

THE CROQUET ASSOCIATION

Minutes of the Special General Meeting held at 11.15 am at The Hurlingham Club on Saturday 30th March 2019

Present: Patricia Duke-Cox (Vice-President, in the Chair), John Bowcott (Chairman of Council), Jonathan Isaacs (Vice-President and Chairman of the Governance Changes Implementation Group), Ian Vincent (Hon. Secretary), Mark Suter (CA Manager) and 30 other Members.

Apologies were received from Quiller Barrett (President), who was delayed in traffic, and 13 other Members,

The Chairman opened the meeting by welcoming those present and thanking them for attending. The required quorum of 25 had been attained.

1. Motion, proposed on behalf of the Council by John Bowcott and seconded by John Dawson:

“That the Constitution of the Croquet Association be amended as shown in <https://www.croquet.org.uk/?d=2252>”

1.1 In proposing the motion, John Bowcott emphasised the two key strands of the proposal: that a considerably smaller Council should be elected and that there should be a separation of roles between it and an Executive Board, which it would appoint. The Council would be responsible for deciding high-level policy and scrutinising the Executive Board, which would be responsible for implementing the policy. The aim was to provide a structure in which good people could deliver good governance. There would be key roles on both bodies.

1.2 George Noble (Surbiton) then expressed four concerns about the proposals, which he otherwise supported:

a) He sought assurances that they met the requirements of Sport England's Code for Sports Governance, as this might be a requirement for clubs to receive funding. Brian Havill, a member of the implementation group, replied to say that they appeared to meet the requirements for Tier 1, which covered smaller governing bodies.

b) He felt that each Federation should have its own Constituency, rather than the smaller ones sharing one, taking the analogy of the World Croquet Federation, which gave each of its members a place in World Championships, irrespective of their playing strength. He asked Council to reconsider this when implementing the proposals. Brian Shorney, speaking on behalf of the West Midlands Federation, which was one of the smaller ones affected, supported the proposed allocation, which was designed to ensure equality of representation for individual CA members.

c) He feared that the Electoral Commission had wide powers and was insufficiently accountable, having the nature of a Quango. John Reddish, a member of the implementation group, explained that the thinking had been to take detailed election rules out of the constitution and Ian Vincent that it had been designed to be independent of the Council, but responsible to the membership as a whole through the officers of the Association.

d) Finally, he regretted that he was unable to amend the proposals, because they had already been subject to a postal/electronic vote. Ian Vincent replied that the Council was aware of this issue and that a working party, chaired by the President, had made some recommendations to address it, but that we did not have technology to implement them. Hugh Carlisle (Hurlingham) said that his club addressed this issue by publishing draft proposals for comment before putting a possibly revised version of them, and any amendments, to a vote.

He also argued that the CA's constitution was defective in not ruling out other business at Special General Meetings.

1.3 There being no further questions, the Chairman invited the scrutineers appointed for the meeting, George Noble and Tom Wills-Sandford, to come forward and asked anyone wishing to cancel their postal or electronic vote to inform them. She then asked for votes in favour and against from those who had not already voted. Mark Suter then provided the report from David and Eileen Magee, who had scrutinised the postal and electronic votes.

1.4 The motion was declared passed with 489 votes in favour and 18 against.

1.5 The Secretary was given consent to make typographical changes which did not change the meaning of the amendments when updating the Constitution.

The meeting closed at 12:00.

(President)

(Date)