

Nailsea and District Croquet Club
Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 5th June 2018

Present: Andrew Wimshurst, Mike Tracy, Brian Roynon, Peter Dyke, Linda Shaw, Coral Harrison, Meriel Forshaw, Brigit Clayton
In Attendance: Joan Timmins

1. Apologies: None

2. Minutes of the meeting 21.03.2018. Agreed and signed as a correct record.
Minutes of the meeting 24.04.2018. Agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising from the minutes dated 24.04.2018.

Storage of chairs: Brian continues to look for an appropriate shed for increased storage space.

Constitution: The meeting with Mike, Brigit and Peter Longden is still to be arranged.

Action: Andrew

Safeguarding: The club has now an up to date version of the safeguarding policy, and this will be included in the club handbook and a copy posted on the club website and also placed in the club archives.

Recruitment: Meriel has responded to Kathy re the Hospice open days.

100 Club: the committee discussed the following:-

The first draw for 2018 of the 100 club took place at the skittles evening.

Second draw to be undertaken at the Opening Day on June 16th.

Third draw is to be at the trophy presentation evening.

Fourth draw at the Christmas Meal.

Can members join during the year? - This may be possible at a cost of £3 per draw.

The committee agreed the above in principle; however the price may be dependent on how many draws are left for the year.

Mike to discuss the above with Sandra.

Action: Mike

Club House : Health & Safety risk assessment, work in progress.

Action: Brian/Brigit

Books: A number of the donated books have been taken to the charity shop for recycling.

Club Notice Board: Relevant notices are on the notice board.

Time limited games – Peter will update.

Insurance Policy/Public Liability: Now on display.

Coaching – Meriel has written to Dave Kibble.

Distribution of minutes – All committee members received a copy of the draft minutes dated 24th April 2018 for checking, As requested, comments were received on time. It was agreed that a final version of the draft minutes would be sent to all committee members prior to the next meeting and prior to being put on the website.

Website – It was agreed that Mike would contact Alison Jones formally, requesting that she takes over the hosting of the club’s website.

Linda agreed to find out what Alison charges the SWF.

Action: Mike/Linda

4. Treasurer’s Report: discussed and noted.

During the coming year, Mike would like to establish a base cost for the club in order to ensure that future income meets the outgoing costs.

Mike will contact Endsleigh to see if they can provide property cover without the duplication of public and employer’s liability cover, at a better price.

Action: Mike

5. Property Report: discussed and noted.

The PIR light is now in working order.

5.1 The club has five social bookings for the coming year, the first will take place on the 26th June 2018. The committee agreed to the booking taking place, unless we have heavy rains when the situation would have to be reconsidered.

5.2 Chair storage – Brian has identified a shed, which may be suitable for storage. Cost approximately £800-£1000. It was agreed to bear this in mind for the future.

5.3 Trolley repairs have been completed.

5.4 Health & Safety risk assessment continues as work in progress.

The annual update has been done and the annual check is pending.

Action: Brian/Brigit

6. Lawns Report: discussed and noted.

The committee wished to extend their thanks to John and his team for all their hard work. Meriel will send an email to John expressing the committee’s thanks and recognising the amount of work that has been undertaken.

Action: Meriel

7. Membership Report: discussed and noted.

7.1 There are still sixteen outstanding membership subscriptions to be paid.

7.2 Following discussion it was agreed:-

Due to exceptional circumstances last year, two of last year’s beginners will be offered a refresher course this year at a cost of £30 each.

Linda would contact last year’s beginners offering coaching sessions.

Action: Linda

7.3 A general ‘membership reminder’ would be sent via email letting those know who have not paid, that lawns will be ready for play on the 16th June, subject to weather conditions.

(Information is sent by post or hand delivered to those who do not have email facilities)

Action: Coral

7.4 Peter to liaise with the juniors.

Action: Peter

7.5 Guests – Members who bring guests to play croquet are reminded to complete the guest slip which is available in the club house. There is a charge of £5 per visit. Completed slips and money is to be put in an envelope, and posted in the locked locker in the club house.

7.6 The Bridge group will play in the evenings, instead of the mornings, as from Tuesday 12th June 2018.

7.7 Opening Day 16th June – 12.30hrs onwards for soup, rolls and playing croquet.

Action: Brian/Coral

8. Constitution: On going. A meeting still has to be arranged with Brigit, Mike and Peter Longden

Action: Andrew

9. Equality Policy: Deferred.

10. 2018 SWF League Teams' Report: discussed and noted.

Refer to report for results.

The club calendar will be emailed to club members before the 16th June.

Action: Peter

11. 2018 Club Competitions:

Linda has sent out the following emails to all members:-

11.1 29th April titled 'Hello and Listen' gives information regarding which competitions will or will not take place this year.

17th May titled 'Club Competition News and entry forms 2018'

To date twenty entry forms have been received; an extension to the return date has been given until 5pm on Tuesday 12th June 2018. This gives players the opportunity to ensure their entry is included As a reminder to all members, Linda will prepare and email a competition spreadsheet for information purposes.

Speed croquet and one ball competition dates will be circulated when arranged.

Action: Linda

11.3 Linda had an enquiry from a member about his eligibility to enter the Enginuity Plate Competition. It was agreed that as long as he was eligible to enter on the date of entry, he would be allowed to play even if his handicap came down.

Action: Linda

11.4 Dates for Wild Wednesday and Mad Monday will be circulated when arranged and will also be included in the Club Calendar.

Action: Peter/Brigit

12. Coaching: Kriss Chambers has offered to do a whiteboard session on 'building breaks'.

Booking a lawn weekly, e.g alternating between a Tuesday and Thursday for coaching sessions based on last year's pattern.

Action: Linda

13 Press Release Officer: Following discussion regarding the role of Press Officer and identifying what needs to be reported it was agreed that Andrew would approach John Hancock and establish if he would be interested in undertaking the role.

Action: Andrew

14. Cleaning Rota Supervision: Joan agreed to undertake this role.

15. AOB

15.1 Mike had received an email from Robin and Pam; they have purchased new mallets and would like to sell their old ones. They can be advertised in the Cygnet if they wish. **Action: Linda**

15.2 Peter had received an email from Harry Wallace re an email received from Peter Coles (Australia) and his visit this year. Harry would like to formalise a Golf Croquet ‘Ashes’ competition. He has asked the club if they would be happy to provide the English ashes to mix with the Australian ashes. The committee were all in favour of this event. Peter to inform Harry of the committee’s decision. **Action: Peter**

It was agreed that Brian would incinerate a broken bisque or two. **Action: Brian**

15.3 Coral to check with John and Kathy re 16th June activities and also send an email to all members re the opening of the lawns. **Action: Coral**

15.4 A complaint had been raised by a resident of Avening Close re the mowing on Sunday 3rd June. She also complained that some cars were speeding to the club. Andrew agreed to visit her after the committee meeting and assure her that we were taking the complaints seriously. He will suggest that she takes down the registration of any cars speeding. **Action: Andrew**

16. DONM: Friday 20th July 2018 @ 2pm at the club house.

Note: Committee will also meet on Tuesday 4th September @ 10am at Mike’s house.

The meeting closed at 12.10hrs

Signed as a true and accurate record

Name.....

Signature.....

Date.....

Reports

Treasurer's report for NDCC committee meeting 5th June 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 £8,550.11

The deficit for the year is £10,991.53

These figures were recorded on 30/05/2018.

Income from subscriptions has passed the £7,000 mark. Obviously this is down on previous years but is nevertheless welcome.

In the absence of any croquet, bridge has continued to provide a useful income stream. When croquet starts this will probably stop, but then we should start to see the income from tea and coffee kick in.

Our most significant outgoing since our last meeting is what I believe to be our final payment to Talbot for the re-levelling and reseeding of £1,216.20. Over half of this was for the grass seed. You will have heard about the failure of one of the rollers on the Toro mower which went unnoticed and caused significant damage to the lawns. The problem was the bearings, one of which collapsed, thereby allowing one end to drop and act as a plough. A replacement roller costs about £190 (probably + VAT), but Geoff has managed to extract the old bearings and replace them at a cost of about £30. I have written to Geoff and thanked him for his efforts.

!00 club take up has stayed at 20 units. I have spoken to Sandra Bath and we have agreed that if there is to be a date for a formal opening of the lawns we should have a draw then and try to get some more entries, after which a line will be drawn.

I have been unable to find the insurance policy to post in the clubhouse. My search will continue. I remind you that we have cover through our CA affiliation for public liability (I think also employer's liability, but do not have the document to hand). This is negotiated through Endsleigh. We also have our own insurance to cover all the property, but this also provides public and employer's liability. I will be in contact with Endsleigh shortly to see if they can provide the property cover without the duplication of public and employer's liability cover, at a better price.

5th June 2018
Property Report

Pavilion

The porch light replacement with the PIR one has been done.

Equipment trolley No 2 has been repaired and four of the trolleys have had new hoop lifter storage brackets made and fitted.

Hedges and Edges.

A work morning was held on Wednesday 23rd when a select band of 5 cut the car park, lawn boundaries and banks. They had grown very rapidly and could have added to the rouge grass seed getting onto the lawns.

Social bookings.

We now have 5 social bookings with the first on June the 26th.

Lawn Maintenance Report - May 2018

1.Lawns

The re-seeding operation carried out on April 20th has been reasonably successful. To trigger germination and sustain the new seedlings in the face of mostly dry weather has required regular daily or twice daily irrigation. The areas with the deepest sand infill generally experienced the best germination. Areas where the dips only required small amounts of sand tended to dry out more quickly and germination was less successful.

Unfortunately on May 14th a roller bearing on the triplex mower failed and a series of damaging grooves were cut into the newly germinated areas. These areas were repaired and reseeded immediately but significant growing time was lost, with consequential delay to the start of the season. To make best use of the time delay, surface hand re-seeding of all the areas with less than ideal germination was undertaken on May 16/17th. The successful germination rate of such seeding is not high and so a twice daily irrigation regime was set up to maximise chances of success. This did facilitate a fair amount of new grass to germinate not only in the bare patches but also in the grassed lawn areas that had been over-seeded on April 20th. For reasons that are not obvious, germination was less successful in the damaged areas. Some further pre-germinated seed will be sown in these areas this weekend once the rain subsides in an attempt to catch up with the other re-seeded areas.

The hot weather plus regular irrigation also triggered an invasion of annual meadow grass in some of the areas that were flooded. This tends to form clumps and creates a bumpy surface. It seeds every 10 days so spread is very rapid. Initially, attempts were made to cut the clumps out but this proved to be too labour intensive as did attempts to remove the seed heads. To avoid spread all over the lawns, a programme of spraying each clump with glyphosate weedkiller was undertaken by David Hunt and Kathy Wallace. Each clump was sprayed through plastic tubes to prevent spread to the surrounding grass. Lawns 3 & 4 have been treated but wet weather for the last week has prevented Lawns 1 & 2 being treated. If the weather becomes drier over the weekend the exercise will be completed on Saturday. As the clumps die they leave small bare areas with only a few grass seedlings underneath and which will require further re-seeding. These bare spots will not prevent the lawns opening but they will make the surface uneven. The effect can be minimised but not eliminated by lowering cutter height to 6mm.

The weather has changed over the last week, with heavy rain over the weekend (about 17mm) and a further 12mm on Wednesday (May 30th). Yesterday (May 31st) there was another 27mm of rain, making close to 60mm (2.5 inches!) in a week. This has left the lawns very wet with surface water everywhere and very soft ground. It has prevented the reseeded areas being cut for week and as a result long grass has developed. The latter will need to be trimmed down with the Countax rotary mower before being cut at 9mm with the triplex mower. Nothing can be done until the ground dries out (about 3 days after it stops raining). Nailsea lawns have always had a tendency to flood because of the silt/clay soil. However, the loss of soil structure during the levelling process has exacerbated the problem. The slow clearance of water from the surface is likely to continue until the grass roots have created a more porous surface/rootzone. Based on experience with irrigation the lawns currently appear to cope with modest but not excessive rainfall.

The next Revolution spray is due on June 1st and I hope that Sarel spiking will commence as soon as the grass roots bind the newly seeded sandy areas sufficiently well to support spiking without damage. Both will help drainage and the development of a more healthy rootzone, which is essential for healthy grass development.

The current soft, waterlogged state of the ground lawns is such that the cut&roll by Talbot Farm planned for June 5th has been postponed. The ground needs to have some “give” in it to roll but to roll it when soft and muddy could create a mess and further compact the soil. When conditions permit light rolling with our own equipment will be applied. This will not achieve the same result but is less risky.

2. Lawn Availability.

The delay in opening the lawns is very frustrating but various events need to take place before play can commence. These include:

a. The new grass roots need to develop to the point where the sand is bound together. This is particularly important in the damaged areas.

b. The whole grass is being cut at an acceptable playing height using the Toro. (Probably around 6mm)

c. The lawn areas are not flooded with resulting soft, vulnerable ground.

The LAG will be keeping a close eye on events. So that there is no delay once the decision to open the lawns is made the plan is to cut the lawns at 9mm and then mark out the lawns next week. The lawns will be positioned such the minimum of damaged areas are actually included within the lawns. The hoop holes will then be drilled , backfilled and hoops set in readiness for the start of the season. The following week the grass cutting height will be lowered to 6mm provided weather conditions permit. The nets will also require positioning. Thus by June 15th the preparatory work should hopefully be complete.

Each of the four lawns has its own particular set of problem areas. The possibility of opening one or two lawns ahead of the others will be kept under active consideration.

3. Equipment and Resources

Geoff Hughes has managed to replace the bearings in the broken Toro roller by manufacturing his own extraction tool. New bearing cost around £40 compared with £190 for a complete new roller. It may prove impossible to remove the bearings in those rollers without a hole in the shaft. These rollers are cheaper (nearer £100 I think) but I think some provision for replacing all the rollers needs to be considered.

The Countax has suffered from poor starting and hunting. It is thought this was due to a blockage in the carburettor but only time will tell as to whether there is a more serious problem.

About £30 has been spent on glyphosate and potentially another £30 on replacing string used for marking out lawns. The irrigation will have consumed a significant amount of water. My rough estimate is that this will have cost in the region of £3-400. Expensive but essential to get grass germination under ultra-dry conditions.

John Wallace

Membership Report 05.06.2018

Attached is the Membership List in its current state showing (by colour coding) the members who have not paid, resigned etc. as at 28.05.18.

To date 7 members have resigned and one has made Bath her primary club. I have had recent telephone conversations with two members, one a social member who had lost the form and another who has assured me that she will pay once we have a firm lawns' opening date.

The total amount received is £7571 which includes a part payment by one member. We very much welcome back Richard Broad and Ryan Cabble.

Tournament Secretary's Report

The results of SWF league matches involving Nailsea teams played so far this season are:

Association Croquet

Advanced League (Parkstone Trophy) Division 2:

Bath 3	Nailsea 2nds 2
Budleigh Salterton 2	Nailsea 2nds 3

Advanced League (Parkstone Trophy) Division 3:

Sidmouth B 5	Nailsea 3rds 2
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Federation League:

Kingston Maurward 2	Nailsea Central 3
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Exeter 3	Nailsea South 4
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Intermediate League:

Bath 1	Nailsea Central 6
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Golf Croquet:

GC Level Play League:

Bath 6½	Nailsea 13½
Weston-super-Mare 7	Nailsea 13

GC Handicap League:

Camerton & Peasedown CN 13	Nailsea Central North 7
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Camerton & Peasedown CS 12½	Nailsea Central South 7½
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Budleigh Salterton South East 0	Nailsea South East 9 w/o
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Sidmouth South East 12	Nailsea South East 8
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Peter Dyke
(30/05/18)

Report of Golf Croquet Handicap Committee Meeting held on Monday 21st May 2018

The GC handicap committee reduced two players' golf croquet handicaps.

It was also noted that some players had not kept the GC trading chart up to day and one player had not reported an automatic handicap change. PD to speak to the players concerned.

5th June 2018

Club competitions report

- Newsletter and entry form has been circulated - not many responses at time of writing (22.5.18) but will hopefully have more to report at the meeting
- Dates of early on-the-day competitions will need to be revised

Coaching

- Kriss Chambers has offered to do a whiteboard session on building breaks if we think that would be helpful
- I suggest booking a lawn weekly e.g. alternating between a Tues and a Thurs - for coaching and organising something along last year's pattern

Press releases

- As Doreen will not be doing this now, is there anyone else who could?
- Brigit has suggested John Hancock has / may have been / could be approached