

Nailsea & District Croquet Club
Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 August

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

1. **Apologies** Linda Shaw, Mike Tracy (to arrive later)

2. **Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 12 July 2017**

These were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on
12 July 2017

3. **Matters arising from Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 12 July 2017**

Kathy reported that Mark had told her that it was his intention to gain a Referee's
qualification

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

*“Current balance at the bank less unpresented cheques is £25,542.49
The surplus for the year is £7,106.46
These figures were recorded on 16th August
The July tournament had a full entry of 16 (£216) and the catering profit was £260.
The August tournament was also fully subscribed (£155) and the catering profit was
£120.00.
I have some monies not yet banked, including £127.50 from the Portishead Rotary
visit. The most significant expenditure since our last meeting was the annual
insurance premium (£949.98).
We should have no difficulty in paying for the levelling work without calling for a
bridging loan and the grant from the CA will put us back to a position where we can
meet all our bills for lawn treatments etc. With no difficulty.”*

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

*“The work morning went well with a good turn out and several apologies from people
who normally attend.
Tony W is going to repair the centre board on the centre bench that has been split.
Also the front board on the summer house.*

Social Bookings.

*The last of our social bookings took place on August the 15th with Portishead Rotary
Club bringing 17 people. 5 members ran the session.
The visitors were new to us and they appear to have enjoyed themselves. They thought
that they would like to come back next year.”*

Brian also reported that the nets protecting the cars in the car park had been taken
down and replaced with high stop boards which should offer sufficient protection

6. Membership Report

“The membership has recently increased with 4 new members and hopefully one more who is joining but has not as yet returned the form.

We really need an established policy regarding the membership fee for late members as these 5 have paid a variety of fees and this proved a problem for those giving coaching.

We have totals of 73 playing, 11 social and 5 life members

Bridge

There was a gap in the bridge playing due to holidays and social bookings on 5 consecutive weeks but it started again on August 8 playing in the evenings.

The following is part of an email which I sent to members 2 weeks ago;-

“ There seems to be some confusion re. when and where we are playing so I suggest the following;-

August 15 with me, evening

August 22 & 29 evening at the Club.

September 5&12 with me in the afternoon i.e. 2.00pm

and then back to the Club and continue playing in the afternoons assuming that the lawn leveling is completed. If not, another week with me ! Hope it makes sense and you are happy with that arrangement but it seems the only way that we can have continuity.”

August 15 was at my house as there was a social booking.

Since sending out this email to the bridge group, I have been asked not to play in the afternoons until 17 October. I am very unhappy about this request as for a few of the players, dark evenings are difficult due to problems when driving at night etc Within a day of giving the afternoon dates in the above email, I had 3 people already booking in for September 5. I am fully aware that there are mixed feelings about us having a bridge group at the Club but as well as the income it produces,(if held at my house the income still goes to the Club), it provides a way for some members to stay in contact throughout the winter. There is no personal gain as such for me, in fact, I only play when needed to make up a table but am delighted by the enjoyment and interest it gives to a varied group of nearly 20 members.”

The issue of the bridge group being asked to play in the evenings until Tuesday 17 October was discussed. Coral had arranged for the group to play in the afternoons at her house on 5th and 12th September and possibly 19th September to cover the period when the contractors were on site.

Andrew observed that the levelling project was a huge undertaking for John. He felt that he and the other irrigation volunteers would be working very hard and deserved to be able to relax in the Clubhouse between stints of moving the irrigation equipment.

Coral felt that she had made a compromise in inviting the bridge players to her house for the first three weeks in September and was prepared to extend this to the whole of September. Playing at her house involved a lot of work for her, including transferring

card tables from the Clubhouse. The money raised still went to the Club

Brigit made the point that there were only two Tuesdays in dispute – 5th and 12 October.

Brian made the point that bridge sessions hadn't transferred to afternoon sessions until October in the past

Kathy offered to provide transport for all the bridge players who were unable to drive in the dark.

Brian suggested that the group played at Coral's house on 5th and 12th October and offered to transport the card tables.

Peter did not express an opinion

Mike was not present for the discussion as he joined the meeting later.

Neither of the solutions was acceptable to Coral. She felt that the issue was about bridge not being welcomed as a club activity by John and Kathy. Kathy insisted that this was not at all true and explained the nature of the irrigation work. Coral said the irrigation volunteers could sit in the kitchen as it was only one day a week. Kathy felt that this would reinforce the feelings held by John that he is undervalued by some members and made to feel like a hired help. There had been several recent incidents where members had made it clear that he was regarded as a nuisance when he needed to do lawn work and they wanted to play croquet.

Andrew ruled in favour of bridge waiting until 17 October to switch to afternoon sessions. The offer of transport was repeated but declined

Andrew thanked Coral for her co-operation and compromise.

7. Lawn Maintenance Report (John Wallace)

1. Lawns

As soon as the emergency irrigation was employed for the first time the rain began to fall! Inspection of figure 1 shows how rainfall increased to quite a high level during August.

There was a significant amount of lawn damage due to birds pecking at the lawns. I believed that this was likely to be as a result of the presence of Leatherjackets. From the description of the damage Duncan Hector agreed this was a likely cause. Thus, when the last Revolution spray was applied early during rain (ideal), an application of Rigel G to ward off leatherjackets was included. I subsequently had a discussion with the Rigel G manufacturer who said that testing by the soil association suggested that a single application is only about 60% effective. Thus, normally, both Spring and Autumn applications are the minimum necessary. A third early summer spray would also be helpful. The Spring dose rate also needs to be about 50% bigger than the Autumn dose rate. This implies that NDCC needs about 2L/year at a cost of about £200. This rate of application is currently not included in the chemicals budget. A big advantage of Rigel G is that it is not a licensed product so can be applied without supervision.

Until 31st August Ringer is the preferred chemical to deal with worm casts. After that, it is banned. Duncan Hector has found a granular soil conditioner which has the side effect of encouraging casting worms to leave the area. (It does not kill them). The soil conditioner (a plant extract) is not a licensed product. It has proved effective at Hunstanton and numerous golf clubs are also now purchasing it in quantity. Some has been ordered for this Autumn as it can be applied via the spreader on the newly levelled lawns. Normally the cost of 80 Kgs (4x20) is about £160 p.a. but this year, to cover the total area being levelled 100kg (cost £200) has been ordered. This will be delivered at the end of August together with the pre-seeding granular fertiliser that Duncan Hector is supplying to Talbot Farm. The cost of the latter is included in the contract price.

The normal liquid bio spray fertiliser for July was not applied because of the very dry weather. At an LAG meeting in July I proposed that we also omitted the August feed as the lawns look in good condition. The end result is that we have 120 of the 160 litres of liquid bio from this year in store, ready for next year. This represents a useful cost saving in excess of £400 in next years chemical budget.

A 1L container of Aqueduct was purchased in June (cost £27) and Lawn 5 sprayed with 0.5 L on August 16th as heavy rain was expected that evening. Aqueduct is a complementary product to Revolution that clears dry patch but does not have the preventative powers of Revolution. If further rain is due a second spray may be applied. The purpose of clearing Lawn 5 of dry patch is to ensure that hydrophobic soil is not spread onto the main lawns during levelling.

2. Levelling Contract

Preparations for the levelling contract are well in hand. The Glyphosate spray to kill the existing grass will be applied on Tuesday August 28th. The lawns are closed both on August 28th and the previous evening from 6 pm. The latter will allow me to cut the grass, clear the nets and stop-boards out the way and mark out with white pegs the areas to be sprayed.

I was initially concerned by the need to spray around 7 days before Koro removal of

the top layer of the lawns. A small lawn 5 experiment with retail Roundup appeared to kill the grass in 24 hours. However, both Duncan Hector and Talbot Farm assured me that that the lawns would fine for Finals weekend. I subsequently contacted Monsanto's technical department who informed me that the retail version of Roundup contains an accelerant as customers like instant results. However, to be really effective Glyphosate needs to be carried to the roots by normal plant activity. This takes about six or seven days and thus for the first five days the grass should be completely unaffected. With spraying on the Tuesday, Finals should just be completed before the grass starts to die!

Two formal letters have been issued to Talbot Farm. Copies of the two letters are attached at the back of this report The first provided information to them about site services and the HV cable in particular. The second was issued after a short site meeting with Talbot Farm on August 4th. On-site arrangements were discussed and agreed.. Talbot Farm have their own CAT scanner to locate the HV cable underground and say that they will dig down to confirm the 0.6m cable depth that Western Power quote. For H&S reasons they will follow the Western Power recommendation not to disturb the ground within 1 metre of the cable. This will mean that the area to be levelled will be a little smaller than specified in the contract but there is no other option available. The ground in that North boundary area is usually dry and is normally avoided when laying out lawns so there should not be any significant practical impact by this restriction on levelling area.

On the South boundary, the planned levelling will extend the existing lawn to within a short distance of the pig sty . This means that a small portion of the car parking area is being levelled. The committee can decide next year whether to enlarge the lawns to full size and lose some car parking or continue with smaller lawns and current parking arrangements. My own view is that we should stick to the 27/28ths lawn. Both Talbot Farm and Duncan Hector recommend daily afternoon irrigation to support grass germination and new grass/root development. With seed being sown around 15th August my expectation is that we will have to irrigate until mid October. (Last October was very dry) but this is obviously weather dependent. Unless the weather is exceptionally dry, there should be sufficient rain to sustain good grass growth by mid October.

Duncan Hector moved to Norfolk in January. Currently, he is constructing his own croquet lawn in his back garden , having already built a wooden pavilion! A local farmer roughly levelled the ground and he is then smoothing and seeding his new lawn in sections with Bar Extreme dwarf perennial rye grass. The first section was seeded about three weeks ago and he is now cutting it with cylinder mower like ours. He is continuing to irrigate every day. I receive detailed feedback on his progress which is useful in terms of planning the detail of our lawn levelling project. He hit his first croquet ball across the new lawn at the weekend and hit a 20 yard roquet! His own experiences and recommendations line up with Talbot Farms post levelling advice.

The newly seeded lawns will be vulnerable to birds eating the new seed. After a discussion at the LAG I asked Talbot Farm if they had a bird scaring kite available. They thought they might have but it was not a "bird of prey" type that is known to be most effective. Thus a professional kite kit has been purchased at a cost of £120. This particular design was developed by a farmer to protect crops and is exported in its thousands all over the world. Although purchased for the levelling project, it may well prove useful when we come to over-seed the lawns using dimple seeding as the seed is clearly accessible to birds prior to germination.

It is expected that seed germination will take about a week and first cut take place about 7-10 days after that. Talbot Farm will be returning to lightly roll the newly germinated blades. The rolling breaks the grass shoots and encourages the grass to

tiller outwards and the sward to thus thicken up. They will return again to execute the first cut with a cylinder mower and to roll the surface to smooth out any surface imperfections in the 10mm sand top layer.

After this first cut it is down to NDCC to maintain the grass throughout the winter. The primary activity is twice/week cutting with the cutting height progressively lowered. No heavy machinery will be allowed on the lawns until spring time so the grass has to be mowed with our 22" Hayter cylinder mower. Experiments last Autumn showed how vulnerable the groomer on the Hayter is to jamming in the presence of fallen leaves. It is a nightmare to clear. Thus, to avoid this problem, the groomer has been removed.

To sustain the twice per week mowing regime until next Spring requires a team of volunteers. Eighteen people have volunteered together with another three people prepared to act as reserves. People have been placed in six teams of three people, and a repeating 3 week rota. The mid-week team will normally mow on a Wednesday and the Weekend team mow on a Saturday. A separate irrigation team of myself, David and Dennis Hall will deal with the daily irrigation required over the first three or four weeks.

During October/November heavy leaf falls will need to be removed prior to mowing. Thus two members of the team will clear the lawns of leaves using blowers whilst the third commences mowing the unaffected areas. Leaf blowing should not take more than 30-45 minutes so all three team members can share the mowing. Total mowing time is of the order of 2.25 hours so the mowing does need to be shared out. To support the leaf blowing a second (Echo) leaf blower has been purchased at a cost of £206, about half the cost of a Stihl equivalent.

Training for all team members will be required but I have yet to decide the best method of doing this.

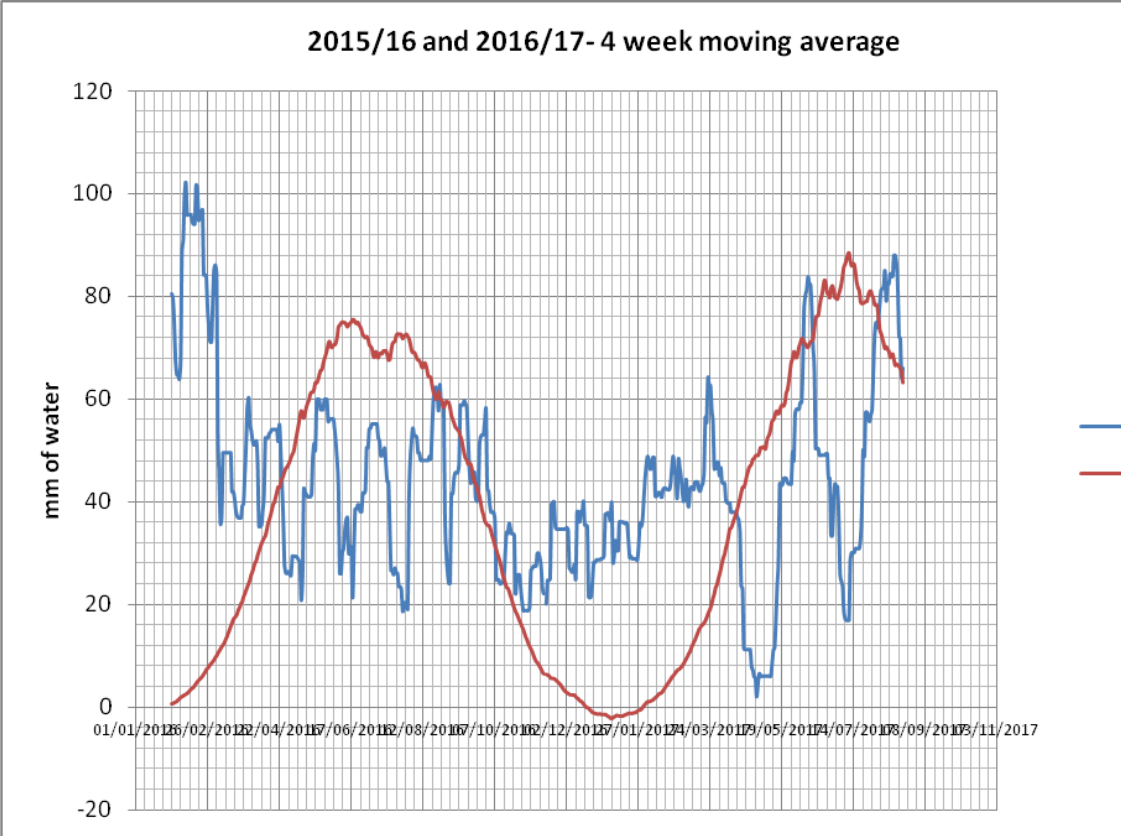
The mowing rota requires each person to cut the grass three times in the Autumn and three times in the early Spring. During December/January when grass growth slows down, I will cover any mowing required myself, probably with David Hunt's help.

John Wallace 21/8/17

Footnote.

Out of interest I should mention that Wimbledon are in the process of switching from Limograin MM50 dwarf perennial rye grass to Bar Extreme, the mix of cultivars to be sown at Nailsea.

Figure 1 Rainfall and Evapotranspiration





Nailsea & District Croquet Club (NDCC)

34 St Peter's Rd
Portishead
BS20 6QT

18/7/17

Mark Goodwin
Talbot Farm Landscapes Ltd
75 Derby Road,
Hilton
Derby,
Derbyshire,
DE65 5FP

Dear Mark

LOCATION OF SERVICES

As part of the contract NDCC agreed to locate the water, sewage and electricity services that are supplied to the club.

Figure 1 attached shows the location of the water and sewage pipes running away from the club, not underneath the lawns.

Figure 2 supplied by Western Power shows that there is an 11Kv power line running parallel with the North boundary.

John Wallace organised a site visit by Western Power to confirm the location of the cable. It is (as per drawing) about 2.5 m from the boundary which places it immediately in front of the hedge, at the edge of our lawns. The depth of burial is nominally 0.6m but it is your responsibility to confirm this.

Western Power said that the legal minimum separation for machinery was 0.5m but they would recommend 1.0m to be on the safe side. They also said that you will need to build this information in to your risk assessment and method statement. For any more information please contact Gareth Bridges at Western Power. His telephone number is 01934 638626.

Yours sincerely

Kathy Wallace, Club Secretary

8. Changes to SWF League Rules

Peter had circulated the following document:

“I have discussed the Golf Croquet League Rules with other league captains to find out what changes they would like to see.

- *Low handicap players do not like giving away seven or more extra turns in the Handicap League.*
- *Some players do not like drawn games or the possibility of a drawn match.*
- *Some clubs would like to field a player with a handicap of 11 or 12 in the Handicap League, but may not do so because they already have four players.*

In my opinion these problems are interlinked. I have considered them and tried to find solutions.

- *The main problem with giving away several extra turns is that the high handicap player may use their extra turns well to get a lead and, in a time limited game, the lower handicap player does not have sufficient time to catch up particularly if their opponent is a slow player. Last year two clubs tried to resolve this problem by trying to restrict the Handicap League to 8 or 9 and below. I feel they were going about it the wrong way. In theory, if the handicaps are correct, then in a game with no time limit it should be an even contest with each side having a 50% chance of winning. I appreciate that it is not practical to have unlimited time for each game, but suggest that a reasonable time limit for most games is one hour.*
- *While drawn games are permitted in the Golf Croquet Rules they are rarely allowed in competitions. Extending the time limit to one hour should eliminate the problem to a large extent, but if a game is drawn after the extension period the game can be extended until another point is scored by either side.*
- *Some captains were concerned that extending the time limit may make it a very long day for their team. If we reduce the number of games to seventeen (three doubles and fourteen singles) it will be possible to reduce the number of sessions to five (see appendix). This will also mean that a match cannot be drawn.*
- *If the time limit is increased there should be less of a problem allowing players with handicaps 11 or 12 to play in the league against players with handicaps of three or less.*

I would like to propose the following changes to the GC League Rules (the changes are highlighted):

6. MATCH FORMAT (Current rules)

- Matches shall comprise twenty games: four doubles games and sixteen singles games.*
- Matches may result in a 10–10 draw. Two match points shall be awarded to a winning team, or one match point to each team in the event of a draw.*
- Half-way markers are mandatory at all SWF Golf Croquet league matches.*
- Where a club has two or more lawns available, the home team captain shall choose the lawns for the first and fourth sessions, and the visiting team captain*

shall choose the lawns for the second, third, fifth and sixth sessions, avoiding double-banking where possible. The choices may be made at the beginning of each session, or the captains may agree to choose lawns for as many sessions as they wish at the beginning of the day and subsequently when they need to.

Proposed rules:

- a. Matches shall comprise seventeen games: three doubles games and fourteen singles games.

Delete (b). Reassign (c) and (d)

8. TIME LIMITS (Current rules)

- a. A time limit of not less than 50 minutes shall be agreed by both team captains before the start of each game (except as directed under Rule 13e); if they wish, they may agree to play any game without a time limit. If the two captains cannot agree on a time limit, the shorter of the two suggested time limits shall be used.
- b. If a game should be held up because of double-banking, the clock in that game shall be stopped until the game can proceed.
- c. EXPIRY OF TIME LIMIT.
- (1) HANDICAP AND HIGH HANDICAP LEAGUES. When time is called each side shall be entitled to 4 additional turns (the extension period). Extra turns may not be used during the extension period. If the scores are level after this then the game is drawn and each side shall have earned a ½ game point; there shall be no continuation of play.
- (2) LEVEL PLAY LEAGUE. When time is called each side shall be entitled to 4 additional turns (the extension period). If the scores are level after this then: for singles games, play shall continue until the next point is scored; for doubles games, the game is drawn and each side shall have earned a ½ game point, there shall be no continuation of play.

Proposed rules

- a. A time limit of not less than 50 minutes shall be agreed by both team captains before the start of each game; if they wish, they may agree to play any game without a time limit. If the two captains cannot agree on a time limit, the default time limit shall be 60 minutes.
- b. If a game should be held up because of double-banking, the clock in that game shall be stopped until the game can proceed.
- c. EXPIRY OF TIME LIMIT.
- When time is called each side shall be entitled to 4 additional turns (the extension period). Extra turns may not be used during the extension period. If the scores are level after this play shall continue until the next point is scored. In handicap games extra turns may not be used during the extension period, but are restored at the end of the extension period.

12. FINAL BLOCK POSITIONS (current rules)

- a. In determining the positions in an all-play-all block after all fixtures have been decided, teams shall be ranked in order of match points awarded.
- b. Where two teams have the same number of match points:
- (1) for blocks in which teams play each other once only, the team that won the match between them in that season shall be ranked the higher;
- (2) for blocks in which teams play each other twice (home and away), the higher-ranked team shall be determined by the aggregate game score in the two matches between those teams; if the aggregate game score is still inconclusive, the teams shall be ranked in order of the average points difference achieved per

- game in those two matches.
- c. Where more than two teams have the same number of match points, a mini-block of the matches between the teams concerned shall be examined, and the principles of (a), then (b), above shall be re-applied. If (b) above cannot be applied to the mini-block, the teams shall be ranked in order according to the percentage of games they have won in the mini-block during that season.
 - d. Where, following the application of (c) above, two teams are now ranked equally, (b) above shall be re-applied.
 - e. Where, following the application of (c) and (d) above, more than two teams are ranked equally, those teams shall be ranked in order of the average points difference achieved per game played in the mini-block during that season.
 - f. Where, as a result of (e) above, two teams are now ranked equally, (b) above shall be re-applied.
 - g. If (a) to (f) fail to resolve the equality in ranking, lots shall be drawn by the Committee to determine the matter.

Proposed rules

- a. In determining the positions in an all-play-all block after all fixtures have been decided, teams shall be ranked in order of match wins achieved.

Throughout the rest of rule 12 replace "match points" with "match wins".

13. PLAY-OFFS AND FINALS

Delete (e) from the current rules.

Current rule 13 (e):

- e. If a play-off or final match ends in a 10–10 draw, each team shall nominate any two of its players, who have already played in the match, to play one further game of doubles to decide the match. This deciding game shall be played with no time limit.

I would like the meeting to consider these proposals as a whole and not reject them just because you do not like one part. The changes proposed simplify the rules and bring them more in line with the SWF Rules for the Association Croquet Leagues. They also seek to address the problems outlined on page 1.

Appendix.

If two lawns are available the match may be completed in five sessions as follows (other match formats are possible):

Round 1 Two doubles

Round 2 One double and two singles

Rounds 3, 4 and 5 Four singles in each round"

Mike joined the meeting during discussion of this item

The Committee thought the changes were all advisable and that the complete package would solve many problems. The proposal would be sent to the SWF for discussion at their AGM

KW

The next non-agenda item was included at this stage.

8a

“Linda’s report and comments

Matters arising

Andrew Dutton’s computer coaching: - I’ve only just remembered to ask him about this and will let you know when I get a reply.

Bridge

I think this an important part of a vibrant club - it hosts a mix of people who may not otherwise meet and is a winter activity that keeps people in touch and involved.

It’s a shame that the request not to play wasn’t discussed via committee so issues could be considered first - but it’s easy to say that with hindsight.

Please also think about the fact that a few members are interested in meeting up for Mahjong - what do you think about this - using the venue on the same basis as Bridge players - obviously they would have to play elsewhere during lawn improvements on the same basis as Bridge does.

There’s probably 4-6 people interested at the moment.

Membership fees

I agree it’s important to apply charges consistently to late joiners - and to agree that this covers them through the winter to the start of the next season.

This should be part of welcoming new people to the club and getting them involved in wider activities, indoor coaching, and social events especially as we have a long winter this year.

South West Federation AGM proposals

Is there any support in this committee for the idea of asking the SWF to run a Handicap Advanced event (as with the Short Croquet) with a view to it becoming regular or even part of the League fixtures if there is enough interest?

Semi finals and Finals

- *Semis have been played - 4 outstanding games involving Jim G to be played by Friday*
- *Finals schedule should be out over next weekend.*
- *Brigit and I are liaising over the winners*
- *Many thanks to John for cross cutting the lawns on Saturday and Sunday.*

NB: Terry and Brian Mc will play against each other in the Sergeant Cup - are there any outstanding issues? Do we need NATO as well as a referee there?

Most improved players

Please can we agree how this will be done this year - is it one for AC and one for GC regardless of gender?

Peter if you can let me know asap I can get the certificates done.

Thanks

American Supper*Who will be circulating the notice about this and putting up the signing in sheet.*

Coaching questionnaire

I'd like to send this to coaches / coachees - happy with this? Any additions?

1. To those who have helped with coaching

Polly, Erica, Kathy, Terry, Brian R, Rob, Pat, David Hunt, Peter, Jim

Thanks for providing coaching to club members during the year.

I'd really appreciate it if you could provide a bit of feedback about your experience and how we might develop things over the next couple of years. Overall we seem to have had a successful turnout and lots of enthusiasm for the principle of a more structured approach to this. So I'd like to develop this further next year, without losing the informality and friendliness of the approach.

Also we are planning a series of indoor coaching sessions in the club house during the winter - using the magnetic board, discussions, etc. etc. - to keep people engaged til next year's late start. So please let me have your thoughts on this and whether or not you'd like to lead a session or so.

You can let me have your ideas in any way you choose but the following might help:

- *• What did you enjoy about the sessions you led?*
- *• What do you think people gained from these?*
- *• How do you think coaching might be improved in the club?*
- *• Ideas for winter indoor coaching sessions:*
- *• Any other comments: “*

2. To all members

This year we started a more structured approach to coaching within the club and many of you have attended some of the sessions.

I'd really appreciate it if you could provide a bit of feedback about your experience and how we might develop things over the next couple of years without losing the informality and friendliness of the approach.

Also we are planning a series of indoor coaching sessions in the club house during the winter - using the magnetic board, discussions, etc. etc. - to keep people engaged til next year's late start. So please let me have your thoughts on this.

You can let me have your ideas in any way you choose but the following might help:

- *• What did you enjoy about the sessions you attended?*
- *• What did you gain from these?*
- *• How do you think coaching might be improved in the club?*
- *• Ideas for winter indoor coaching sessions:*
- *• Any other comments:*

Winter coaching programme

Are you happy that we aim to run this once a week from Oct - April and would we be able to use the club house? What day / time of the week would be best?

I'm still working on a schedule so that people know what they'd be coming for and involving other people in the coaching.

Also Dave K says he will do one on the mental approach.

AOB

New balls please.

Can we think about buying 4 sets of new primaries - perhaps selling the current ones to offset some of the cost?

More and more people don't want to use them and it's a real shame if with first class lawns we have to play with 4th class balls - and it doesn't help with the coaching.

Managing Difficult Behaviour In Clubs

Mike and I are interested in going on this - is anyone else and can the club afford to send a couple of us? This 3 hour workshop is for teachers, coaches, instructors, club officials and parents and who deal with athletes on a regular basis. This workshop will help you:-

- Understand the difference between annoying and bad behaviour.*
- Ascertain the reasons why bad behaviour happens.*
- Understand the impact it can have on clubs, workforce and athletes.*
- Develop ideas for managing and developing improved behaviour from athletes and their parents.*

Course Cost: £30

DATE VENUE START TIME FINISH TIME

18th October 2017 University of the West of England, Bristol 18:30 21:30

23rd January 2018 Odd Down Sports Ground, Bath 18:30 21:30 “

It was agreed that as far as membership fees for beginners were concerned, a £30 fee for initial coaching would cover the first six lessons given by the coach (even if a particular beginner were not present). After this, the beginners would be required to join the Club in order to receive additional lessons. The fee for this would be on a sliding scale, depending on the time of year. This scale would be decided upon at the next Committee Meeting – Mike agreed to bring a suggestion to the next meeting

MT

It was not felt a good idea to ask the SWF about a Handicap Advanced Tournament. Such an event would be a tournament for individuals, as opposed to teams so NDCC could hold one if it was felt there was a call for it.

Peter reported that instead of Nailsea and Budleigh swapping the spring and autumn Short Croquet teams competitions in 2018,(because of our lawns not being available in the spring) the SWF had arranged to hold the spring competition at Camerton and Peasedown Croquet Club. Peter had been asked to manage it. There was concern that this would be a difficult undertaking as Peter had no knowledge of the Club or its working and members.

The Most Improved awards were discussed. Andrew was reluctant to have a separate ladies award as he felt it was not appropriate. However, a trophy for the AC Most Improved Lady had been donated some years ago and had been presented annually since then. It was therefore decided to carry on with this procedure. Brigit had purchased the new Jackson Cup, as arranged, and this would be presented to the Most Improved GC Player.

The notice for the American Supper on 3 September was now up on the board. Kathy would circulate the members to make them aware of it

KW

Winter indoor coaching was discussed. It was felt that a programme of weekly sessions was ambitious and that less frequent sessions would be more appropriate. There was some uncertainty about the benefit of coaching without the opportunity to practise a new skill. The various computer applications might be a partial solution to this. Andrew would talk to Linda about the details

AW

There were no problems with the questionnaires

9. Dates and general plan for recruitment and other issues in 2018

It was hoped that the new lawns would be ready in time for a May Tournament. John and Marcus had agreed to assign a May date but be prepared to change if it became obvious in October/November 2017 that this would not be possible. The other tournaments could be planned as usual.

It was felt than an Open Day should be held – National Croquet Day which would probably be early June would be the best date.

Saturday 5 May was chosen for the first day of the season

At this point, Mike reported that he had not had an expenses claim for the August tournament lunches. Kathy offered to prompt Alan and Lynda Longdon

KW

Peter was wondering how early in the year it would be safe to arrange league fixtures. Kathy said this would become more clear in October/November and that John would liaise with Peter before he needed to start fixing dates.

KW

It was decided to make the same entries for league teams as 2017 – with the exception of a B League team. As we had withdrawn our B league team in 2017, we would not be eligible in 2018.

PD

10. AOB

Brigit reported that the small ceramic Mad Monday trophy had disappeared. Brian offered to make enquiries.

BR

Kathy reported that she had provisionally booked the Masonic Hall for the 2018 Christmas Lunch on Saturday 1 December. She asked about preference for dates for a Skittles Evening. This led to a discussion on a programme for winter events. The Committee felt fully occupied with other matters and it was suggested that the membership would be asked for volunteers to organise a programme that might include, events such as quizzes, walks, lunches. February or March Saturdays were considered the best times for a Skittles evening. Kathy to book

KW

Peter reported an incident of vandalism at the Club on Friday evening, 18 August. A sign on a wooden stake had been placed by the Friends of Trendlewood Park (FOTP) group next to the patch that they tend adjacent to the club. Youths in hoodies had thrown the sign over the hedge and it had hit a car belonging to the parent of one of our Juniors. Significant damage to the car had been done. Peter had placed the sign inside the Clubhouse to prevent a recurrence. Kathy to inform FOTP to invite them to claim their sign but ask them not to reposition it without extra securing.

KW

Peter reported that two of our League teams had reached play-offs – the Level GC team and one of the Federation teams

Mike complained that slow play in AC was a problem and wanted to know what could be done about it. This is a common problem. The only remedy is for a referee to speak to the player concerned.

Mike raised the issue of Membership Fees for 2018/9. This was deferred to the next meeting when AGM matters would be discussed

Linda had, in her report, made a request for some new sets of primary balls. The cost would be about £1440. Mike said we should be able to afford to make this purchase but would like to wait until the lawn levelling costs have been met and the CA Grant received.

Linda and Mike were given clearance to attend the workshop on Difficult Behaviour .

Peter reported that we do not have a trophy for the GC B Level Tournament. It was decided that one should be purchased before the 2018 tournament. Brigit will also ensure BC that the Amelia Hall Plate is in the cabinet

11. Date of next meeting

This will take place on Tuesday 26 September at 10am

The meeting closed at 12.30

Signed as a true and accurate record

Name.....

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