

Nailsea & District Croquet Club
Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 12 July

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

1. Apologies None

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 22 May 2017

These were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on
22 May 2017

3. Matters arising from Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 22 May 2017

Kathy had not asked Mark about becoming a referee but would do so

KW

Information about the GC pods had now been circulated by the CA and had been
passed on to the Nailsea membership

4. Treasurer's Report (Mike Tracy)

“Current balance at the bank less un-presented cheques is £26,183.56

The surplus for the year is £7,667.53

These figures were recorded on 10th July

The June tournament had a full entry of 16 (£216) and the catering profit was £260.

*The July tournament was also fully subscribed (£216) and the catering profit was
£196.30.*

*The hedge cutting party was a huge success – I counted 19 members helping at one
point, with Terry Young kept busy most of the morning repairing cables from corded
equipment that had been accidentally cut through. My thanks to all who helped,
thereby saving the club about £400 to £500.”*

5. Property Report (Brian Roynon)

Brian confirmed that the turnout for the Hedge Party had been impressive. He wanted
to prevent the job becoming so big in the future and resolved to hold four work
mornings each season to keep the hedges under control.

BR

The kitchen light had become temperamental and Brian had changed the tube and also
the starter. He might need to change the entire fitting.

Friday 4 August was designated for a work party to tidy the outfield

Terry had mended the kitchen tap

Two of the evening Social visits had been cancelled due to rain – only one of them
had been rearranged.

6. Lawn Maintenance Report (John Wallace)

“1.Lawns

The dry weather has continued with the result that the water loss through evapotranspiration vastly exceeds the rainfall (figure 1). For the first time the lawns are showing signs of drying out. However the soil is not hydrophobic and readily absorbs any rain that falls. The cutters were lowered to 4mm for the B class tournament but will be raised back to 5mm this week.

The liquid bio fertiliser identified as being faulty has been returned to Duncan Hectors supplier. Analysis showed the correct NPK balance but the Humic Acid (which encourages bacterial activity in the soil) was missing. Duncan has delivered as a complete new set of 8 x 20L containers of liquid bio. This means that we will have two spare for next season. The liquid bio spray due today has been postponed because of the very dry weather. It is possible that we will end up with 4 x 20L of liquid bio spare this season. This can be used next year, reducing the cost of next years chemicals by perhaps £250-300.

The accidental use of Revolution for white ling resulted in a loss of about 3L. I have avoided buying another 10L container (£250) by reducing the 6L dose to 5L on each of the last three sprays. Hopefully this will not impact too much on the lawns. I have purchased a 1L bottle of Aqueduct (cost £27) to deal with any odd spots of dry patch if they develop. At present there is no sign of dry patch – the ground readily absorbs water although some areas a brown.

In view of the dry weather with a monthly forecast of no rain I have decided to utilise the emergency irrigation system to water each lawn for 4 hours – equivalent 8mm of rain. Total cost of 16 hours of irrigation is about £90.

2. Hoop setting

David Hunt’s new prototype hoop clamp has not been successful. It is unable to achieve the required accuracy because the mole grips cannot grip the carrots with sufficient force as to prevent minor rotations. For tournament hoop setting David has returned to using the original clamp. However, we are still discussing ideas for a clamp that controls carrot rather than hoop upright spacing.

The use of alternating hoop holes is still working well. If any hoops need backfilling, then the green waste provides a compostable material that does not risk the creation of hills around hoops. This is important if we move to fixed lawn and hoop positions once the lawns are levelled.

Starting next year, the order of competition cutting and hoop setting will be reversed. Hoop setting now takes no more than 4 hours so it will be possible to double cut the lawns on a Friday afternoon and then set the hoops. Wet weather will not affect the hoop setting process as there is no drilling involved. This will avoid the problem of the grass in the vicinity of the hoops being longer than the hoop approaches.

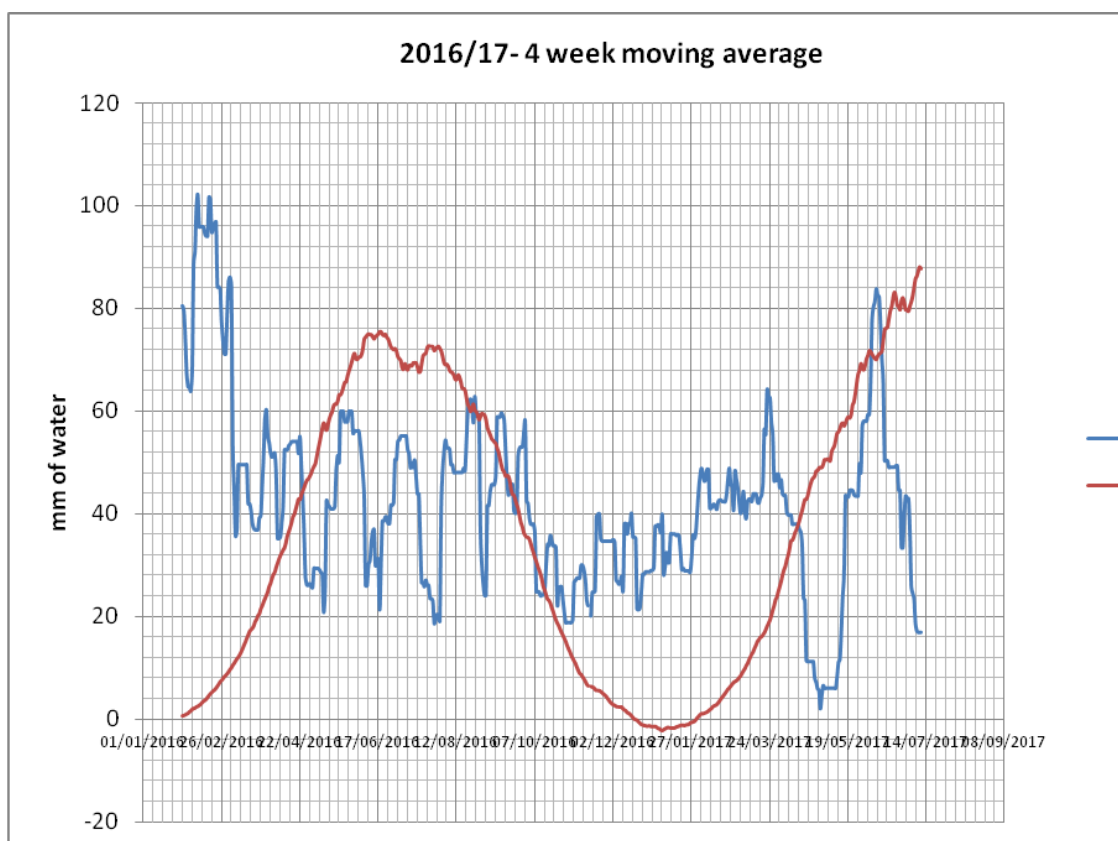
3. Levelling Contract

As a part of the contract NDCC is required to identify the location of services to the club to ensure that they are not damaged by levelling machinery. The water and sewage pipes are identified on the lease map and run outside the club grounds. However the Western Power map shows an 11Kv power cable running along the North boundary about 2.5m in from the fence. I have arranged for a Western Power visit on 12/7/127 to gain more understanding of what action is needed to avoid a problem during levelling. The cable is nominally buried to a depth of 0.6m whilst levelling will only disturb the soil to a maximum of 0.2m. However I am keen to get confirmation of this from Western Power.

Problems at home prevented the LAG meeting taking place to discuss the details of the winter maintenance programme following levelling. However I will soon be holding a meeting to finalise some of the details.

I have been in contact with Talbot Farm in order to finalise arrangements with them. I have not yet had an answer to my questions.

Figure 1 Rainfall and Evapotranspiration



Andrew observed that we were all very pleased th the condition of the lawns and that this was due to John’s efforts.

Peter raised the issue of drainage after the levelling. Kathy observed that flooding had only rarely occurred since Geoff had cleared out the drains. The use of Revolution and the Sarel roller were also helping enormously,

7.

South West Federation League Tables 2017

Association Croquet (AC)								
League	Team	Played	Won	Lost	For	Against	Position	% games won
Advanced	Nailsea 1st	0	0	0	0	0		
Advanced	Nailsea 2nd	3	½	2½	5½	11½	4/4	6.25
Advanced	Nailsea 3rd	1	1	0	4	3	2/4	57.1
Federation	Central	4	3	1	18	10	2/6	64.3
Federation	South	4	3	1	18	8	1/7	69.2
Intermediate	North	2	1	0	7	3	2/6	70
Intermediate	Central	4	4	0	20	8	2/6	71.4

Advanced League: Our first team have yet to play. Our second team have played half of their matches and recorded two losses and a draw (N.B. Drawn games are not allowed in AC). Our third team have recorded their first win ever!

Federation League: Both of our teams are doing well. Nailsea Central are in second place, but have lost to Bath Central, who are in first place with three wins out of three.

Intermediate Leagues: Again both teams are doing well. The North team is currently in second place, but narrowly lost this weekend to the Kington Langley team, that is in first place. The Central is also currently in second place – behind Camerton and Peasedown, who are also on four wins out of four. The outcome of this league depends on the the result of the final match of the season between Camerton and Peasedown and Nailsea Central on 12 August.

Golf Croquet (GC)										
League	Team	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Points	For	Against	Position	% won
Level Play	North	1	1	0	0	2	17	3	1/5	85
Handicap	Central North	3	0	0	3	0	27½	32½	4/6	45.8
Handicap	Central South	4	1	0	2	2	28	52	6/7	35
Handicap	South East	5	2	0	3	4	44	56	6/7	44

Golf Croquet Level Play League: Not many games have been played in this league. Our team is currently in first place with one win out of one. We are in a tough section and but we have a strong team if our top players are all available. The outcome of this section is likely to depend on our players' availability, particularly against Worcester Norton and Cheltenham.

Golf Croquet Handicap League: We are not doing as well as we usually do in the GC Handicap League. The Central North team has had three narrow losses with two games to play. The Central South team is having its worse season ever with just one win out of four games. Our South East team is currently in sixth place out of seven teams and are due to play Dowlsh Wake (DW) SE away on Tuesday*. DW is the only team below ours and they have several games still to play.

* A win could put our team up to second place behind Swanage; a loss will put us down to bottom place. DW has difficult, sloping lawns.

8. **Items 8 and 9** were taken together (Linda Shaw)

**Club Competitions and Coaching Report
July 2017**

Coaching

The Thursday morning sessions seem to be well received and the introduction to Advanced run by David Hunt was particularly well attended.

The GC sessions seem similarly well attended.

My impression is the idea of sharing skills and knowledge is having a positive impact and we should encourage this.

Richard Jackson will be running a 2 hour session on 3 ball breaks and canons (possibly) which is well subscribed to.

Several people have expressed an interest in becoming club coaches and I'd like to explore the costs of this so we could run one at the club next year - views on this please.

Beginners

The beginners are being catered for almost on an individual basis - Polly feels she needs support with her group which Erica is offering.

Robert Moss from the Bear is keen to organise an interclub friendly day for 2-3 of his new players and I shall contact people here who seem a similar standard to try to arrange this - Robert would also like a game - any takers?

One ball hcaps

We have agreed the following formula

- *Add the AC handicap to twice the GC handicap and halve*
 - *If someone has no AC handicap, assume it's 20*
 - *If someone has no GC handicap just use the AC handicap*
 - *But adjust handicaps below 2 are adjusted as follows (as set out in AC laws) before calculating the difference:*
 -

<i>1.5 becomes 1</i>	<i>0 becomes 2</i>	<i>-1.5 becomes -5</i>
<i>1 becomes 0</i>	<i>-0.5 becomes -3</i>	<i>-2 becomes -6</i>
<i>0.5 becomes -1</i>	<i>-1 becomes -4</i>	<i>-2.5 becomes -7</i>

This doesn't seem fair as we include GC hcaps in the calculation, so I didn't apply it for the one ball hcap but no GC only people seem to play any more, so should we just use the laws version?

Club handbook

I'm still slowly working on the Club Competitions Secretary's handbook which I envisage being a section in the club handbook.

I have also done a short page for League captains as new ones can be a bit vague and we all forget something e.g. booking lawns!

Would it be helpful (or does it already exist?) to have a lawns and maintenance section as there is a wealth of knowledge around which should be captured somehow.

The rules and conditions for SWF League play are set out on the SWF website and should be referred to for current rules.

These may be modified at SWF AGMs, so always check to ensure you have the most recent version.

During the winter, the committee will ask all members if they wish to be considered to play in one of the league teams and to state their preferences.

The committee will nominate the captain for each team - if you wish to be considered for this, please let the club's League co-ordinator (Peter Dyke) or committee secretary (Kathy Wallace) know.

Once the teams have been identified a list will be sent to all members along with the date of all matches - these are arranged by the League co-ordinator.

The captain does not have to play in every match, they may appoint someone else in their place, and should clearly explain what they have done and what remains to be done

Your responsibilities as captain are

To book lawns for home matches - it is usual to book only two lawns, but more may be used on the day if there are no other bookings

To contact each member of the team and ascertain their availability for matches through the season

To decide on the team membership for each match - ideally giving all members an equal opportunity to play

To liaise with the captains of your opponent teams in good time before the match

To confirm the size of the team

To confirm venue and start time

To agree if the home team will be providing lunch or tea

To inform your team of these arrangements and liaise re transport

To co-ordinate the provision of lunch / tea if you are the home team and ensure costs are equally shared

Tea and coffee are made available on arrival and throughout the day at no charge to players

To ensure League fees (£3 per person) are collected and paid to the Treasurer with the appropriate form - available on the website, at the club or from Mike

To ensure the driver to away matches completes a travel claim form - only one claim per match is payable

To complete the pro-forma match report (available on the SWF website) and send it to the SWF League Secretary, club League co-ordinator, press officer (currently Doreen) and club Secretary - for the website

It's nice if a photo can be included in this

It was clear that some of the beginners were not enthused – perhaps a change of coaching style was required.

It was agreed to pay travelling expenses to Richard Jackson for the coaching course.

It was agreed to hold a course to train Club coaches next season

Games with the beginners from Bears would be arranged although it wasn't clear what standard the Bears beginners would be

It was agreed that adult beginners wishing to join the club for the remainder of this season should be asked to pay £20. For Juniors, this would be £5

KW

Kathy to amend the form and make it clear that was only the fee for 2017, due to the early end of season

Linda suggested that the knowledge recently acquired re lawn maintenance should be documented. This could be a list of activities – with details of when and why each treatment was applied.

Andrew would like the Work Schedule to be put on the website and Mike agreed to do this

MT

The League Captain guidelines would be incorporated into the Handbook

Discussion of One-ball handicaps was deferred to the next meeting

10. Computer coaching

“Computer croquet (Linda Shaw)

There was an advert in Cygnet about this programme which Andrew Dutton (who will be playing in B Class this weekend) has developed. Should we consider buying one to use as part of our coaching armoury? - particularly thinking of the winter coaching sessions”

Linda to ask Andrew Dutton about the rights issue

LS

11. SWF Update (Linda Shaw)

A few of the SWF committee met up with Dave Gunn - meeting summarised in last issue of Cygnet.

The SWF would like to become much more participative and act as a forum for discussion and ideas sharing as well as a source of good support.

We are thinking of holding a workshop or two at the AGM - do you think this is a good idea and if so, what topics might be of interest?

As Advanced handicap play seems to have taken off well, is it worth suggesting SWF introduce this as a 1 day event next year with a view to making it a permanent addition either to the calendar or to the inter-club league fixtures?

Maybe in 2019 we could think of running a tournament ourselves?

Do we have any resolutions we'd like to present to the AGM?”

It was agreed that we would all think about these issues

ALL

12. Buchanan and Sergeant Cup Competitions

Due to the nature of these competitions and the entries they attracted, there were sometimes conflicts, particularly when high handicap players were not aware of all the Laws. It was agreed that Mike would draft a Code of Conduct which would become part of the Club Handbook

MT

13. AOB

The Handicap Committee had met but had not made any changes

Violet had submitted a Schools Report

“In May Erica and Terry spent the day at Backwell Junior School with Years 5 and 6 as part of their activities week. This is our 3rd visit and it was a very long hot day. Whilst the children enjoyed it there is very limited time with them. Erica feels that we should give this up as we have never had a child come to Juniors probably because the children come from quite a wide catchment area. In June Violet and Erica went to Golden Valley School to speak to the two Year 5 classes. This was followed by them spending the morning at the Club where Joan, Michael and Geoff helped the children have an enjoyable time. We have one new Junior following this. We would like to continue with this connection and to possibly contact St.

Francis School next season. As they are right next door to the Club and therefore do not need time to walk to the Club visiting the school prior to their visit would not be necessary. This is all subject to finding willing helpers, of course."

14. Date of next meeting

This will take place on Wednesday 23 August at 10am

The meeting closed at 12 noon

Post meeting note: this next meeting will now take place at Coral's house

Signed as a true and accurate record

Name.....

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