

Nailsea and District Croquet Club
Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 24.04.2018

Present: Andrew Wimshurst, Mike Tracy, Peter Dyke, Brigit Clayton, Brian Roynon, Coral Harrison, Meriel Forshaw.

In attendance: Joan Timmins

1. Apologies

Linda Shaw

2. Minutes of the meeting 21st March 2018

It was agreed that the above minutes would be signed at the meeting on the 5th June 2018 following the amendments.

Amendments to the above minutes

5.2 Archives – Remove ‘the damp weather conditions’. **Insert** ‘the ambient temperature not being suitable’

7 Membership –Remove the ‘Dear Member’ paragraph. **Insert** ‘A **document** will be sent to all members encouraging them to take out ‘Standard Membership’ of the CA and requesting them to indicate their data sharing preferences.’

16.3 Social in May - Remove ‘this should be put on hold’. **Insert** ‘Committee agreed a social would not be needed in May.’

16.5 Remove the paragraph and replace with ‘Peter had received an e-mail from Marcus regarding queries in AC handicaps at NDCC. Peter has responded to the e-mail explaining what actions have been taken’.

3. Matters arising from the above minutes

5.2 The Archives have now been moved from the roof space into the clubhouse. Brian is looking for a suitable storage area for the chairs.

Action: Brian

7. Membership – the ‘Dear Member’ **document** has now been revised. The document will not be sent out until we have a clear idea of the membership numbers. We will then know how many members have taken up CA membership. Not all members will receive the letter.

8. Data Protection

8.2 The Privacy Policy has now been finalised and sent to members.

9. Constitution and Handbook

9.1 **Constitution** Andrew to contact members who had offered to help and agree a date to meet.

Action: Andrew

9.2 **The handbook** has now been completed and is on the web site.

10 Safe Guarding – Fran Appleby has confirmed she is happy for her email information to be on the NDCC safeguarding policy.

Fran and Linda are responsible for removing Jean Hargreaves details from the policy and substituting ‘CA Safe guarding officer’

Action: Linda/Fran

12.1 Recruitment

Meriel to respond to Kathy re attendance at one of the Hospice open days.

Action: Meriel

4. Treasurer’s Report: discussed and noted

The report was discussed and it was noted that the balance was showing an upward trend now that subscriptions were being received.

The committee discussed and reconsidered when subscriptions for membership should become due.

The 1st February was the favoured date. It was agreed there also needs to be a cut off date identified so that it is known which members can be considered for teams.

4.1 Proposal - Letter to be sent to members informing them that membership subscription will be due 1st February each year, with payment due by the 28th February. Membership will lapse on the 1st March if subscription not paid.

Action : Send to constitution sub committee – the above will be put to members at the AGM on the 10th November 2018.

4.2 100 Club: Following discussion it was agreed that Mike would contact Sandra re: the best way forward to recruit members to join the 100 club.

Action: Mike

5. Property Report: discussed and noted

Brian hoped he might be able to fit the PIR light later today.

The horse racing afternoon was very successful and enjoyed by all who attended.

5.1 Social bookings – At the appropriate time Brian will send an email to groups and organisations who have in the past used the club for social events.

Action: Brian

5.2 It would be good to have more volunteers for cutting the hedges and tidying the grass edges in the future.

6. Lawns Report: discussed and noted

7. Membership

Subscriptions for membership are still coming in very slowly. Coral will go through the list and contact those members who have not yet paid.

The two people who were going to join this year have been contacted again.

Action: Coral

8. Data Protection/Privacy Policy

8.1 Kathy sent emails in October 2017 to all CA premium members and potential standard members to obtain permission for their personal data to be shared by the CA. We have a record of the responses.

8.2 Equality Policy - Kathy’s email to be sent to committee members where the link to the policy can be found. Mike suggested all to look at it and review at the next meeting.

Action: All

9. Constitution

Andrew will phone those members who offered to help with this task and arrange a date to meet.

Action: Andrew

10. Club House

All out of date information has been removed from the appropriate notice board.

10.1 Health and Safety Risk Assessment: Needs to be looked at, updated if required, dated and review date noted on the policy.

Action: Brian

10.2 SW Federation information needs to remain on the notice board.

Action: Meriel

10.3 'Time limited game information'. Peter will update the document.

Action: Peter

10.4 CA information Sheet : '10 things you need to know about the CA will remain on the notice board.'

Action: Meriel

10.5 Donated Books – to be recycled on a regular basis.

Action: Coral

10.6 Person/persons to be in charge of the cleaning rota for club house - Andrew to contact Andrew Buchanan and Pat to see if they would like to take it on.

Action: Andrew

10.7 The current insurance policies should be on display.

Action: Mike

11. Recruitment Report discussed and noted

Following discussion it was noted:

The event planned for the 2nd June had reluctantly been cancelled.

It was agreed that Sunday the 3rd of June would be postponed until the lawns were ready for play.

Recruitment 2018

The committee agreed the general idea and approved in principle the offer to Bristol members for the use of our lawns when their lawns closed. Further discussion needs to take place before the offer is confirmed.

12. Coaching

The session led by Dave Kibble 'The Mental Approach to Croquet' was well attended and well received. The committee wished to thank Dave and agreed that Meriel would email Dave expressing our thanks.

Action: Meriel

13. 2018 SWF League Teams

Peter apologised for not sending in a report prior to the meeting.

13.1 Short Croquet 14th and 15th April 2018 results:

Nailsea Avening won against Sidmouth

Nailsea Trendlewood won division 1

There was a query about one of our player's short croquet handicap, which Peter will draw to the attention of the Club AC handicap committee.

Nailsea Golf Croquet Level Play team beat Bath 13.5 - 6.5 on Saturday 21st April

Mike will put the information on the website

Action:Mike/Peter

13.2 Steve Durston has only been able to raise a team for two of his golf croquet matches. New dates may have to be arranged.

Peter to contact Linda and explain the situation

Action: Peter

14. 2018 Club Competitions

Linda is preparing the paperwork for club competitions.

Action: Linda

15. Distribution of Minutes

It was agreed that all committee members would receive a copy of the draft minutes. The members will check the minutes and any amendments will be made before the draft minutes go onto the website. Replies to be made to Meriel within two days of receipt of the minutes and she will update before posting on website.

Action: All/Meriel

16. AOB

16.1 Joan advised she would not be available to take the minutes at the AGM on November 10th 2018.

16.2 Brigit explained that the club website gave Kathy as contact member for the club with Brigit as second person. Brigit would like her name removed as an increase in spam had been received. It was agreed that Brigit’s email address would be removed and replaced with Mike’s and this would enable identification of spam items and the possibility of the system having being hacked.

Action: Mike

16.3 Archives – Brigit had noticed that some policies require an annual review. Brigit is now working on these.

Action: Brigit

Date and time of next meeting: Tuesday 5th June, 10.00am at Mikes

The meeting closed at 12.15hrs

Signed as a true and accurate record

Name.....

Signature.....

Date.....

Reports

Treasurer's report for NDCC committee meeting 24th April 2018

Spreadsheet attached. You can print the summary page if you wish by going to the High Level Actuals worksheet tab.

Current balance at the bank less unpresented cheques is £5,659.69

The deficit for the year is £13,976.08

These figures were recorded on 19/04/2018.

At last our balance is on an upward trend as a result of subscriptions starting to arrive. At the time of writing we had 23 full members, 1 country member, 1 student member and 6 social members. The club handbook does not tell me when membership fees become due, but I have been told it is 1st May. I suggest that the date (whatever it is) should be documented in the club handbook and that we should consider what date to choose. Dave Kibble tells me that Bristol and Cheltenham both require subs on 1st January . I do not put this forward as a suggestion, but perhaps 1st May is a little late.

Our most significant outgoing since our last meeting is the repair to the Countax tractor/ mower costing £1,163.75. The gearbox had to be replaced.

!00 club take up is 20 units which is disappointing. I will discuss the situation with Sandra Bath. It has been our policy in the past to have the first draw on the opening day of the club, that being the deadline for joining the 100 club. We do not have a date for this event, and a draw was done on 17th March at the skittles evening. Accepting more entries to the club once the draw season has started complicates the calculation of the prizes and conforming with the lottery licence requirement to distribute at least 55% of the input as prizes. Perhaps the March draw could be counted as the last one of last year's season. The late start of the club's activities have made the running of the 100 club a little more difficult, but we will find a solution.

Mike Tracy

Property Report

Pavilion

The porch light replacement with the PIR one is ongoing.

Social Events

16 members attended the Horse Racing on 11th April. Which raised £45 for the club.

Social bookings

We have had 2 more enquiries for social booking. One emailed to request early June. Brenda has replied saying could they chose a date in late July /August and awaits a reply. The other is a request from the Scouts for Tuesday 3rd July at the agreed price of £5 per head. Erica has given them Brenda's phone number.

Lawn Maintenance Report - April 2018

1.Lawns

The wet weather continued to obstruct Talbot Farm's lawn levelling and re-seeding work. As shown in figure 1 the four weekly moving average rainfall reached a new peak of 118mm in early April rainfall. (That corresponds to more than 4mm of rain EVERY day). As a result the shallow dips were repeatedly flooded. My subjective impression is that the dips dry out quicker now than over the winter. Photographic evidence supports this conclusion. This is probably due to a combination of spraying with Dispatch/Revolution and warmer weather. Despite the flooding and low temperatures, the speculative re-seeding of bare patches was successful. By mid April new seedlings were evident in most of the flooded dips - despite the water. It is unclear whether these new seedlings will survive having being covered by 10 mm of sand.

Talbot Farm did attempt to start levelling work on April 12th but concluded conditions were not suitable. They returned on April 18th and spent two days filling in the shallow dips with sand. They utilised about 19 tonnes of sand which corresponds to an average about 10mm - exactly what was expected. The levels in the dips were then checked by laser so that once the new seed has germinated the lawns will be reasonably flat.

On April 20th the lawns were re-seeded. Firstly the bare patches were seeded at 20gms/m² using a controllable (Gandi) drop spreader and then the whole area , including the bare patches was overseeded at 30gms/m². Thus the bare patches received a total of 50 gms/m² of Bar Ultrafine (see last months report re cultivars). The seed was then pressed into the surface with knobbly tyres fitted to a small vehicle.

Most of the seed is on or close to the surface. It is therefore critical that it is kept moist until germination is complete and the new seedlings have had a chance to develop some roots. A two week rota for daily irrigation between 4pm and 8.30 pm has been drawn up and is underway. Irrigation started the minute Talbot Farm left site! If we get rain over the next couple of weeks the irrigation can be reduced but keeping the surface moist is critical to success.

The final part of the levelling project is to roll the surface. The rolling requires the surface to be moist but not sodden. This presents a problem as the top surface can go from being soft and wet to dry and hard over a period of three days. After discussions with Talbot whilst they were on site, I think the best way of achieving the correct conditions is to pick a day for rolling and irrigate the lawns all day (8-10 hours) the day before. That way we can fix the date well ahead and stick to it almost independently of the weather. (The ground is too hard at present!)

2. Spraying and Mowing.

The Dispatch spraying by hand has been replaced by the first of the four weekly Revolution sprays. It is impossible to apply Revolution by back pack spraying so the normal boom sprayer towed by the newly repaired Countax was employed. This did leave tracks in some of the wet dip areas but these have since been covered during the levelling process.

The next Revolution spray will have to wait until the grass roots in the newly seeded dips have developed sufficiently to support the sprayer weight. To speed this process up Geoff and Terry are investigating how to replace the existing two sprayer wheels with four wider wheels. This will reduce or eliminate the track marks.

Talbot Farm were supposed to carry out the first cut when they rolled the lawns. However with the disruption caused by the flooded dips this was not possible. David Hunt and myself have therefore started cutting the lawns using the 22 inch Hayter cylinder mower and my own 14 inch Hayter rotary mower. The latter has a back roller and a grass box so does not leave grass cuttings behind. It is much lighter and more manoeuvrable than the 22 inch cylinder mower and is employed to cut around the random bare patch shapes because it is essential not to let the existing grass get too long.

Once the new seed has germinated all cutting will be carried out with the cylinder mower. Cutting height started out at 25mm but this will be progressively reduced during the next few weeks. I did shave one small strip of grass on lawn 5 to see what would happen. Three days of warm weather have resulted in rapid growth and no ill effects! This is probably due to the very deep roots that have developed over the winter. Roots extend to a depth of about 6 inches which augurs well for the future.

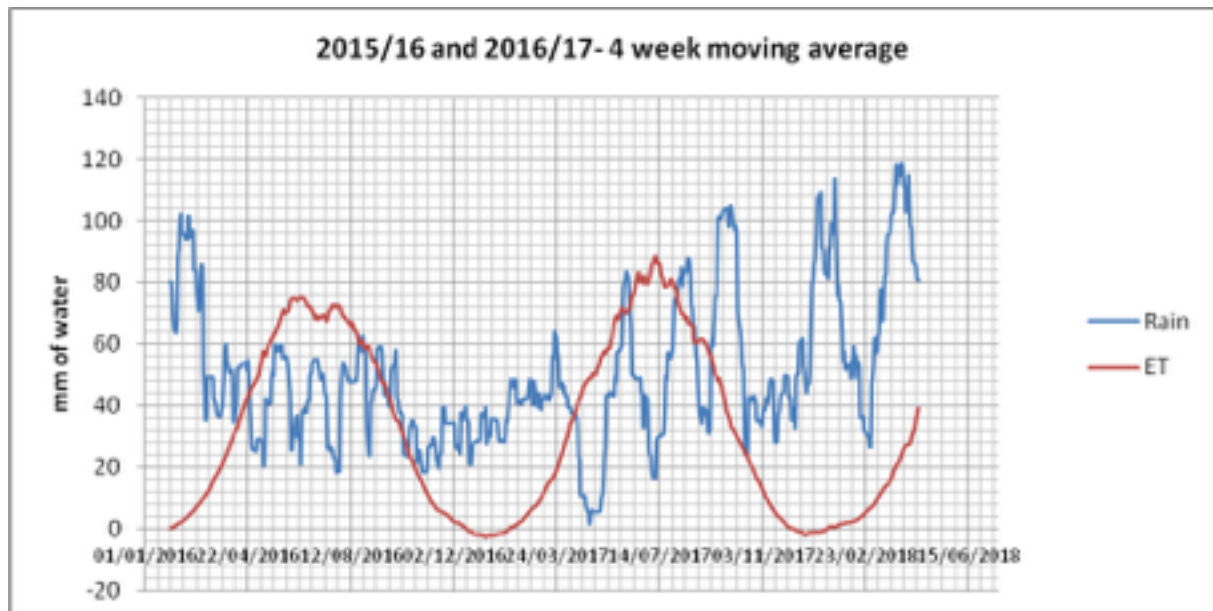
3. Availability.

Everybody wants to know when the lawns will be open and the answer is that it all depends on the weather. A warm (but wet) May is needed to encourage the newly seeded areas to develop rapidly. My hope is that a June start is possible but nothing is certain at this stage. Getting the new seed to germinate quickly is my immediate priority as the rate of grass root development will be the deciding factor in terms of the lawns coming into use. Good root development is needed to bind the sand together as it has done in the existing grassy areas.

John Wallace

22/4/18

Figure 1 Rainfall and ET over a rolling 4 week period.



Membership Report 24.04.2018

A copy of the Membership List in its current state is also attached. There has been an additional payment since Mike's report and the total received as of today's date, 21.04.18 is £3570.00. As the membership expires at the end of April, I intend sending out a chasing email to those who have not paid, at the end of the month. I would welcome the membership year being brought forward as with the current arrangement, any member whose subscription has run out, can still play in competitions etc. at the beginning of the season.

I have been advised that two people who left approximately 2 years ago, intend to rejoin this year but so far I await proof.

The bridge group continues with loyal and enthusiastic players providing an important addition to the Club funds. The total for the financial year to date is £625.00 In previous years, play has switched from afternoons to evenings by this date and obviously it will as soon as croquet begins but currently the state of the car park is too hazardous and slippery for people to walk across in the dark. Hopefully it will improve very shortly.

CHSW one ball weekend

We have reluctantly taken the decision to cancel the event planned for Saturday 2 June. The lawns may well be ready but it's difficult to promote an event like this in the short timescale that would be available once we could be certain that it could happen. I hope we will be able to reschedule it, pretty much as planned, for 2019. No money has been spent and the effort will serve us well next year. Better to have a good event next year than a half-hearted one this year with lawns that will still be bumpy.

As far as the plan for Sunday 3 June is concerned, we might well be able to have an official opening of the new lawns and a charity one ball day on that day, with the proceeds going to the Children's Hospice. This would generate some publicity with the press and show the Hospice our good faith. This sort of event, open only to croquet players, could be arranged much closer to the day, having given prior "date for your diary" notice. We could invite players from local clubs and their curiosity might get a few here.

Recruitment in 2018

We will do our utmost to get people through the gate. Evenings will be the most promising times and we can promote the Club through Facebook primarily for this year. This is because Facebook is so immediate. There are already a few people interested and waiting to be contacted as soon as the lawns are open. One of them is the junior who came at the end of last season. Others are contacts that have been made during the winter. We will liaise with Linda re lessons.

The Committee and members of Bristol Croquet Club have been very welcoming to the Nailsea Refugees and the club has become a home from home for about a dozen of us. I think it would be great if we could offer them NDCC mship of some sort when their lawns close at the beginning of September. I suspect there could be a good take-up. The offered is April + May for £40 or the full season for £80. How about we offer September + October for £40 or September-March (incl) for £50 or £60? As well as bringing in revenue, this could help to promote the new-found friendship between the two clubs. We might be able to run joint tournaments some time - 7 lawns would give great flexibility for a "class" tournament.

Kathy and Erica

Not a lot from the coaching/competitions point of view:

- Dave's Mental Approach session was well attended and seemed to be well received.
- No further news on coaching for the season but it is on my to-do list.
- Similarly I haven't started work on competitions yet apart from getting the paperwork up to date and ready for when we know when we might start.
- I could/should probably get this out in early May, so I'll work on it more assiduously over the next couple of weeks.

Linda

Tournament Secretary's Report

Short Croquet results 14th and 15th April 2018

Nailsea Avening 11 wins, narrowly beating Sidmouth Connaught.

Team: Peter, James G, Jim G and Brigit

Promotion to Division 3

Nailsea Trendlewood won division 1

Team: Brian Mc, Kathy, Graham, Geoff

There was a query about one of our players' handicaps. Peter has looked into it. Their current short croquet handicap is one step above the transfer from AC handicaps – this is allowed under SWF short croquet rules. Also they won two games and lost two so Peter saw no reason to change their handicap at this stage, but he will inform the rest of the handicap committee and consider if a reduction is required.

Action: Peter

Level Play team won against Bath on Saturday 21st April

Nailsea 13½ Bath 6½

Team: James G, Jim G, Brian Mc, Pat, Geoff and Andrew

Action: Mike to put this information on the web site.

Steve Durston has been able to raise a team for only two of his team's golf croquet matches – new dates may have to be arranged.

Action: Peter to contact Linda and explain the situation.