

Nailsea & District Croquet Club
Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 22 May 2017

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

1. **Apologies** Coral Harrison

2. **Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 25 April 2017**

These were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on
25 April 2017

3. **Matters arising from Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 25 April 2017**

The B League team had been withdrawn from the league.
The DBS check for Peter was in hand and he would remind Erica about hers

PD

Any new enquiries from people interested in having coaching for beginners should be referred to Linda so that she can co-ordinate.

Andrew would recruit more people to help with irrigation as and when it was required. Andrew and Mark now knew how to use the equipment.

It was reported that Chris Roberts understood why we were unable to host a C Class GC tournament in 2018

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

Current balance at the bank less un-presented cheques is £25,082.74

The surplus for the year is £6,644.67

These figures were recorded on 16th May

Although the first draw has already happened, one of our members wanted to join the 100 club (2 units purchased) taking us up to 52 units. I have had to order a new set of lottery balls to accommodate the extra units (cost about £10).

The SWF Short Croquet Teams weekend brought in about £180 in the kitchen treasure chest, and the May tournament catering made a profit of £189.

There is a good take-up for the June tournament (14 so far and counting) with most requesting lunches and Brian tells me that we have 5 social bookings, so despite the decline in membership I am hopeful that we will meet our financial target for the year. Recruitment in 2018 and beyond remains a high priority for the sustainability of the club.

Mike confirmed that he was feeling more optimistic about the financial state of the club.

The GC ladder money had been added to the coffers - as had a donation of £10 from Harry Wallace.

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

Pavilion

A leak was reported as coming from the toilet cistern in the ladies, Upon investigation it was found to be coming from the base of the tank which was found to have a 3inch crack along the back edge.

This cistern has now been replaced with a new one and is now back in operation.

The light in the gents.

I changed the tube and the starter but it still took a long time to come on.

It is still coming on after a delay so I suggest that we leave it for the moment and while we have longer days, then change it if it finally gives up or in the winter.

Lawn Equipment.

Following the short croquet competition, when there was a fear of us not having enough bisques, Tony Willoughby was asked to make some more for the start of next years season. Within a week he had made 24 more.

Social Bookings.

We currently have 5 social bookings arranged . They have all had forms which we are waiting for.

It was observed that Brian's work had saved the club a significant amount in plumber's charges

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

"1.Lawns

The lawn mowing height was reduced from 6mm to 5mm for the Open tournament. This worked well and with the persistent dry weather (see figure 1) lawns speed was close to 12 plummets with the usual firm hoops.

Subsequently the lawns received the second Revolution application which had to be watered in using the emergency irrigation system. About 1.5mm of water was applied (4.8 cubic metres of water). The North boundary was subsequently flooded to keep the very sandy soil from drying out. The quantity of water used is unknown.

With rain forecast (at last) for the week beginning 15th May the liquid bio fertiliser spray was applied the evening of the 14th to allow it to dry. The combination of fertiliser and the heavy rain (total about 33mm) has resulted in the sward thickening up. They were cut on 18th May but needed a further cut on the 19th May in order to maintain reasonable lawn speed. It is expected that the cutters will be lowered to 4mm for the forthcoming "C" class tournament as higher temperatures will continue to encourage grass growth. A final decision will be made nearer the time.

It was interesting to note on both 16th and 17th May there was no sign of flooding. This effect was first noticed last year and is thought to be due to the Revolution allowing the rain to penetrate deep into the soil.

The liquid bio was a different colour to last year and the label instructions (not followed) were bizarre. Subsequent enquiries to Duncan Hector revealed that the fertiliser factory had probably sent us a Nitrogen feed without the humic acid (bio) and other trace elements specified. All the other containers were checked and found to contain the same (incorrect) liquid. They will all be replaced in the near future at no cost to the club.

Revolution is sprayed on in five equal applications of 6 Litres. The amount is carefully measured with a 1 Litre measuring jug. It was noted during the second spray that there was significantly less than 4Litres left in the first 10 Litre container. Jim Gregory has suggested that this may be as a result of Revolution accidentally being used instead of White Lining liquid. This would explain not only the reduced amount left but also the unusual state of the liquid in the white lining machine and the recent pink colouration of the white lines observed this week.

The accidental misuse of Revolution may require the purchase of another 10L container at a cost of £250. The remaining Revolution containers have been moved away from the White Lining liquid and a large warning label attached.

2. Hoop setting

The first hoop move was implemented successfully using the new alternating holes technique. Virtually no back filling using David Hunts "mole" earth was required. As an experiment, green waste was used to back fill one hoop. This hoop will be monitored over the next couple of weeks to see how successful this material is.

The advantage of green waste is that it eventually composts down to nothing and avoids the potential long term creation of hills if, as planned, the hoop positions stay the same from one year to the next. Once the lawns are levelled this is an issue that needs to be considered.

David Hunt has manufactured a prototype new type of hoop clamp that controls the spacing of the carrots rather than the hoop uprights. The concept is excellent as it would help in the ongoing battle with stones deflecting the carrots as they enter the ground. The current clamp controls the hoop uprights and these can bend in the face of hard ground/stones. The re-use of predrilled holes mostly obviates this problem but clamping of the carrots is potentially superior. Trials of the new prototype device will commence in the near future

3. Rainfall

As figures 1 & 2 below illustrate until May 13th there was no rain. The 4 weekly total fell to a as low as 2mm compared with an average summer figure of about 40mm in a 4 week period. Fortunately we had 33mm of rain since May 15th ."

The supplies of Revolution had been moved and sellotaped together and an extra large label had been added so that they would not be used again for white lining.

7. Coaching

The number of beginners having lessons following Open Day was small but two more people had come forward as friends of existing members. Mike would contact his friend to see if she wished to continue with lessons.

The GC coaching had been successful.

We have 3 juniors, including a 5 year old. It was observed that the correct procedures for Juniors must be observed. Fran must be informed so that she can issue forms and the charges must be as agreed by the Committee and stated in the Handbook

LS PD

4 of our members would like to become Club Coaches. It was reported that the course for qualification has been much improved. It was noted that prospective coaches must make a commitment to use their qualification as the club would be funding it.

Bob Whitaker could offer one day coaching courses with a charge of £30 per day to cover his expenses. There were 3 relevant courses: Advanced, Intermediate and Improvers.

LS

Linda would pursue this

Linda would be unable to be present for the GC Doubles competition. Brigit agreed to be there for at least part of the day.

BC

We need more referees and it was wondered if Mark would be prepared to qualify as an AC referee. Kathy to ask him

KW

8. Marketing /Recruitment

Kathy would like to continue to advertise for new recruits, particularly on Facebook.

This was agreed. There was some concern as to how new recruits would be accommodated during the summer but Kathy said she would cope with this.

KW

It was decided not to hold another Open event but to deal with enquiries as they arose.

9. AOB

The SWF had received marketing information from Dave Gunn and Linda would be passing this on.

LS

Robert Moss had made enquiries about getting some of our promising beginners together with those from Bear to have practice/friendly games. This was reminiscent of the Nailsea Novices tournaments that had been held in the past but had become too difficult to organise.

Peter raised the issue of a trophy in memory of Chris Jackson. He would have liked it to be associated with Mad Monday but there were already two Mad Monday trophies. Kathy observed that the Committee had decided a few years ago that there should be a trophy for the Most Improved GC player but that the decision had never been implemented. As Chris had championed the high handicap players, it was felt that such a trophy should be awarded at the discretion of the GC Handicap Committee and not necessarily be awarded on the basis of points gained on the card.

Brigit to purchase a trophy

BC

Kathy reported that the CA was instigating GC pods along the same lines as the AC pods. Andrew agreed to research this. AW

Brian had had an enquiry from Geoff, wondering if the branch of the tree that overhung the lawn could be lopped on the grounds that it was making the tree unstable.

Brian reported that the Gents toilet had been left in an unsatisfactory state after the Open Advanced Tournament.

Andrew highlighted several problems with the Open Advanced Tournament. There had been little information available for spectators, the results were very late being relayed to the Rankings officer and no report has been written. Andrew would like the manager to have some administrative help on future occasions. Mike volunteered to do this if he was available and Linda was also willing.

Peter had circulated the SWF results:

SWF Short Croquet Team Event 2017

Division 1

Nailsea 12 wins, Kington Langley 10, Cornwall 8, Trendlewood 6, Bath B 4.

Division 2

Sidmouth Fortfield 11, Bath A 10, Kington Langley 2nd 8, Dyffryn 8, Broadwas 3.

Division 3

Camerton & Peasedown 11, Taunton Deane 10, Budleigh Salterton 8, Weston-super-Mare 6, Swindon 5.

Division 4

Exeter 10, Bristol 9, Avening 9, Bristol Boys 8, Sidmouth Connaught 4

SWF League Matches

Parkstone Trophy Division 2

Bath 5 Nailsea 2nds 0

Federation League Central

Nailsea Central 6 Abbey 1

Federation League South

Sidmouth 4 Nailsea South 3

Nailsea South 6 Exeter 1

Nailsea South 6 Cornwall 1

Intermediate League Central

East Dorset 2 Nailsea Central 5

Nailsea Central 6 Bath 1

Weston-super-Mare 3 Nailsea Central 4

Sadly I have been unable to raise any more players for the B League and we have had to withdraw from the league.

Golf Croquet Level Play League

Dyffryn 3 Nailsea 17

Golf Croquet League Central North

Bath CN 10½ Nailsea CN 9½

Golf Croquet League Central South

CS – match postponed due to flooded lawns Taunton Deane v Nailsea

Golf Croquet League South East

Nailsea SE 10½ East Dorset SE 9½

Nailsea SE 7½ Sidmouth 12½

Peter had also circulated the handicap changes:

Association Croquet:

James Galpin 14 → 10 (Handicap Committee)
Mark Suter -1 → -1.5 (Automatic Handicapping System)
Mike Tracy 14 → 12 (AHS)
Doreen Wallace 20 → 18 (Tournament Handicapper)

Golf Croquet:

Kriss Chambers 0 (new handicap)
Steve Durston 5 → 4 (AHS)
Marcus Evans -3 (new handicap)
Sally Gillespie 18 → 20 (AHS)
Jim Gregory 0 → -1 (AHS)
David Moody 1 (new member, new handicap)
Mark Suter -1 (new handicap)
Tony Willoughby 9 → 10 (AHS)

Above are all the known changes.
Peter Dyke (Club Handicapper)

Peter said that we needed more GC handicap cards. The team going to Cheltenham the next day would ask for some. It was decided to also get some AC handicap cards. Both sets would need the associated inserts as well. KW AW

There had already been many matches cancelled by the opposing teams.

One Mad Monday player had a success rate of 95% and had already played in enough matches to qualify for the trophy.

Mike would like to see the Mad Monday and Wild Wednesday results on the club website PD BC

10. Date of next meeting

This will take place on Wednesday 12 July at 10am

The meeting closed at 12.30pm

Signed as a true and accurate record

Name.....

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