

**Nailsea & District Croquet Club**  
**Draft Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 14 June 2016**

**Chair:** Andrew Wimshurst  
**Present:** Kathy Wallace, Brigit Clayton, Peter Dyke, Mike Tracy, Linda Shaw  
Coral Harrison

The meeting opened at 10am

**1. Apologies** Brian Roynon

**2. Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 10 May 2016**

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 10 May

**3. Matters arising from Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 16 March 2016**

Andrew had visited the house of the neighbours whose hedge was to the west of lawns 2 and 3 but had been unable to make contact with them. He would continue to try in order to tell them that we would like to cut the hedges.. AW

The DBS procedure for Alison and Erica is in hand.

The Nailsea charity one-ball money had now been passed on.

With the help of one of the class of 2016 Linda had made progress with the handbook for beginners and was continuing to work on it. Linda had completed the programme for the refresher series for members in their first full season..

Mike reported that two of his class had decided to give up croquet.

Andrew had received some information about defibrillators from Harry and Doreen Wallace. The report was complex. The cost appeared to be a minimum of £1000. Mike thought that this would be for a single use after which the machine would have to be returned to the manufacturer for it to be put back into service. The general feeling was that it was unlikely that many members would feel able to use a defibrillator and that the strength of the shock administered by such a machine would be too low to be useful. Andrew would make further contact with Doreen and we would keep the situation under review. AW

#### 4. Treasurer's Report (Mike Tracy)

Mike reported a surplus of £5,445.77 and a balance of £18,935.49 less un-presented cheques.

He also reported:

*"I have still not received a corrected invoice for the rent or any other communication from the council. I have sent another reminder to the council pointing out that this is still outstanding. The new lease came into effect on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015 at which point £500.00 was due but never invoiced. I calculate that the rebate we are due for the period from 29<sup>th</sup> September 2015 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 (for which we had already paid at the rate of £378.40 p.a.) is £191.27, so I expect to be invoiced the difference, £308.73. I therefore regard our surplus for the year to be £5,137.04.*

*Having confirmed that we will continue to receive 100% rate relief from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017 by order of central government, North Somerset Council continues to advise me that the policy on discretionary relief has changed, that we have to apply for it if we want it and that if discretion is not granted we will get none. I despair!*

*Catering for the June tournament was profitable as 10 of the 12 competitors had lunch, netting us £200. I have not yet received expense claims from Coral and Liz, but I am confident that the profit will be significant.*

*We have just passed the anniversary of our contract with EDF for electricity. Our account was overpaid by £122.91 which has been credited back to us. In view of this overpayment our monthly direct debit has been changed from £28 to £30. Strange but true.*

*Bridge income has passed the £800.00 mark.*

*In summary, I am reasonably confident that our surplus for the year will be close to the £6,000 I had hoped for at the start of the year despite the drop in membership, so the levelling project is still financially viable."*

#### 5. Membership Report (Coral Harrison)

*"The last subscription for the year 2016 –2017 was received mid May.*

*I have received form and cheque for one new Social Member who has joined to enable her to play bridge at the Club but anticipate more forms and payments for Full Members after Wednesday evening when there is the Social event for those completing their coaching and last year's new members..*

*The bridge has been changed to Monday evenings for the four weeks beginning 20 June, as there are Social Bookings on Tuesday evenings for those four weeks"*

There was a discussion about the fact that a new Social member had joined the Club in order to play bridge. The Committee made the decision that, in future, such applications for membership should only be accepted at the discretion of the Committee.

KW  
(Hbook)

## 6. Property Report (Brian Roynon)

### *“Car Park.*

*The matting at the entry /exit to the car park is looking very uneven but still intact. It will need attention in the future. I suggest that with the lawn levelling approaching, we leave it and wait and see as the contractors may make the car park worse and we don't want to waste any more money.*

### **Work mornings**

*The work morning on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June went well. There was a daunting amount of grass to cut!*

*8 members turned up and worked very hard with priority being given to the grass edges and banks to prevent the seed getting onto the lawns. We had some problems with the brush cutter with a temporary repair being made to enable us to nearly complete the work. It will now need a new strimmer head. (Geoff has it in hand.)*

*A big thank you is needed to all those who took part and everyone was impressed with James who turned up and worked all morning and enjoyed it.*

*The next full work morning will be Friday the 8<sup>th</sup> July but unfortunately I will not be available to lead it. Brian McCausland offered but when he checked he was not available either.*

*I will approach Geoff as he said he should be available to help.”*

Andrew observed that the grass round the perimeter should not be allowed to grow so long in future and the Committee are grateful to Brian for sorting the problem out by organising work mornings

## **7. Lawn Maintenance Report (John Wallace)**

### **“1. Lawns**

*The warmer weather in the second half of May and early June has resulted in more vigorous grass growth. The sward density appears to have improved, resulting in more consistency in the pace of the lawns. However the consistency has come at the expense of lawn speed, which has dropped from about 12 – 12.5 plummers in previous years to 10.5-11 plummers depending when the measurement is made. A slight reduction in grass cutting height would probably restore the 12 plummer speed but with mostly warm dry weather about this could adversely affect the grass. At the C Class AC tournament some players found the lawns too slow on the first morning whilst others found them too fast on the second morning after an early morning cut. The speed with which the grass grows at this time of year suggests that early morning cuts before each day of a tournament would be better than a double cut the day before the tournament. This is under consideration for future tournaments. The good (self evident) news is that the lawns have stayed green despite the usual lack of rain to compensate for the water lost through evapo-transpiration. The purpose of applying the Revolution soil surfactant is to encourage the replacement of the water loss through evapo-transpiration by capillary action from the water table. The effect gradually builds up over multiple applications but it may be that we are beginning to see the benefits. Only time will tell, but from memory I think the lawns had begun to dry out and go brown in local areas by this time last year. In 4- 6 weeks time we will be more certain about the impact of Revolution. The total accumulated rainfall and water loss through evapo-transpiration (ET) is almost identical to 2015. I have enclosed two graphs showing these effects over a rolling 4 week window. (i.e. each point on the graph represents cumulative rainfall and ET over the previous 4 weeks) for 2015 and 2016.*

*The only area to dry out is the North boundary of lawns 3 and 4 – probably due to the presence of trees on the boundary. The grass has started to go brown but interestingly the ground is not hydrophobic as it is when Local Dry Patch appears. Whilst irrigating the lawns to water in the Revolution I also used a hosepipe to flood the brown North boundary area. The water was quickly absorbed into the soil. The irrigation itself worked well but it is time consuming. To apply 4mm of water to two lawns takes about four hours – a bit tedious!*

### **2. Hoop Setting**

*The hoop areas were irrigated on June 1<sup>st</sup> and the hoops move took place on June 2<sup>nd</sup> using the previous month's holes. David Hunt reported that the revised approach to hoop setting again worked well with the whole process taking less than three hours. The effects of Revolution keeping the soil more moist will obviously assist the hoop setters. Malcolm Chamberlain has been trained to carry out the hoop area irrigation the day before hoop moving takes place. It is possible that as the effects of Revolution build up, this additional irrigation of the hoop areas will not be necessary.*

### **3. Irrigation**

*The new irrigation was used in anger for the first time as there was no rain about to water in the Revolution. It worked well but is time consuming. The Farmura rep. For Revolution has recently suggested that if rain is forecast we should try to move the Revolution spray by a few days to coincide with the rainfall. This requires the Revolution spray to be carried out separately from the Liquid Fertiliser/Growth Regulator spray but avoids the need to irrigate.*

### **4. Sprayer.**

*During spraying last week the isolation valve between the pump and boom cracked and liquid began to leak on to the ground. The thin brown stripes evident on the*

lawns are as a result of the leaking liquid fertiliser scorching the grass. It will hopefully recover in a few weeks. A replacement is available under warranty but we may have to pay postage. The reason for the cracking is not obvious. Some minor modifications to the sprayer are planned in order to keep the sprayer boom level. There may be a small material cost of the order of £20-£30 to carry out the modifications.

#### **4. Fertiliser Spreader**

Duncan Hector is bringing an example of an Earthways spreader that he recommends when he next visits the club. Cost is in the region of £150.

#### **5. Lawn levelling**

The levelling specification was circulated for comment and was issued to five contractors on 17<sup>th</sup> May. The closing date for responses is July 8<sup>th</sup>. I have confirmed that all contractors have received the tender. Talbot Farm Landscapes who carry out levelling work at Budleigh, visited site briefly on June 1<sup>st</sup>. Three of the other contractors have already been to site. I would expect Fineturf to arrange a visit before the closing date. As yet, I have had no feedback or questions from contractors.

Geoff Hughes has had second thoughts about dumping the top surface material on his land so we will probably have to pay for the disposal at a cost of around £700. However, the results of the STRI soil analysis suggest that we probably do not need to incorporate sand into the rootzone during the levelling process. This will save us more than £700!"

Andrew thanked John for his usual attention to detail

### **7a "Tournament Secretary's Report (Peter Dyke)**

#### **League for Advanced Play**

Division 1 Dyffryn v Nailsea 1<sup>st</sup> – no results notified yet  
 Division 2 Nailsea 2<sup>nd</sup> 4 Budleigh Salterton 3  
 Division 3 Nailsea 3<sup>rd</sup> 2 Cheltenham 2<sup>nd</sup> 3

#### **Federation League**

North Cheltenham 4 Nailsea North 3  
 Nailsea North v Worcester Norton postponed  
 Central Abbey 2 Nailsea Central 3

#### **B League**

North Nailsea North 4 Kington Langley 3  
 South Nailsea South 4 Sidmouth 3

#### **Golf Croquet Level Play League**

Nailsea 19 ½ Dyffryn ½  
 Nailsea 8½ Cheltenham 11½  
 Nailsea 13½ Bristol 6½  
 Worcester Norton 14 Nailsea 6

#### **Golf Croquet Handicap League**

Central North Nailsea CN 9 Bristol 11  
 Nailsea CN 12½ Kington Langley 7½  
 Central South Camerton & Peasedown 7 Nailsea CS 13  
 South East East Dorset SE v Nailsea SE – match abandoned due to heavy rain and flooding; to be rearranged  
 Sidmouth SE 9½ Nailsea SE 10½ "

**7b Handicap Report (Peter Dyke)**

**The Report of AC Handicap Committee Meeting** held at the club on **Tuesday, 31 May 2016** is available in hard copy only  
The next meeting of the AC Handicap Committee will be held on Tuesday, 2 August.

**8. Club Sessions survey**

The responses about Monday sessions were overwhelmingly in favour of a random draw at 2pm. There was only one person preferring groups to be formed in order of arrival. Members were fairly equally divided between keeping the same groups all afternoon and doing a second draw at some stage. It was thought that many players would go home rather than have their names in a second draw so no changes should be made to the Monday procedures.

A choice between two 14pt games and one 26pt game had been offered for Wednesday afternoons. Members were fairly equally divided in their opinions on this. There was a significant call for Short Croquet sessions on Wednesdays. The Committee decided that a combined and compromise action would be to instigate the use of 2 or 4 small lawns for Short Croquet every week. This would also enable new players to take part in Club afternoons at a much earlier stage. All players would be asked for their preference on arrival. Priority for places on small lawns would be given to beginners and then to those with a high handicap. The organiser would make the decision as to how many small lawns to use when preferences had been collected. The time taken to get the games organised will necessitate arrival by 1.45pm.

Kathy to inform members

KW

**9. Catering supervision for 2017**

Violet had expressed a wish to hand over this role at the end of the 2016 season. Kathy volunteered to organise the rotas for tournament catering. It was thought that Brian and Brenda might well take on responsibility for the first day of the season. Linda would ask her beginners if one of them might take on organisation of cake supply. Kathy would ask Violet what else the role entailed

KW

LS

KW

**10. Obituaries**

Kathy had been approached by the Gazette editor enquiring as to who was the best person to write an obituary for Ian Telfer. Kathy had agreed to look into it. It was decided that Kathy would approach David Richards. He would be able to pursue this at Palace Wells Croquet Club, Ian's primary Club.

KW

**11. AOB**

Peter was concerned that some of the knockout competitions were behind schedule. Linda was aware of this and was intending tossing a coin for some results as the blame for the tardiness seemed to be equally shared between the opponents.

Peter wondered if the Nailsea round of the All England GC competition would be better held on a single day. This would facilitate the presence of referees and the use of consistent time limits. Linda agreed to look into this

LS

Peter reported that 6 Juniors were now attending Friday sessions. They had all paid the initial fee of £10 but would soon be due to pay a further fee to obtain membership and continuing lessons. He suggested that £15 should be the required amount. This had been debated previously and a fee of £20 had been set. Andrew suggested that we over-ride this and the Committee agreed. The Hand book will be changed accordingly

PD  
KW

**12. Date of next meeting**

This was arranged for Tuesday 19 July at 10am

The meeting closed at 12 05pm

**Signed as a true and accurate record**

Name.....

Signature..... date.....