held at Carrickmines in Ireland.

The Chairman reported that the Great Britain AC Squad has been changed to an England AC squad and that he had been picked to play for Great Britain against the USA in the Solomon Trophy in the USA. Finally Rich Waterman has been appointed the new CA International Performance Director (IPD).

### **Item 5. Accounts.**

The accounts for 2018 were presented to the meeting and they showed a deficit for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018 of £118.47 and a balance of £3000.07. Income was £426.53 and expenditure £545.00.

There was a query as to why there were three Home Internationals payments in 2018 when there were only two events. GMc was tasked with finding out why. It was thought that he may have paid for the GC event twice. Once to the CA by cheque prior to the event and also in cash at the event. (Post Meeting Note – this was the explanation)

There was a query as to why there was a drop in Tournament Fee income. The 2017 figure included the half of the Team Entry Fees paid by the players. It was felt that in future these should be split out.

The accounts were proposed by T Jenkins and seconded by G Denyer.

### **Item 6. Dyffryn Situation**

It was reported that the Dyffryn club had left Dyffryn Gardens at the end of 2018 and had moved to the only viable venue; namely the Glamorgan Lawn Tennis and Croquet Club at Merthyr Mawr, near Bridgend. The club is a very old established club that has three tennis courts and an area which is large enough for two croquet courts. The intention is that the croquet club will amalgamate with the tennis club sometime over the winter.

The croquet area was effectively a field and work started last October to cut the grass down to a level where some form of croquet can be played. The grass is now down to a reasonable length, but there is a 50cm slope from one corner to the other. In particular John Evans put a lot of effort into the cutting of the grass. The Nailsea croquet club were very generous and gave Dyffryn their old Toro mower. The croquet club now need to decide on whether to spend about £20k to relay the lawns. The croquet club has started considering ways to fund the project. Suggested sources include Sport Wales, creating Life Memberships, applying for grants or loans from the CA and the WCF, though any request to the WCF would need to come from the Welsh CA. It was suggested that we could ask for a £5k loan from the WCF and a £5k grant.

At this point the Chairman proposed that the Welsh CA donates £2k to the Dyffryn Club. This was seconded by Rich Waterman and passed nem con.

It was suggested that a request should be sent to all Welsh CA members inviting them to contribute to the Dyffryn club. There was a suggestion that the Welsh CA could create a £1000 life membership.

#### **Item 7. Fixtures and Events.**

Most of these were covered in the Chairman's Report.

There was a discussion over the Welsh Championship for 2020 in light of the reluctance of Cheltenham to hold them in 2019. There are two issues

- 1) Combining the two Championships.
- 2) A venue for 2020

The meeting felt that we should thank Cheltenham for hosting the events in 2019 even after they had initially said they could not host them and that we should ask if we can hold the two events at Cheltenham over a three day weekend as per 2018 and 2019 - at a date convenient to Cheltenham (preferably at the end of June). It was hoped that if the lawns at Merthyr Mawr are re-laid in 2020 then we will be able to return to two separate Championships from 2021 – a three day AC one and a two day GC one.

There are no inter-CA events planned for the rest of 2019 or 2020.

#### **Item 8. 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 2018

Chairman	IJ Burrige (retires 2020)
Secretary	CN Williams (retires 2019)
Treasurer	GJ McElwain (retires 2021)
Committee	MJ Evans, DR Walters

The following new committee was elected for 2019-2020

Chairman	IJ Burrige (retires 2020)
Secretary	CN Williams (retires 2022) (proposed GJ McElwain, seconded R Waterman)
Treasurer	GJ McElwain (retires 2021)
Committee	MJ Evans, DR Walters (proposed R Waterman, seconded T Jenkins)

#### **Item 9. Election of Selection Committee**

The following were elected to the Selection Committee. IJ Burrige, DR Walters, CN Williams (proposed MJ Evans, seconded DL Gunasekera)

**Item 10. Any Other Business.**

John Evans covered the situation at the other Welsh clubs that he has been involved with. Llandovery now have about 20 members; almost all of whom are retired and play GC. A new club has been started on the Mumbles in Swansea. They play on Sunday and Monday on an old rough bowling green.

John reported that the club at the Cliff Hotel, Cardigan is still going strong and that there have been friendly matches between Cardigan v Llandovery and Mumbles v Dyffryn. It was also reported that a club has been started at Llanidloes.

The Secretary reported that 26 members had paid their subs for 2019.

**Date of next meeting**

The 2020 AGM will be held on the Sunday of the 2020 Welsh Championship whenever and wherever that is.