

WELSH CROQUET ASSOCIATION
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**MINUTES OF THE AGM OF THE WELSH CROQUET ASSOCIATION
HELD AT DYFFRYN GARDENS ON SATURDAY 21ST JULY 1995**

PRESENT: **W PRICHARD**
 J GRIMSHAW
 C WILLIAMS
 J EVANS
 D ARTHUR
 I BURRIDGE
 S HARDING
 G McELWAIN
 C TUTHILL
 L PALMER
 A TRICKEY

APOLOGIES: **S CARTER**
 B MARSH
 P PRISTAVEC
 M EVANS
 B LEWIS

ITEM 1 - MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF 2ND JULY 1994

The minutes of the last meeting were read by the Secretary. J Evans proposed and S Harding seconded that they be accepted and the meeting approved.

ITEM 2 - MATTERS ARISING

The dates of the MacRobertson Shield had been set for the second half of June, and the meeting agreed that a match against either Australia or New Zealand should be arranged prior to 15th June if possible. The Secretary was asked to follow up on the tentative approach that had been made to these two countries in 1994.

The WCF had not yet established criteria for national representation.

ITEM 3 - CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman welcomed the members to the meeting. He said that the last year had been disappointing in the field of club development. Pen Pergwm was likely to lose its lawn and Swansea and Knighton were no longer active. A lawn had been established at Pontypridd but the public response had been disappointing. Llanfairfechan continued to prosper and had won the Apps Heley Award , a CA award for the club that had made most progress in 1994.

Membership of the Welsh CA remained at the same level as the previous year.

He then reported that the Welsh CA had been awarded two direct entries into this year's World Championship, but had been excluded from attaining any further qualifiers through the European Qualifying competition as a result. He then explained the Welsh CA selection policy. The sub-committee responsible for selection used the ranking list as the basis for World Championship selection offering the places from the top down until all available places were filled. For other competitions or matches members were chosen dependant upon the strength of the opposition with a view to spreading representation as widely as possible.

The Chairman introduced a discussion on the format of the Welsh Championship. The meeting considered that twelve was the ideal number given that the competition had to be completed in three days and that only two lawns are available at Dyffryn. I Burridge said that the tournament should be organised in such a way that no player could be eliminated by the loss of a single game. This had been the situation in the current tournament. C Williams and the Secretary agreed to devise a format that would correct this anomaly.

The World Croquet Federation were proposing the introduction of a World Team Championship. The idea had been put forward by South Africa who wished to host the first tournament for all countries who were not involved in the MacRobertson Shield. This presented a problem for the Home Countries as current participation in the MacRobertson Shield was by Great Britain. There had been a suggestion that the GB place should be taken by England but this was thought to be a deterrent to players who may then wish to represent England in what is, after all, the world's premier team competition, rather than elect to play for their natural nation, and this could weaken the CAs of Wales, Scotland and Ireland.

The meeting agreed with I Burridge that the most equitable solution would be for the MacRobertson Shield(including England) to form the first division of a World Team Championship with either a play-off or automatic promotion for the winners of division two. The Secretary was asked to write to the World Croquet Federation to express these views.

ITEM 4 - ACCOUNTS

The accounts for the year to 31st December 1994 were presented to the meeting. D Arthur proposed and G McElwain seconded that they be accepted and the meeting approved.

The Secretary then explained that he had a quotation for an honours board at £120 plus VAT which was greater than the sum donated by Mike Llewellyn-Williams for this purpose, and he sought approval from the meeting to commit the additional sum. S Harding proposed and J Evans seconded and the meeting agreed.

ITEM 5 - WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP

The 1995 world Championship had been held in France and the meeting congratulated I Burridge on reaching the semi-final. C Williams had also represented the Welsh CA and they reported that the lawns were in excellent condition but that the entry fee and the contribution towards accommodation and food was exorbitant given

the standard provided. The Secretary was asked to write a letter of protest to the World Croquet Federation.

C Williams reported on the World Federation Council meeting that had taken place during the championships. He said that the meeting had decided to retain the wild-card principle for the next championship which would be held in Australia at Bunbury, Western Australia in November 1997. He also reported that the Dutch CA had joined the World Croquet Federation.

I Burridge asked whether the Welsh CA could become a full member of the World Croquet Federation. The full membership fee is £150 but certain criteria have to be met before entry is accepted. In particular each national body must have at least 50 members and 4 clubs affiliated to it. The Secretary agreed to investigate whether these criteria could be satisfied.

ITEM 6 - ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

I Burridge proposed and L Palmer seconded that the officers and committee be re-elected en bloc and the meeting agreed.

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

ITEM 7 - ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Chairman wished to record his and the meeting's gratitude to J Grimshaw and C Williams for their many efforts on behalf of the Welsh CA in the last year.

WELSH CROQUET ASSOCIATION

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS 1994

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Membership Fees	100.00	WCF Affiliation	75.00
Life Membership	50.00	Lawn Hire	125.00
Donations	102.52	Lawn Cutting M	10.00
Tournament Fees	144.00	Swiss Accomodation	84.60
Interest	1.19	Postage etc ^	11.04
	<u>£397.71</u>		<u>305.64</u>
Surplus Income over Expenditure			92.07
			<u>£397.71</u>
Balance Brought Forward	448.35		
Surplus for Year	92.07		
Balance at 31st December 1994	<u>£540.42</u>		