

**Nailsea & District Croquet Club**  
**Minutes of Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 26 September 2017**

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

1. **Apologies** None

2. **Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 23 August 2017**

These were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 23 August 2017

3. **Matters arising from Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 23 August 2017**

Kathy had sent the SWF proposal to Linda

Andrew Dutton had given permission for the coaching version of his Croquet software to be used by the Club in coaching sessions. Linda would download it.

LS

It was decided that the course on dealing with Difficult Behaviour would probably not be useful for NDCC so we would not send representatives

About 6 sessions of winter indoor coaching would be arranged at monthly intervals, probably on Wednesday afternoons. The topics covered would include tactics for Advanced Play, Psychology, play without bisques for mid handicap players, use of extra turns in Golf Croquet.

Brian had been unable to discover the whereabouts of the ceramic Mad Monday trophy

Kathy had been unable to get a confirmed booking for the Skittles Evening but was still trying for 10 March

KW

*Post-minute note – 10 March is now confirmed*

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

*“Current balance at the bank less unpresented cheques is £19,560.23*

*The surplus for the year is £1,149.16*

*These figures were recorded on 25/09.2017 and include a cheque valued £5,712.58 to Talbot Farms. This, as specified in the contract, is 25% of the cost of the project.*

*Without this exceptional expenditure our surplus would have been £6,861.74.*

*Expenditure since the last meeting includes a second leaf blower (£206), a bird scaring kite (£120) and a soil conditioning product that is believed will combat worm casting (£258). The last item will not be used until the next financial year.*

*The cost of the Christmas lunch last year was £17.95 per head. We charged members £22 per head. Leaving aside profit from the quiz and the raffle, this left a surplus of £40. I expressed the view at the committee meeting following the meal that the margin was too tight for comfort and depended on a good turnout to cover our costs. I therefore suggest that this year we add £5 to the caterer's price to ensure that we do not run at a loss.*

*Earlier in the year I considered the possibility of offering the membership the option of reducing the membership fees next year in view of the reduced opportunities for playing. Given the recent information about the Toro mower, which appears to be nearing the end of its useful life (we bought it second hand 13 years ago), I feel that this would be imprudent and recommend that the current rates be at least maintained.”*

A discussion led the Committee to conclude that its proposal at the AGM should be that the subs remained at the same level

## **5. SWF League Report to include query re proposal for AGM**

In light of an SWF Proposal tabled by Bath CC about eligibility for the GC Handicap League, Peter intended amending the Nailsea Proposal. He would send the amended version direct to Linda for submission to the SWF

PD

In general, the AC teams had been more successful this year but the GC teams had not done as well

James had won the Junior Championship – the Committee were delighted to hear this news

It was asked whether Most Improved awards should be given to players who had achieved the new handicap on previous occasions then reverted to a higher handicap. This was generally not considered to be a good idea. There was no reason why Associate or Country members could not be rewarded.

## **6. Membership Report to include Christmas Lunch arrangements**

*“We have 2 new social members; Robin and Pam Hendry have rejoined the Club as Social Members to play bridge throughout the winter. I am well aware of the decision the Committee made a few months ago to not allow people to join the Club as Social Members unless they are partners/parents of playing members but Pam and Robin have said that they will be playing members next year and on the form Robin has stated that he will be helping Brian Roynon which is good news. They recently played croquet as visitors and joined in a meal with their old GC team. They have paid the Social Membership fee.*

*A revised Membership List has been sent out and this includes the dates for the Social Events organised by Violet. I will post these details to the members without email addresses.*

*I have the menus for the Christmas Meal and am forwarding the email from Samantha Johnson to the Committee.”*

The £18 menu was chosen. The members would be charged £23 so that the cost of hall hire, tips etc would be covered. No more than ten raffle prizes would be given.

## 7. GC Tournament Trophy

It was decided that a cup should be bought with a budget of £60 plus initial engraving. The legend would be Nailsea Golf Croquet B Level Tournament. The name of Robert Chatwin would be engraved as winner of the 2017 event. BC

## 8. Lawn Maintenance Report (John Wallace)

### *“1.Lawns*

*As there are no lawns there is no maintenance!*

### *2. Levelling*

*The levelling was due to start on September 4<sup>th</sup> but due to rain delays at another site nothing happened until September 6<sup>th</sup>. During week 1 and the early part of week 2, the top surface was removed by the Koro when rain/soil conditions permitted. The considerable arisings from the Koro were removed by eight lorries. These, together with the sand delivery lorries, caused some damage to the track edge. The contractor is aware of this and accepts that it is his responsibility to put things back as they were.*

*During week 2 the lawns were cultivated to a depth of 5 inches with the stone burier (figure 2) and then sealed (figure 3) in anticipation of more rain by compressing the top surface with the tractor. Despite further rain the contractor attempted a first pass of the grading operation (figure 4) and did actually move some soil into the lawn 1 and 4 area. This took place on 14<sup>th</sup> September. On 15<sup>th</sup> September heavy rain commenced and over the next 10 days Nailsea experienced about 80mm of rain. The impact of this rain is obvious in Figure 1 showing both cumulative rainfall over a moving 4 week period. Currently, the 4 week total is over 100mm.*

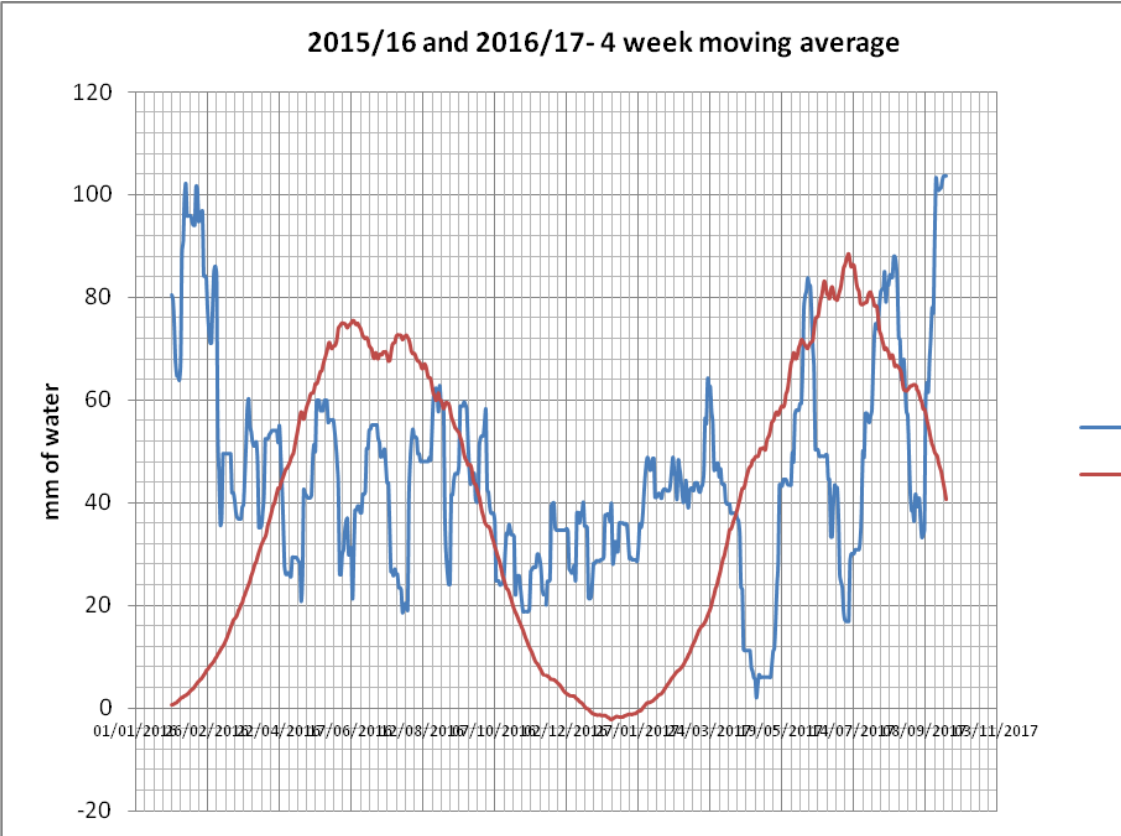
*This caused extensive flooding which did not drain away because of the sealed surfaces. Several trenches were dug (Figure 5, 6) which did drain the large lakes but left water in the tractor tyre marks. These are slowly drying out helped by Talbot breaking up the sub soil by injecting compressed air in to the subsoil using a device known as Robins Dagger.*

*Talbot wished to re-cultivate the soil to get more air into the soil. They were prepared to work the weekend but after various site inspections the contract manager decided against re-cultivating until Sunday (24/9) evenings rain had passed. This is because the cultivated soil would absorb the rain deep down and become unworkable. With a drier week forecast, the plan is to re-commence work on Monday (25/9). If the weather stays dry the levelling could probably be completed by the weekend.*

*The two week delay is a problem because as temperatures drop seed germination rate will reduce and the growing period prior to winter is also reduced. The impact on next year's lawns is unknown at present.*

*For more detail and pictures see the Web Site blog from Mike Tracy and Kathy's Face book page.*

**Figure 1 Rainfall and Evapotranspiration**



**Figure 2**



**Figure 3**



**Figure 4**



**Figure 5**



**Figure 6**



**9. Provisional dates for Finals and tournaments in 2018**

The dates were set as follows but the May Tournament might have to be postponed if the lawn work is delayed much further. The situation will be much clearer by the time the CA needs firm dates

19/20 May	Open Advanced Tournament-Marcus to manage
23/24 June	C Class Advanced Tournament - Kathy to manage as Mike away
21/22 July	B Class Advanced Tournament-Mike to manage
14 August	GC B Level Series - Peter to manage
22/23 September	Semi-finals
6/7 October	Finals

**10. NDCC AGM (11 November 2017)**

The Treasurer would submit the agreed proposal re the subscription levels

15 October was set as the deadline for submission of nominations and proposals

Kathy announced that she would not be standing as Secretary or as a Committee member but would like to spend more time on publicity/recruitment. She was happy to continue to organise tournaments and liaise with the CA.

The members would be invited to stand as Secretary or for other Committee roles KW

Linda pointed out that the Constitution should have requirements for a time schedule re the AGM. Linda to draft a proposal on this issue

Andrew would like to review the Constitution

**11. AOB**

Andrew would remind Erica to pursue her DBS check. AW

Brian was planning to replace the nets to protect cars in the car park. He would wait until the positions of the new lawns was clear BR

Mike outlined the structure for payment of subs of part- years.

For players who had paid £30 for lessons, joining:

Any date in July	£50
Any date in August	£30
Any date in September	£15
On or after 1 October	£10

For members new to NDCC who were already croquet players, these rates would have £30 added on so become:

Any date in July £80  
Any date in August £60  
Any date in September £45  
On or after 1 October £40

Social members would pay £7 any time from 1 October

**12. Date of next meeting**

This will take place on Wednesday 18 October at 10am

The meeting closed at 12.30

**Signed as a true and accurate record**

Name.....

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