



NEWSLETTER

April 2020

Your Committee has been active (meeting via Zoom). They are:

Bill Arliss (Sussex County: Chairman and Tournament Manager);
Richard Carline (Sussex County, Coaching Officer).
Ian Cobbold (Cheam: Development Officer);
Jon Diamond (Royal Tunbridge Wells: Webmaster);
Jonathan Isaacs (Sussex County: Chairman of the CA Council);
John Low (Sussex County: Leagues Organiser);
George Noble (Surbiton: Lawns Officer);
Samir Patel (Surbiton: co-opted as a Member of the CA Council for the South East)
John Reddish (Dulwich: Secretary);
Andrew Stewart (West Worthing: Treasurer)

You will have noticed that croquet playing has been very limited by the current pandemic. It is still taking place on-line; on the Secretary's carpet and in rear gardens around the country. If the lockdown is lifted we may try to organise something competitive later in the summer. We will let you know.

Refunds

The Committee decided that, since it was unlikely that any Leagues or Tournaments would be held in 2020, a full refund of all payments should be offered. With some important exceptions, all refunds have now been made. Two clubs generously donated their payments to the SECF in acknowledgement of the work we undertake. Other Clubs who have not applied for a refund or agreed to donate are reminded of their right to apply.

Grants policy

The criteria for making a grant to a Member Club have been reviewed by the Committee. The Development Officer, Ian Cobbold, has prepared a policy statement in the light of agreements reached. By way of preview, this will include provisions for a maximum of £500 per grant; the use of the CA Development Committee process to validate applications and recognition that a Federation grant is not automatic following a CA grant and remains a decision for the Committee. There will be no additional, lower limit imposed on awards to smaller clubs and the Federation will continue to make grants to clubs and incipient clubs, without the need for an application to the CA or CA validation, in appropriate cases.

Grants made

The Committee has made a grant of £300 to West Worthing towards the cost of the installation of an electrical supply to their croquet pavilion, which has been completed. This project was recognised as both innovative and ecologically sound. It involves solar panels and a battery and is believed to be the second such installation at a croquet club in England (the first being at Littlehampton).

The Committee also authorised a grant of £500 to Reigate Priory. The Club was awarded the maximum CA grant for a small club (£1,000) at the last meeting of the CA Development Committee towards the cost of their project (£5,000 to £6,000). The work on the levelling of the lawn is due to commence in or about September 2020. The grant will not be payable until the work has been completed.

Succession planning

There is a need for new people to undertake the roles of Chairman and Secretary of the SECF. The Chairman will be writing to the Chairs of all Member Clubs to advise them of the position and to invite nominations or recommendations.

The date of the next AGM

For several reasons, the next AGM will be held in November 2020 (at Surbiton as usual). No amendment of the Constitution is required for this but it is likely that an amendment to change the start of the financial year from 1 January to 1 October will be proposed, if the change is to become permanent. Otherwise, the accounts to be approved at the AGM (i.e. "the Accounts for the previous year") will be the accounts for a period which ended more than 10 months before the meeting. If anyone has any thoughts about the moving of the AGM from February to November, the Secretary would be pleased to receive them (jreddish@btinternet.com).

Improvements in communication

The CA is keen to promote improved communication with and between Federations. Eugene Chang (Member of the CA Executive Board and Chairman of the Marketing Committee) has agreed to discuss proposals with a nominated representative of each Federation. Bill Arliss has agreed that he should be the nominated representative of the SECF for this purpose. Expect developments.

Emergency assistance

An informal survey of SECF clubs produced 30 responses to the effect that they had no need of an application to the CA Emergency Assistance Panel. One SECF club approached Ian Burrige (as CA Treasurer) and were referred to John Reddish (as Chairman of the CA Emergency Assistance Panel). Their proposed application did not appear to fall within the current scheme, which covers financial difficulties encountered between now and the end of October 2020. This engendered disappointment, The Federation will support a proposal for the extension of the scheme. Several clubs have said that they will be able to meet their liabilities until October 2020 but anticipated real difficulties in early 2021. The CA Council is already aware of this problem. It is reasonable to expect that an appropriate response will be forthcoming from the CA in due course..