

Nailsea & District Croquet Club
Draft Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 16 February 2016

Chair: Andrew Wimshurst

Present: Kathy Wallace, Coral Harrison, Brian Roynon, Brigit Clayton,
Peter Dyke, Mike Tracy, Linda Shaw

1. Apologies None

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 12 January 2016

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on **12 January.**

3. Matters arising from Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 12 January 2016

There had been no further communication from the WI or from Mike Blower re their requests for lawn hire.

Linda had signed up for a course at the South West Academy which should lead to her becoming a Grade 1 Coach. She was encouraged to claim her course fee from the Club.

It had been decided between meetings that Chris Jackson's new rules for the Mad Monday competition should be accepted.

The OBE tournament had been arranged for 17 May. Kathy to put the date and the Rules of the competition on the Club website

KW

Mike had submitted our response to the Rate Relief document but had had no acknowledgement.

4 sets of hoops had been coated. The quoted price had not included VAT so the total cost had been £288

4. Treasurer's Report

Mike reported a deficit of £4016.14 and a balance of £9813.02 less unrepresented cheques. He also reported:

"The net income from the skittles evening was £191.44, the raffle contributing £62.00. 27 people attended. Welcome though this is, expenditure was £40 over budget (£36 of this for payment of stickers up) and income was £30 below budget due to the number of people who attended. The raffle did a little better than expected (by £12). I take the view that events such as this are for the enjoyment of members and to keep the club community alive during the winter months rather than as profit generators. Nevertheless we are a little worse off than I had expected and will budget less optimistically next year. Just a handful of extra people attending makes all the difference.

Take up for the 100 club has picked up to 38 units paid for so far. This is slightly ahead of budget (£456 received, budget £440), so a few more as we approach the first draw is a reasonable expectation and would help to compensate for the under-performance of the skittles evening.

We have until recently enjoyed the use of Terry's pressure sprayer, but as he wanted to take it back home for his own use, Geoff requested authorisation to buy one for the club. He was given the go-ahead and managed to find one on Freecycle and is to be congratulated for this.

Four sets of hoops were sand blasted and powder coated at a cost of £288. The £10 per hoop quotation turned out to be exclusive of VAT. If the powder coating is not sufficiently robust to withstand more than one season's use we will have to judge whether or not to repeat this outlay every year. If repainting after a year is required then we could consider having the hoops just sand blasted and then repainting them by hand. The preparation is the most tedious and time consuming part of the job. This expenditure was not in the budget.

The Toro mower has been serviced, including sharpening the cutters and replacing the bedknives at a cost of £435.44. The annual budget for maintaining the Toro is £500.

The plumbing work for the irrigation system has been done and the equipment supplied, but with different sprinkler/spray heads than those specified. John is not going to pass the invoice for payment to me until this has been resolved, but there is £800 in the budget for this.

Income from bridge has just passed the £400 mark.

The hedges have had their cut at a cost of £480. The budget for this was £350.

In summary, we have an overspend of £488 relative to budget) on the hedges and the hoop work and the underperformance of the skittles evening. The improvement of the 100 Club is marginal as at least 55% of the income goes in prizes. We need to avoid unplanned spending if we are to achieve the surplus upon which the levelling project depends. In particular, I would ask the committee to consider whether we need to complete the boarding of the attic this year. I am waiting with interest to see how far our funds diminish before income from subscriptions starts to come in. This will give a clear indication of the minimum balance we can afford to have and expect to survive the winter, which in turn determines whether or not we can commit to lawn levelling (or any other large project) after the end of the season."

Brian reported that the hedge cutting had cost more than anticipated because the contractor had been asked to reduce the hedge. The Council had cut the field side of the eastern hedge as well so it now looks very tidy and more light falls on the club grounds.

5. Property Report (Brian Roynon)

“Trolleys.

Richard is going to paint one of the trolleys.

The Club House.

David Hunt and Brian R have fitted the hatch and loft ladder. A third of the central roof space was also boarded. The intention is to complete boarding this area and this will be done by Brian and Robin when Robin returns from Australia in March. Brian will purchase 6 more packs of boarding, in the mean time, at £9.99 a pack.

Hedge Cutting.

The contractor Tom Williams came and cut the hedges on 1st February. Lowering the hedge behind the Pavilion by 12 inches and the other hedges by a lesser amount. The price for this work was £480.

The leylandi growing over the rear fence near lawn 1 is growing towards the lawn. As the owner has cut his side and end it would be a good idea to consider cutting our side to tidy it up, allow the sun and rain to fall on the bank and reduce bits falling onto the lawn. The hedge Contractor said he would do it for about £140 if he was on site doing other work but for £200 if it were a stand alone job. Perhaps we could consider it for July or next year?”

The Committee gave the go-ahead for the completion of the work in the loft. BR

Andrew said he would have a look at the hedge behind lawns 2 and 3 AW

Mike raised the issue of the condition of the hexagonal matting. Sections of it were rising up and he was worried that they would snap when cars began to drive over them again. Brian said that the chippings that had been put down had all disappeared below the surface and the only cheap temporary solution would be to get more chippings. Andrew would enquire from Nailsea Building Supplies and Kathy would put a request on a local Face Book page AW
KW

At this point, there was a discussion about CASCs (Community Amateur Sports Clubs) and Registered Charity status. Mike will continue to research this area. He has contacts with experience of both statuses. MT

6. Handicap Committee Report (attached, hard copy only; Peter Dyke)

The AC Handicap Committee had met and reviewed handicaps. There had been some reductions in handicaps and the members affected had been informed of the reductions. Other players had been advised that their handicaps would be reviewed again at the end of May.

In addition, the AC Handicap Committee had invited Brigit Clayton to join them and she had agreed.

Similarly, Chris Jackson had accepted an invitation to join the GC handicap Committee

7. SWF League teams report incl GC teams

The names of the captains for all the GC teams had now been confirmed. The e-mails asking for preferences for membership of squads could be sent out. Replies to go to Peter who would sort out the teams

8. Club Competitions

Linda presented a draft programme for internal competitions.

It was noted that the hoop holes on more than four small lawns should be kept open until after the Club Short Croquet event on 19 June. **all**

The level play GC competition had been scheduled for the same day as a Federation Match. Linda would look to see if this could be changed. **LS**

9. Lawn Maintenance Report (John Wallace)

1. Lawns

Grass growth has been slow during January and the lawns were considered too wet/soft to cut or Sarel spike in early February. The first cut/Sarel spike is therefore likely to take place in mid February. Re-growth in bare areas that were overseeded generally seems satisfactory. However, it is noticeable that the old hoop holes have not filled in as they would in the summer and may require some attention at the start of the season. **KW**

The additional iron spray has had little effect on the black algae areas on the North boundary. Hopefully, recommencement of Sarel spiking and warmer weather may have a more positive effect on grass re-growth. When the lawns are marked out in March it is hoped that this narrow strip can be avoided by moving the lawns a yard South of the 2015 position. **KW**

Weeds are apparent in various areas surrounding the lawns. A concerted effort will be made to hand spray these with Verdone (a retail lawn weed killer) in the spring when it is most effective.

2. Irrigation

The new irrigation system was delivered and installed in the machine room on January 22nd. After careful consideration, the additional non-return valve was not fitted. This is an expensive item (cost £100) that is designed to prevent backflow into the water mains in the event of a major pressure loss in Bristol Waters mains supply. However, the regulations recognise that backflow cannot occur whilst the system is operating because the sprinklers are mounted on sledges well above ground level. Only if the layflat hosepipe was disconnected from the sprinklers whilst still connected to the mains could this occur. The problem can be avoided by connecting/disconnecting from the mains only when the hosepipe is connected to the sprinklers. Given the low probability of a mains pressure loss, the low frequency of use and the use of the correct connection/disconnection sequence it was concluded that the extra non-return represented an over-engineered solution. The contractor has offered a full rebate for the cost of the valve.

Preliminary testing suggested that there was sufficiently low pressure loss in the layflat hosepipe such that the sprinklers were operating at design pressures. A comprehensive test was not possible because the contractor had supplied the wrong sprinkler (a single nozzle design) rather than the dual nozzle specified. He is currently procuring the correct sprinklers but there is a potential delay of 4-6 weeks as they are manufactured in Israel.

No invoice has yet been submitted as the contractor was told that no payment would be made until the correct sprinklers were supplied. The invoice will be about £100 lower than the quotation to allow for the elimination of the non-return valve.

3. Spraying

Both Duncan Hector and the spraying supervisory contractor (Greensleeves) are happy for us to store the licensed PrimoMaxx chemical in our own chemical cupboard. However, they do insist that we wear protective clothing. Thus a face mask, nitrile gloves, spraying record book and 4 sets of disposable overalls have been purchased from Pitchcare at a cost of £72. Each disposable overall pack (cost about £6/pack) can only be used once and will need to be replaced in subsequent years. The other items will last many years.

4. Hoops

The committee decided to refurbish the hoops with a powder coating. To minimise the scratching caused by the hoop clamp, the steel clamp linings have been replaced with Nylon linings at a cost of about £10 in materials. This will hopefully eliminate any damage to the outer edges of the hoops.

The method of hoop setting and resetting will change this year with the hoops being reset into one of two sets of hoop holes 12 inches apart. To enable the initial holes to be drilled a new template has been created at a cost of about £30.

3. Manpower and dates for 2016.

The lawn maintenance rotas have now been finalised and issued to all those involved. Not many people responded to the request to confirm their receipt of these finalised rotas but with a bit of luck they will turn up as required. I have had detailed discussions with some about their involvement in hoop setting but others have not responded to any of the emails sent out. As they are new to hoop setting this is of some concern.

The 5 lawn Monday evening closure dates agreed at the last committee meeting have been incorporated into the Spraying rota.

Hoop (re)setting will generally take place on a Thursday evening to facilitate those who work to assist. This will be a minor nuisance to those playing Golf Croquet at this time but as the hoop (re)setting only affects one lawn at a time there should not be a problem. The hoop setting will be marked in the lawn booking sheets so that everybody is aware of what is happening.

John Wallace 12/2/16

10. First Day of Season

As Violet usually oversees the food for this day, Kathy will check that she is willing to do so this year

Coral and Brian volunteered to provide batches of soup

Brian said he would liaise with Violet about the hot cross buns for tea time

KW
CH BR
BR

It was decided to make the same charge as last year for soup and bread. Tea and hot cross buns would be 50p each

KW

11. Short Croquet Teams event

Brian McCausland was willing to organise the Nailsea teams for this and his offer was accepted. It was decided that all three teams should have 5 players. Brian should invite all AC players to signal their availability and should select 15 people from those who registered. A captain for each team should then be chosen. Priority should be given to players who were keen on the event itself as opposed to merely requiring some practice prior to another event. Kathy to brief Brian

KW

12. Child Protection

More paperwork for the coaches was required. Linda would liaise with the Child Protection Officer.

The Policy has been recently reviewed and will be reviewed annually

LS

13. Open Day

The principle was established that recruitment of new members was vital and that money should be spent on publicity. The boards and large posters might need renewal. It was thought that Face Book might now be more effective than some of the printed publications and as this publicity would be free, it seemed a good idea. Kathy would liaise with Erica about publicity for Open Day in general.

KW

Brigit was willing to repeat her role liaising with Erica and with the coaches regarding the Open Day paperwork. Brigit would ask the coaches which slots in the week they wished to hold their sessions so that this information could be accurate on the application forms. It was decided that lessons should commence in the week beginning Monday 9 May.

BC

14. (i) GC teams World Championship (second tier)

There had been an approach from one of the teams asking if we could provide a practice lawn prior to this tournament. It was decided to book one lawn all day for them and allow them to use any additional free lawns.

KW

As joint host of the Tournament, Camerton & Peasedown had asked for organisational help. The Committee did not feel able to provide any co-coordinated NDCC effort for this as we have our won events to manage. However, the pleas will be circulated to all our members and some may well offer to help.

KW

(ii) Tournament lunches CH

There had been some concern that it might be difficult to find someone to provide lunch for the GC tournament but Coral said she would happily do this

(iii) Cleaning

We would accept any offers of help in organising the cleaning rota. The Committee would try to persuade people to sign up. Andrew would approach people, emphasising that once per year would be sufficient if all helped in this way. all
AW

(iv) Handbook

Kathy asked if anyone had any other items for insertion. She will send the financial pages to Mike for review and the trophy pages to Brigit for review. When Linda publishes the Competition news, the same wording for rules will be used in the Handbook. KW

15. AOB

Coral planned to issue the invitations for membership renewal the last weekend in February. Mike would put the updated forms on the website. CH
MT

Coral offered to print and deliver/post Calendars for the members who did not have access to e-mail. Kathy would put a slightly larger print version on the notice board. KW

Brigit wondered if members from the recent past who had renewed for 2015 should be sent the application form. She knew of one ex-member who was contemplating re-joining. Coral would send her a renewal form. CH

Brigit asked on Violet's behalf if a visit from Golden Valley school could be arranged for 3 May. This was agreed. BC

Brian referred to the recent publicity regarding CVD (colour vision deficiency). He had plans to paint some of the secondary clips with extra white marks to make the brown and green clips distinguishable from each other for those with CVD

Peter would like to have a deputy manager for each day of the Short Croquet teams event in case he were unable to manage the event due to illness. He would brief them in advance. Mike, Linda and Kathy were all willing to fill this role on a day that they were not playing. Peter would wait until the teams were announced to nominate the deputies. PD

Linda observed that we should be aware of our junior members when it becomes the case that all club members are automatically CA members. There may be an issue re their details being available on the CA website. KW

16. Date of next meeting

This was arranged for Wednesday 16 March at 10am

Signed as a true and accurate record

Name.....

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

DRAFT