

CROQUET NORTH - 2021 REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN

The salutation ' may you live in interesting times' is an English translation of a traditional Chinese curse. Who would have thought it !

In 2020 Croquet stuttered back into life when Covid-19 restrictions were eased and hopefully we all got the opportunity to spend some time actually playing croquet. As the season drew to a close so the spectre of further restrictions became a reality. We now approach a new season with hope that we are at least at the 'beginning of the end' with a route back to normality and as we all know, there is nothing more normal than enjoying a game of croquet !

It has been and continues to be a learning experience for all. Who would have thought that we would come to know internationally eminent Epidemiologists by their Christian names but - there you are !

We've got used to meeting up via Zoom, holding Committee Meetings via Zoom, holding Webinars and Seminars via Zoom. Certainly the Croquet Association and its various Committees and Working Groups have relied heavily on Zoom to continue to implement an ambitious modernisation programme in response to the Government 'Sporting Futures' initiative. This initiative shapes the future development and funding of sport in England and has a particular emphasis on good governance within sports bodies and clubs.

Croquet North Federation supports the Croquet Association goal of seeing 'more people playing more croquet in more places' and at a recent meeting we began to consider the impact seeking to achieve this goal may have on the Federation and its Clubs.

During 2021 a range of policies and initiatives approved by the Croquet Association will move to the implementation phase. Federations and Clubs will be guided and assisted in implementation however, it is clear, there will be work to do at both Federation and Club level; consequently we need to prepare.

There are a number of Roles at Federation level which will need to be undertaken and these will be in addition to existing Roles.

Consequently, we are looking for Members of our Clubs who may feel they have the desire and skills to get involved as Co-opted Members of CN Executive Committee.

It might be that there are some who would get involved in 'specific issues / roles' on behalf of CN but wouldn't want to be 'on the Committee' - we would certainly consider such an option.

I've asked Club Representatives who currently serve on the CN Executive to give this matter some thought and I also appeal directly to Club Members to do the same.

Some of the areas we need help with are already well developed with policy and procedure in place. Others are policies and initiatives in the latter stages of development which will be moving to implementation later this year. In addition to

that we have a significant upcoming vacancy for a role on CN which we need to address.

A brief overview of the areas where we need help include:-

- Safeguarding. All Clubs must have a named Safeguarding Officer. Initially this is in response to the CA Policy on Safeguarding Children however an Safeguarding Adults Policy is under development and both will sit within a Welfare & Wellbeing Policy. We need someone to take on this Role at Federation level, working with the CAs National Safeguarding Lead to assist Clubs. This individual ideally should have experience in Safeguarding and may well already be a named Club Safeguarding Officer.
- Promoting Competitive Croquet for both AC and GC. This could be two roles. A Croquet Association Working Group will be bringing forward recommendations soon. We need a person or two persons to see if and how the recommendations and suggestions from the Working Group can promote competitive play in our Federation area.
- Inclusivity & Diversity. Conventional wisdom concerning 'what type of people' play Croquet is well established. How can that mould be broken ? How do we make Croquet more Inclusive, more Accessible and more Diverse. How do we prove people who may think Croquet is not for them wrong ! How do we take the first step of addressing the current gender imbalance on our own Committee ?
- Supporting the interface between the CA and the Federation and the Federation and Clubs is critical. The administrative processes in place to allow the Federation and its Executive Committee to function is central to being successful in our role. From 2022 we will have a vacancy for Honorary Secretary. It would be a lot to ask someone with no or even limited knowledge of the workings of CN to step into such a role. However, the opportunity does exist for someone, with the appropriate skills, to take on an Assistant Secretary role for 2021 with a view to becoming Secretary in 2022. The option also exists to split the current functions creating a traditional Committee administration role dealing with issuing Agenda for meetings, recording decisions of meetings etc. The other role would focus on communications, providing a link between the Croquet Association and CN and CN and its Clubs. This role could also look to develop our use of Social Media etc.

At this stage I would like anyone who feels they may be able to assist in any of these areas to get in touch to discuss options.

I can be contacted via email at dennisscarr@gmail.com or via mobile on 07745016272

The CN Executive will need to be updated on progress and options so please get in touch over the next few weeks.

Dennis Scarr

Chairman - Croquet North

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