

**Nailsea & District Croquet Club**  
**Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 20 February 2017**

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

1. **Apologies** None

2. **Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 16 January 2017**

The minutes were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on  
**16 January 2017**

3. **Matters arising from Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 16 January 2017**

Mike had clarified that we were due to pay around 30% of the Talbot Farm fee for levelling (as a deposit) shortly before the work commenced and the remainder upon completion of the work. Andrew wondered if we should have asked to hold an amount back in case of problems. This was not considered practical because of the time scales involved before problems became apparent. It was noted that Talbot Farm is a reputable company and the contract includes rectification of problems.

Peter had circulated the report of the Handicap Committee (attached, hard copy only)

Mike had arranged to would familiarise himself with the spraying process. There was concern that John was the only person doing this job. The fact that it was weather dependent made it difficult to involve other people but Mike would like to have a group of people who could be called on at short notice in the hope that one of them could oblige. Kathy observed that we have a fundamental problem in that there is a shortage of members who are able to do manual work and that it was essential that we recruited suitable people this year.

The hoops were being painted in-house – it wasn't worth spending money on resizing and coating as there was no apparent benefit in this..

John Grimshaw had informed us that Budleigh Salterton were willing in principle to swap with us as venues for the Short Croquet teams competitions in 2018. They would host in the Spring and we would host in the Autumn. This was because of the late start to the season in 2018 due to the levelling work.

The re-worded membership renewal forms had been sent out.

It hadn't been possible to book a 3<sup>rd</sup> alley for Skittles but the evening had been successful and space had not been a huge problem.

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

##### **“Treasurer's report for NDCC committee meeting 20<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

*Current balance at the bank less un-presented cheques is £16,423.77*

*The deficit for the year is £1,987.30*

*The skittles evening produced a surplus of £246.93 (taking into account £30 for the stickers-up for which Kathy has yet to be paid).*

*Other items of outstanding expense of which I am aware are repairs to the roof (£760) the CA levy (£823.50, with £892.50 in the budget) worm treatment (£139.29) and £15.27 for other expenses.*

*I have paid Geoff Hughes £35 for the engraving of the memorial plaque, which was less than I expected.*

*Bridge income has passed the £500 mark (including a sum yet to be banked).*

*100 club subscriptions have reached £300, which is for 25 units. At this point last year we had sold 38 units. I hope that some publicity closer to the start of the season will attract some more entries*

**Mike reported that the subs had started to come in and the current balance is now £17 207.66 and the deficit now down to £1273.30.**

The plaque invoice had been lower than anticipated because Geoff had taken it to a different engraver. It was now in place with the Lottery Plaque and both plaques were easily legible

CH

Coral to ask Sandra Bath to remind members that the first Draw would take place on the first day of the season on 1 April. Andrew wondered about encouraging standing orders for the 100 Club. Coral would remind members who had contributed in the past but not recently.

#### 5. Property Report (Brian Roynon)

##### **Pavilion**

*The plaque in memory of John Jeffery and the Lottery Funding plaque have been mounted above the door to the workshop by Geoff.*

*The mirrors have been mounted in the Gents & Ladies.*

##### **The Roof**

*I have spoken to Steve Mansfield and he is hoping to carry out the work at the beginning of March.*

##### **Club Sign**

*The New Club sign has been completed and mounted on the gate. (Just in time because when I tried to remove the old one it fell to pieces.)*

##### **Stop Net Posts**

*The posts have been repaired and Rob is preparing the nets.*

## **The Car Park**

*The depression in the car park has become very pronounced and there is a risk that the matting could tear with cars passing over it when the season starts. We should consider filling the depression with gravel to support the matting as a temporary measure.”*

Brian had done the work for the new Club sign himself.

It was decided that Brian should buy some chippings to use as a temporary fix for the car park. Mike suggested that dumpbags might be a cheaper option than smaller bags BR

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

### ***“1.Lawns***

*With rain expected, the lawns were brushed again in early February to break up worm casts. This proved quite effective and it proved to be possible to give the lawns a cut at 8mm. A substantial amount of grass was removed. The lawns were then spiked and rolled to encourage bacterial action in the soil.*

*Corner 1 on lawn 2 and corner 2 on lawn 3 remain a concern as they remain bare and muddy. The grass tufts from the Autumn seeding are present but further reseeding will be necessary to ensure an even covering of grass. As the weather is forecast to be a little warmer some reseeding will be attempted this week. However, the ground will still be cold and germination will be problematic.*

### ***2. Lawn Closures for planned spraying***

*In 2016 there were four evening lawn closures for spraying of licensed chemicals (growth regulator) supervised by Greensleeves. The arrangements were made several months in advance and required lawn closure to ensure spraying could take place.*

*This year, the growth regulator has been omitted from the programme to save money but as noted in previous reports worm casts have become more of a problem. Consequently, a supervised Ringer spray has been arranged for March 9<sup>th</sup>. As this is pre-season no lawn closure is required. However, a second spray just prior to the commencement of lawn levelling is probably desirable in order to minimise the chances of worm casts developing amongst the newly germinated grass.*

*Applying the Ringer involves not only spraying but also Sarel spiking the lawns and irrigating them to ensure maximum penetration into the soil. To do this will require a lawn closure for an afternoon and evening, probably somewhere between semi-finals and finals weekends. Tuesday, 29<sup>th</sup> August looks the most likely date at present. However this is not yet fixed and committee members views on the timing are invited.*

### ***2. 2017 Rotas***

*The 2017 rotas have been finalised and distributed to all members of the lawn maintenance team.*

### ***3. Levelling contract.***

*Talbot Farm have been contacted regarding the disposal of the Koro arisings. We have confirmed in writing that the PC sum of £800 +VAT for disposal has been replaced by the original fixed price of £1274+VAT to cover the cost of a*

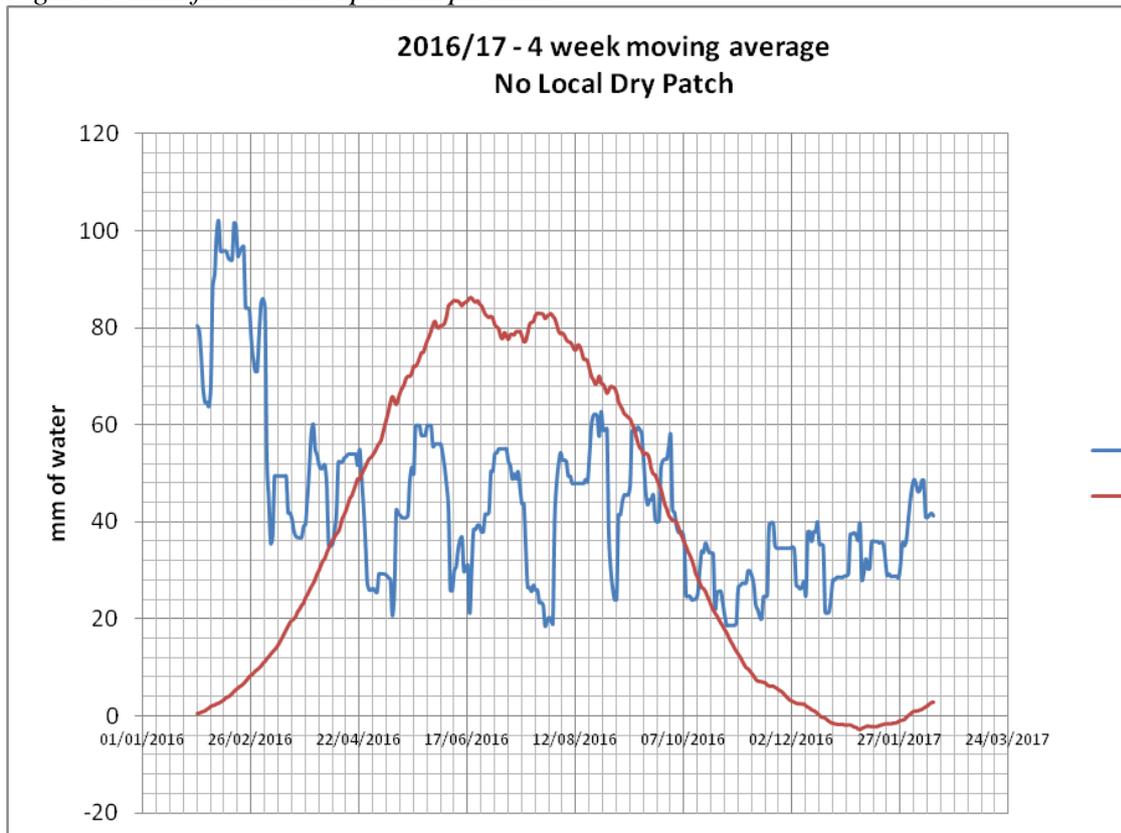
subcontractor.

Talbot Farm have also agreed to seeking a quotation from Duncan Hector for the supply of the pre-germination fertiliser. Duncan was keen for this to happen to ensure continuity of fertiliser constituents.

#### 4. Rainfall

Figure 1 contains an updated graph showing rainfall and evapo-transpiration (ET) over the last twelve months. Note how relatively dry the winter has been compared with last year. Despite this, the ground remains soft (and muddy) because there is no evaporation over the winter. Overall 2016 was a dry year with only 600mm of rain over the year compared with an average figure of about 800mm.

Figure 1 Rainfall and Evapotranspiration



There was concern the suggested lawn closure for spraying on 29<sup>th</sup> August would lead to little possible play that week, particularly as Wednesday was a Wild Wednesday and the end of the week would be preparation/play in Finals Weekend.

Kathy to ask John why that was the preferred day

KW

#### 7. Club Competitions

Linda had circulated draft copies of the new Competitions Handbook and the Competitions Newsletter and these were discussed and minor changes suggested. The 18 point game format was discussed and it was decided to let competitors choose whether they started both clips at Hoop5 or at Hoop1 (with one clip progressing direct to 3-back when the partner ball ran Hoop1). Opponents could make a different choice from each other.

The Mad Monday dates would all be the third Monday of the month with the exception that the April competition would be moved to 10 April to avoid Easter Monday

The Competitions Handbook would become part of the Club handbook. Kathy to look at the Club handbook to avoid duplication and contradiction

KW

Peter would send the finalised Calendar to Kathy for distribution to the members

PD

## 8. Safeguarding

The CA had produced a model Safeguarding Policy and Linda had circulated it to the Committee. It was decided to adopt this policy. Andrew and Linda to ensure that we have an active Safeguarding Officer.

AW

LS

## 9. SWF League teams

Members had made their preferences known and Kathy had compiled lists for each squad. Some members had indicated flexibility for AC squads and the Committee made decisions for them depending on the numbers in the different squads. Other than that, all members had been allocated to the squad of their choice. Kathy to publicise the lists by e-mail and also on the notice board.

KW

## 10. Clubhouse cleaning before and during the season

A name was suggested as someone to take charge of the cleaning rota and ensure that the work was being done. Andrew to approach the person.

AW

Thursday 30 March, from 9.30am was arranged for the pre-season clean. Kathy to publicise it now and nearer the time and to ask members to give an indication of whether or not they would be able to attend

KW

## 11. First day of the season

Brian agreed that he and Brenda would co-ordinate as usual. Coral would be away on the day but would put some soup in the fridge the previous day. Brigit would ask Violet if she would be able to make her usual soup contribution.

BR

CH

BC

## 12. Marketing

It was not known whether Mark would be sufficiently recovered from his accident to be able to help with marketing as planned. However, Kathy thought she could find out how to run a Face book campaign with boosted posts and would liaise with Erica. Mike mentioned a total budget of £250 for marketing. The large posters and boards might need to be re-done

KW

Brigit will liaise with Erica and Linda about paperwork for Open Day including beginners coaching sessions and a rota for helpers.

BC

## 13. CA Competitions

It was decided to enter both the All England Handicap Competitions as usual. Kathy to make provisional entries of 12 for each. Linda took the paperwork for the confirmed entries. This will be processed when the numbers are known and then when the names for the qualifiers are known.

KW

LS

Peter took the paperwork for the Grass Roots GC Competition and might decide to run it this year PD

**14. AOB**

Coral reported a few resignations from the Club, all of which were expected. Coral would make contact with various ex-members to see if they wished to join this year. CH

Mike and Linda would go the Information Evening re Club finances MT LS

The request for a GC session for about 50 people on the afternoon of 15 June was declined as it was not consistent with the Club policy of a maximum of 32 people or with social events being restricted to Tuesday evenings. Kathy to reply KW

Peter raised the issue of the Charity one-ball event for 2018. The deadline was probably too early as our lawns would be closed until May. It was decided that we could hold a Charity event, possibly in line with our internal one-ball competition but that it would not be part of the national event  
Kathy to inform Marcus KW

**15. Date of next meeting**

This will take place on Monday 20 March at 10am

The meeting closed at 12.30pm

**Signed as a true and accurate record**

Name.....

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