



Cygnets
Issue 15: May 2019
Election Special



The e-Newsletter for the South West Federation of Croquet Clubs

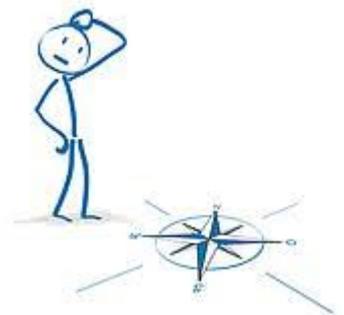
This is our chance to make the CA more relevant to our clubs and our games; and to be involved in the governance of croquet's national governing body.

You would certainly receive support from the SWF committee to undertake your role

So why don't you stand for election?

Introduction

- You will be aware that the resolution to change the structure of the CA governance was agreed at the SGM in March.
- Closing date for nominations is 30th July and elections if needed will be completed by September 3rd.
- The SWF has been allocated 3 places on Council so we need a minimum of 3 candidates to stand for election.



The South West Federation would like to see a strong field of candidates from our region and to feel confident that CA members in the SW have the information we need to cast our votes in a meaningful way. In this issue we share some initial SWF Committee thoughts and summarise the key points as set out by the CA.

The next Cygnets will include an election supplement consisting of the SW candidates' election profiles together with their responses to standard questions raised from the region's members.

Our suggestions for these may be found below but we'd love to include yours - please email Linda with your ideas by 15th July lindawithani@hotmail.com

Information about the nomination and election processes may be found on the CA website and in the latest edition of the Croquet Gazette.

<https://www.croquet.org.uk/?p=ca/gov/CouncilElections/SW>

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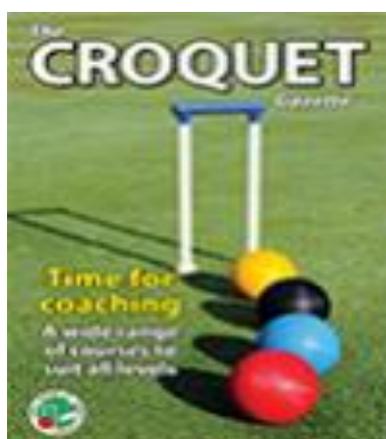
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What has the CA ever done for me?

The subject of CA and its governance is largely treated with overwhelming indifference but in this special edition we want to help change that.

Many players see little relationship between the CA and their own game so let's remind ourselves what it does through grants, loans and a wide range of information and advice:

- grants totalling nearly £200,000 to 80 member clubs and interest-free loans of more than £28,000 to 15 clubs over the past 10 years
- financial and practical help to 48 new clubs in the last 8 years
- income from well over £1 million of CA Shop sales to the public and £40,000 from sponsors has been used by the CA to expand its development programme over the past 10 years
- free Public Liability Insurance scheme to member clubs
- national coaching, handicapping and awards to encourage enterprising play and to raise overall skills
- championships, tournaments and inter-club events nationally
- represents the interests of players internationally and selects and supports teams and individuals who play for their country
- promotes research into, and development of, playing equipment and court surfaces
- publishes the *Croquet Gazette* and a website
- represents the interests of the sport at national and international level, especially to Sport England and the World Croquet Federation



CA Structure

To achieve all this, it has established a structure:

Council, which is responsible for the management and control of the CA which will comprise:

- President of CA
- Vice President of CA
- Hon. Secretary of CA
- Hon Treasurer of CA
- 12 regionally elected representatives



Management Committee, which reports to Council, comprising:

- Its chair
- Chair of Council
- Vice Chair of Council
- Hon Secretary of CA
- Hon Treasurer of CA
- 4 other members elected by Council

Standing Committees:

- Coaching
- Development
- Equipment
- Executive
- Handicap
- ICT
- International
- Laws (AC)
- Marketing
- Publishing
- Rules (GC)
- Selection (AC)
- Selection (GC)
- Tournaments (AC)
- Tournaments (GC)

So what?

Well, in addition to the costs of running an office and shop, an awful lot of volunteer time is devoted to running this.

- Is this time being used effectively?
- How happy are you with the results and the impacts for you?
- Do you have ideas of how it might be improved?
- Could you make a difference?



This level of commitment is reflected at Federation and Club level - is everyone working together to create a sleek, elegant and well-run machine or are there gaps, duplications, inefficiencies?

What do we want to know about our candidates?

So, what would you like to know from the candidates? Here are some suggestions to start with ...

Who
Are
you

- Why are you standing for election?
- What do you see as the 3 most important key issues facing the CA?
- What skills knowledge and experience would you bring to this role?
- What would you hope to achieve during your 3-year term of office?
- How would you communicate with CA members in the SW?
- Is there anything else you'd like to say?

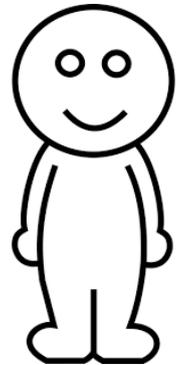
We also have some questions for the CA which we would like to put to them towards the end of June - so plenty of time to add yours to the list: email lindawithani@hotmail.com by 3rd June and we'll publish the responses in the next Cygnet

- What will be the induction process for new reps?
- What is the budget for operating the new Council?
- What support / resources will successful candidates be able to access to enable them to engage with their constituents and other Council members between meetings?

Who can vote - who can stand for election?

If you are an Individual Member of the CA, either by paying a subscription directly or if you have chosen to be a Standard member through membership of your club, you will have a vote and you will also be eligible for election and to nominate others.

If a ballot is necessary for your constituency, you will be able to vote online or by post. Further details will be published on the website and in the next edition of the Croquet Gazette.



You will only be able to receive an e-mail giving a link to the voting application if you have an up to date e-mail address recorded in the CA Directory (though you can still be ex-directory if you do not want it published). Please ask your club secretary to set it for you if you can't log in to the website to do it yourself.

Which constituency can I vote in or stand for?

Basically, we have been allocated to the constituency which our primary club is based in. You can find out which this is by viewing your details on the CA data base (on the CA website).

You may change this constituency if you have a greater interest in another constituency.

What is the nomination process?

Check the full election rules on the CA website but: nominations for election should be emailed direct to: returning.officer@croquet.org.uk and copied to the secretary of (in our case) the SWF lindawithani@hotmail.com with the following information:

- The constituency
- The name of the person nominated - who must confirm their willingness to stand
- Their proposer - who must be an individual member of the CA registered to vote in the constituency
- Their seconder - who must be an individual member of the CA registered to vote in the constituency
- A personal statement of no more than 300 words - this will be published

How long would my term of office be?

To establish the new Council, all twelve members will be elected this year and allocated initial terms of 2, 3 or 4 years. Thereafter, a third of the members will be elected each year. Elections will be by single transferable vote.

In the South West, three representatives to serve as voting members of Council are to be elected in 2019. They will serve for two, three or four years respectively, to be decided by lot.

What would my responsibilities be?

The role of Council is to direct the CA's activity through strategy, policy and scrutiny. It will not run croquet on a day to day basis. Its particular responsibilities will be:

- Establishing 'overarching' policy goals
- Initiating strategic initiatives
- Scrutinising the work of the Executive Board
- Ensuring that good governance practices are in place at all levels of the Association



You will be required to attend a minimum of two one-day meetings each year and to engage in electronic communication as required. **Expenses will be refunded.**

In addition, the SWF committee hopes that elected representatives for the SW will use our well-established communication systems to engage with local members.

What skills do I need?

The CA website contains information about these and John Bowcott (current Chair of Council) may be contacted for further information / clarification. They include

- Strategic Vision - an ability to identify key long-term goals and delivery mechanisms
- A commitment to improving the transparency of the structure of the CA
- An ability to establish priorities and assess the best use of monetary and human resources
- Good leadership skills
- Openness to new ideas
- Good communication and listening skills
- An ability to identify and implement good practice
- An ability to engage effectively with the membership
- An experience of problem analysis in a complex organisation

There are bound to be other skills, experience and knowledge that can be brought to this role - no one will have everything, so top of the list should probably be **team work**.



That's all for now - happy voting