

REPORT OF FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVE FOR CROQUET NORTH &
YORKSHIRE CROQUET.

CN AGM - 13th MARCH, 2021

I have been elected to represent CN and Yorkshire Croquet Federations on the Croquet Association Council. My term of office runs until October, 2022.

As of today I have attended only one Council Meeting however, even in this relatively short period of time I am left in no doubt of significant changes in both the structure and aspirations of the CA. We are all familiar with the stated goal of the CA to see **‘more people playing more croquet in more places’**.

What is not immediately clear is that pursuit of this goal impacts the whole CA structure including Federations and Clubs.

The CA is looking to increase the profile of Croquet and the CA as a Governing Body. The Government ‘Sporting Futures’ policy 2015 required Sport England and UK Sport to agree a Code for Sports Governance which will apply to all sports seeking any funding. Various bodies have been funded to assist Sports / Clubs meet these requirements. The Code has now been approved by Government and central to the Code is Good Governance. Consequently, the desire to see Croquet ‘taken seriously’ as a sport, to establish sound governance, to have access to Funding streams and to meet demands of Insurers is requiring significant action by the CA.

This process is ongoing however I want to mention a number of issues, policies and reviews currently underway which as a Federation we need to be aware of and prepare for.

- Future status of the CA. Incorporation or Charity most likely.
- CA Guidance to Feds / Clubs on Covid-19 Restrictions / Precautions
- CA Document issued to Feds / Clubs on Insurance Policy. This includes a Template for Risk Assessments Clubs should undertake.
- Safeguarding. The CA has adopted a revised Safeguarding Children Policy. All Feds and Clubs are to have a Safeguarding Officer in place by 1st May, 2021. A National Safeguarding Officer has been appointed. Dr Ron Carter. Ron has asked Federations for names of nominated Safeguarding Officers in our Clubs. Ron has extended an invitation to hold a Zoom Meeting with Feds / Clubs at which he can give further details and answer any questions. Feds have also been asked for the names of any Member who holds an Enhanced DBS certificate. This is to develop a record of who may assist in future with specific Junior Coaching initiatives - it is not a requirement to be a Fed or Club Safeguarding Officer. As an aside the CA Council will be agreeing to change the name of Local Safeguarding Officers to Local Welfare Officer - the reason for that change will become clear. The Safeguarding Children Policy which has already been adopted by the CA will sit alongside a Safeguarding Adults At Risk Policy which is currently under development.)

Both Policies will sit under a new Welfare Policy (I am Chairing a Group established to develop both of these policies. In developing these Policies we are very much committed to proving Feds and Clubs with as much assistance as possible to deal with implementation.

- A Competitive Play Review is currently underway. A likely outcome will be a call for a focus by Federations to actively promote competitive play for both AC and GC.
- An Inclusivity & Diversity Policy is under development. Could be agreed later this year or possibly next year.
- 7th Edition of AC Laws has been approved.
- Membership Policy Review is ongoing and this includes the future of the Tournament Levi System. Federations will be asked to provide details on numbers of events held which do not feature in the CA Fixtures Calendar.
- Coaching Performance Review Group will report this month.
- Revised Disciplinary & Appeals Procedure is currently out for consultation.

I have listed these issues because in many cases the outcomes impact on Federations and Clubs and the obvious question arises - do we have the capacity to deal with what is coming our way and if we don't, what are we going to do to prepare ourselves.

Dennis Scarr

13th March, 2021.