

Nailsea & District Croquet Club
Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 17 November 2015

Chair: Andrew Wimshurst

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

Note: a short meeting was held immediately after the AGM on 7 November. At this meeting, Brigit Clayton was co-opted onto the Committee and the date for this meeting was arranged.

1. Apologies None

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 27 September

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of the meetings held on 27 September

3 Matters arising from Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 27 September 2015

Andrew now has a hard copy of the finalised new lease with all the required signatures from both sides. He handed it over to Brigit with the following documents to be stored in the archives:

original 1998 lease

deed of surrender

copy of 1998 lease

Land Registry Title Information Document ST323352

Andrew had received a cheque for £57 from the Council, this being the final settlement for the handover between the lease periods.

The issue of cleaning of the Clubhouse was discussed again. Linda suggested that the rota be put up on the board and signatures be sought on all Club afternoons.

Kathy will write to Jo Vansittart thanking her for her efforts in organising the rota for the recent period.

KW

National Croquet Day will definitely be Sunday 5 June 2016

Sandra Bath will do the 100 Club draw at the Christmas Lunch. Mike hoped that forms for the next 100 Club period would be placed on the tables

Peter reported back from the SWF AGM:

Proposal A (minor constitutional change) was carried

Proposal B (no triple banking for League matches) was amended to only apply to B League matches and was carried

Proposal C which would lead to the formation of a new GC league for players of handicap 8 and above was carried. There would be no restriction on players in this league also playing in the other GC leagues.

Proposal D (to only allow walkover points to be awarded in the case of drawn points at the end of the season) was defeated after a long discussion. Walkovers will continue to be awarded 3-0 score.

At this point Kathy raised her concern that the letters sent to the SWF Committee regarding conditions at League semi-finals in 2014 and 2015 had been attributed (in the SWF Committee minutes) to her She had made it clear when writing that both letters were written and sent on behalf of the NDCC in her capacity of Club Secretary. Andrew will ask for the SWF minutes to be changed to reflect this

AW

Peter had checked with Marcus that he could raise a team for the First Division of the League for Advanced Play and had entered 3 teams for the League for Advanced Play. He had also entered 2 teams each at Federation, Intermediate and B League level. For GC, he had entered 3 teams for the GC Handicap Play league, one for the league for Handicap Play for players with handicaps of 8 or above (a captain was still to be found) and one for the Level Play League.

Kathy had booked the Skittles Evening for 30 Jan as 6 February was not available. It was noted that we had agreed last year that we should pay for “stickers up”. Kathy to organise this

KW

4. Treasurer’s Report

Mike reported a deficit of £31.82 and a balance of £13457.89. This was as expected with the seasonal variations in income and expenditure

5. Property Report (Brian Roynon)

The Pavilion.

The barge boards have been replaced by Robin & Brian.

Also the guttering on the porch has been cleaned out and realigned to give a better fall.

Now that the AGM has passed I will buy the remaining materials for the roof storage and access hatch.

Hedges and Edges.

Robin, Richard D and Brian will tidy and cut the east boundary when availability and the weather permits. We will also remove the car park nets for the winter.

Pavilion Keys

With all the new members we have run out of keys. I have ordered 12 new blanks at £45 and will get them cut when they arrive.

Stop Boards

I have asked Tony Willoughby to look after the stop boards and he has agreed to do it. He has already repaired 6 boards.

6. Lawn maintenance report (John Wallace)

1. Lawns

The programme for lawn mowing and white lining finished at the end of last week. The cutters are being raised to 9mm from 7mm for the winter period and I will give the lawns the occasional cut if continuing mild weather results in substantial growth. A further attempt has been made to overseed the areas affected by local dry patch on lawn 4 last summer. As the areas to be re-seeded were modest, grass seed was brushed into holes created using a garden fork. For the future, when larger areas are being re-seeded, the holes will be created using the tining machine and the grass seed brushed in using a 2mx2m piece of tractor-towed AstroTurf purchased at a cost of £50. The particular design selected has a distinct nap that means the brushing action should be effective. The ground is too wet to experiment at present but if drier, mild weather returns an experimental re-seed will be attempted. Lawn closure is planned for mid December (probably the 13th or 17th). I will be asking for volunteers to move the stop-boards and nets.

2. Materials for 2016

The order for 2016 has been placed with Duncan Hector at a cost of £2458 (with the Treasurers agreement!). This is slightly below budget, principally because we are able to buy 1 Litre of Primo Maxx via Duncan Hector (£60) rather than 5 Litres at the commercial price of £300+. The materials will be delivered in late November/early December. This is the cheapest time of year to make such purchases. Apart from the new Aqueduct and Revolution wetting agents, Duncan has also included Biogran in the granular fertilisers. This supplies a broad range of bacteria which help to break down thatch. (It does not significantly alter the cost). The approach is employed at a number of clubs and in one unusual case there was a dramatic reduction in thatch. Thatch depth at present is around 18mm but any reduction is useful.

3. Manpower for 2016.

A fourth beginner has now been recruited to complete the Sarrel Rolling team. The hoop setting team has yet to be finalised with David Hunt but as Kriss Chambers is not planning on playing next year it seems unlikely that he will want to participate in hoop setting. David Richards appears to be in a similar position so at least two more hoop setters need to be found before Xmas. There is a certain urgency in this as I want to issue the 2016 Lawns Programme in January 2016 so that club members can plan ahead with their lawn maintenance commitments. A discussion with David Hunt is required.

3. Irrigation

The contractor has confirmed that he can supply the sprinkler nozzles required and a final specification will be issued to him shortly. The decision to utilise three smaller rather than two larger sprinklers will increase the final cost (by perhaps £75-£100) but will provide a more even coverage with less water wastage on areas that do not need temporary irrigation.

4. Lawn Levelling

The Ecosolve contractor visited NDCC on November 10th. During a useful two hour discussion the LAG members covered all the important levelling issues. He did comment that the use of a germination blanket (£500 cost) would gain growing time in the important autumn phase and help to ensure the lawns were in a playable state in the spring of 2018. Importantly, he did not flag up any major cost increases not highlighted in his budgetary quote. The value and cost of post -levelling support (new grass cutting, overseeding, top dressing) was discussed in general terms.

Ecosolve advice was that the Invitation to Tender should be issued in the spring of 2016 to secure a September 2017 start date. Some provision for price inflation would need to be made but it would have the considerable benefit that the total cost would be well defined when final approval is confirmed by the Committee.

Andrew agreed to ask some of the younger members if they would be help with hoop setting if this were done in the evenings AW

Brian said that he had closed the car park because it was so muddy after all the recent heavy rain. The possibility of improving the car park was raised. Mike said that a worthwhile job would cost a large amount and should be postponed until 2018 when the surpluses would begin to accumulate again after the proposed levelling costs.

Mike reported that following the visit from the Ecosolve representative, the expected costs had not changed. Ecosolve would expect a formal specification to be written and a formal quote to be offered. They had suggested the purchase of a germination blanket which would provide and extra 8 days germination. The blanket could be used in the future for over-seeding

7 Handicaps (report attached, hard copy only)

There was a debate about the handicaps of Nailsea players because of the questions raised at the AGM. Peter said that according to the CA guidelines, non-automatic changes should only be made for rapid improvers or for players who never played AHS matches. Exceptions to this should only be made for compelling reasons. Andrew suggested that a request from a player to have his handicap lowered should constitute such a compelling reason.

Peter confirmed that any member of the GC Handicap Committee could carry out a GC assessment.

8. Club Competitions

Linda wondered if some of the competitions intended for play throughout the season could be played on a single day if the numbers warranted it. There was no objection to this and it was felt that it might reduce the backlog of matches still to be played at the end of the season, LS

Linda asked about using Bank Holidays for “on the day” competitions but Kathy observed that as all the Bank Holidays during the season are Mondays, this would not be popular with the GC players who played on Monday afternoons. The weekends of Bank Holidays should be all right and Peter was often unable to use these for league matches.

Chris Jackson had asked if he could split the GC level Play competition into two handicap ranges. There was no objection to this

Linda reported that Chris Jackson had also asked about using a single life knockout for the Buchanan Cup but it was felt that players should be given at least two matches.

Linda would like to hold an AC two-hour 18 pt competition as it might attract those who found 3 hour matches too long. There were no objections to this LS

Peter raised the problem of players entering the All England competitions but not wishing to proceed beyond the Nailsea round. It was decided to re-name these competitions as the Nailsea rounds of the All England Handicap Competitions (both AC and GC) instead of the LARS Plate and the Marshal Midda Competitions. There would be no Nailsea trophies for these competitions – the successful entrants would proceed to the Area Finals

The LARS Plate would be awarded to the winner of the new 18pt competition. The Marshall Midda Shield would be awarded to the winner of the low handicap section of the GC level play competition. LS BC

It was agreed to continue with the arrangement that players who withdrew from Club competitions might be refused entry the following year. This sanction had never been applied but withdrawals caused inconvenience and unfairness for others.

9. Mad Monday

As the original idea for Mad Monday was to encourage social players and those with a high handicap, it was wondered if there should be a lower limit for the handicaps allowed to play. The decision was deferred to the next meeting

KW
(agenda)

10. Christmas Lunch

52 people had booked places. This would definitely put the occasion into profit. The quiz was in hand and the tables placings were being organised by Coral and Brian An appeal had gone out for raffle prizes. CH BR

11. AOB

Open Day was confirmed as 23 April

Brian said that he would modify the trolleys as some of the pegs were sticking.

Peter had arranged a one-day GC B level tournament on Tuesday 9 August as the two weekends suggested were already being used by other clubs. Chris Roberts was aware of this fixture and it might be incorporated into the Series B tournaments that lead to a national final.

A member had asked if any coaching would be available at Nailsea next year. There would be some courses at Budleigh which was now the South-West Academy but players would have to make their own arrangements to attend these.

Another member had enquired about floodlights for evening play as he thought it would be a good way to spend any surplus money. As we don't have surplus money and the cost would be totally prohibitive, this was not given serious consideration, In addition, it would not be popular with the neighbours even if planning permission were granted(an unlikely scenario)

12. Date of next meeting

This was arranged for 10am on Tuesday 12 January 2016

Signed as a true and accurate record

Name.....

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