

Nailsea & District Croquet Club
Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 12 January 2015

Chair: Andrew Wimshurst
Present: Kathy Wallace, Coral Harrison. Peter Dyke, Mike Tracy,
Brigit Clayton, Brian Roynon

1. Apologies None

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 1 December 2014

These were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 1 December 2014

3 Matters arising from Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 1 December 2014

Terry would be erecting battens, not shelves for the trophies – this error led from an error in previous minutes.

It was not known what the latest situation was re a grinder. Mike will find out from Geoff MT

Andrew agreed to contact Erica re recruitment initiatives AW

Nick Taylor had agree to be responsible for “hedges and edges” and Brian was helping him to learn about this role

Coral would update the membership application form ready for February CH

4 people had attended the first Table Tennis session and there would be probably be more in future.

Brigit had found a copy of the lease in the archives where she had placed it whilst Club Secretary in the period up to 2006. She had also discovered that HSBC in College Green held the original lease. Brigit found other important documents. She agreed to do a review of these documents as the current committee were not aware of their existence. Mike will then scan the important documents. Brigit will also review electronic information held by officers so that important details can be stored together in hard format. BC MT

Andrew would contact HSBC with a view to retrieving the original lease AW

Mike took a photocopy of the lease copy and returned it to Brigit.
Brian took the new copy and will pass it to Nick Taylor on Thursday 15 Jan so that his wife can look at it BR

Andrew will liaise with Peter re League teams when all the fixtures are known at the end of January AW PD

4. Treasurer's Report incorporating Lawns programme

Treasurer's report, spreadsheet and Lawn Maintenance Report attached (hard copies only)

The Balance is now £6869.24 including 100 Club funds.
Operating deficit since 30 September is £2657.10

As treasurer and LAG member, Mike outlined the case for equipment purchase.

- (i) The ATCO was beyond repair and a replacement was necessary:
 - (a) as a backup for the main mower (Toro at present)
 - (b) for use when new grass/ground was too delicate for the heavy main mower.
- (ii) The tining machine tears the grass and its use during the playing season is quite destructive. A Sarel roller would solve this problem as it has much smaller spikes and is designed for use during playing seasons. John is going to look at one in use at Letchworth Croquet Club to make sure there are no unknown disadvantages. The cost is about £800
- (iii) The spreader is malfunctioning and may be beyond repair. Geoff and Terry will look at it

Geoff and John had looked at two second hand machines which Mike Taylor was selling. The preferred one was a Hayter, with a groomer, at £1560.

It was agreed that the Hayter should be purchased and also a Sarel roller (subject to John's investigation). If the spreader is not able to be repaired, this will also be replaced.

Mike had written a letter to the CA Development Committee Chairman concerning the grant (copy attached). The laser survey had shown that the variations of height in our lawns are too great to be corrected by top dressing. There needs to be a more fundamental approach. It was agreed that the letter should be sent.

MT

The LAG (Lawns Advisory Group) would like to begin a programme in 2016 which would use laser levelling to improve all our lawns. The lawns being levelled would be out of use from 1 September until 1 May the following year. Peter will look at the feasibility of this from the perspective of all the league matches, internal competitions and Tournaments. It may be feasible to level two lawns in September 2016 and the other two in September 2018. Although this extends the disruption over 4 seasons, there would not be any single season truncated at both ends. Levelling two lawns at a time is preferable to levelling all 4 lawns at the same time as there is a small risk that the levelled lawns would not be ready for May. This would be weather dependent so out of our control to a certain extent. An emergency watering system would remove the risk of problems caused by extended dry periods during the germination and growth of the new grass. Such a system would also be useful in droughts. A watering system is being investigated and costed by the LAG.

PD

The cost for laser-levelling of two lawns would be between £8000 and £9000

Research shows that over-seeding on existing grass has a very poor germination rate. The solutions to this include the use of a Dimple Seeder. This would be done by a contractor so there would be no need to buy or store a machine. We have been quoted £350 +VAT per lawn. There is no point in overseeding at present in any case as the grass may well be dug up in the near future.

Mike summarised the situation by saying that the money saved in 2015 by abandoning smoothing and overseeding could be used to purchase equipment (as above). We should then be in a position in 2016 to begin the laser levelling process – subject to Peter’s feasibility study.

5. Qualifier for Women’s AC World Championship (WACWC)

This will be held at Nailsea July 18/19 and probably also 20. The Club will receive payment for this - £30/lawn/day plus any surplus to this taken in entry fees at £25/player. Peter will manage the event. Kathy agreed to take the lead in the general organisation – liaison with director, manager, players, catering, parking etc. Kathy will draw from the experience of Brigit and Violet from the 2005 World Championship.

KW

6. Bids for CA Tournaments in 2017

Due to the disruption anticipated because of the Lawns improvement programme, it was decided not to place any bids for events before 2020

KW

7. Tournament Secretary’s Report

Peter has now arranged 26/29 AC Fixtures and 23/29 GC Fixtures. There are more midweek Fixtures this season.

7a. Property Report (attached, hard copy only)

It was agreed that Brian should make some replacement centre pegs and also some wooden boxes for the storage of the corner flags.

BR

It was decided to buy some clips from the site recommended by Bristol Croquet Club as the clips sold in the CA shop were very tight and difficult to use in addition to being much more expensive.

BR

<http://www.exquisitescotland.com/merchandise/croquetclips/Default.aspx>

The decision was made to buy 4 sets of Dawsons Secondaries whilst they are still readily available and of reliable quality. It should be possible to get them carried when someone is making the journey from Cheltenham to Nailsea and thus avoid carriage costs.

MT

8. OBE advert for SWAN

The ad. was discussed and various changes made to it. Sue McKay had made improvements to its clarity by changing the font.

Kathy to send the edited version to Terry

KW

9. Skittles Evening

There were probably going to be about 24 players

Brenda and Brian would oversee the catering and Brian would organise the teams and the raffle. BR

Brigit would take the trophy and the ribbons BC

10. Website

It was hoped that the new website would go live for the 2015 season. Committee members and officers would like to be able to update their own sections on a continuous basis. Brigit would like a separate section for Wild Wednesday and Peter would find this very useful as a source of additional handicap data.

As there is now a link from the WCF site, it is more important to have a site with accurate and up to date information. The accommodation section needs updating and this would be easier if Kathy could access it herself.

Andrew agreed to contact Alison; Mike and Brigit indicated a willingness to be involved with the development of the site. AW

11. Bears

The Bear of Rodborough Club had become homeless. They had been given permission to play "Home" matches at the Opponents' venues. They are keen to play at other times as well. Kathy suggested that we make them aware of our Country Membership category. It was agreed that we should do this and also offer them a Friendly match similar to that in the Watford tour if the Calendar permitted it when it was complete

Kathy to contact Robert Moss KW

12. AOB

There were reports of accidents and operations for our members and Kathy will send cards. KW

There had been another enquiry about croquet from Tyntesfield from the Sports Development Officer who had found the croquet set and lawn. Brigit had arranged a meeting and suggested that she use Garden Croquet as an introduction. Kathy will send her the official rules of Garden Croquet. Andrew said that his brother had an interest in the National Trust embracing croquet BC KW

Andrew reported that his wife had given him a contact at Clifton College and he had sent an e-mail to ask if they had any pupils who did not fare well with the traditional team sports but might like to try croquet. This might particularly appeal as an English experience for some of the overseas pupils

Kathy agreed to send Peter a copy of the handicap tracking chart before the handicap Committee Meeting. Peter would send her a list of the changes made at the meeting so that the chart could be updated and the players themselves informed – particularly if they had not handed in their cards. KW PD

14. Date of next meeting

This was arranged for 10am on Monday 16 February

Signed as a true and accurate record

Name.....

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