

Nailsea & District Croquet Club
Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 27 April 2015

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

1. Apologies None

2. Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 23 March 2015 These were signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on **23 March 2015**

3 Matters arising from Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 23 March 2015

Andrew had arranged to run some croquet sessions with small groups of pupils at Clifton College. It would be a different group each week. Andrew would ask for help as required.

Andrew would like the Club policy for handicapping to be on the website and Peter agreed to supply this. Kathy will also put the document in the Handbook PD
KW

Andrew would also like the coaches to explain the handicapping policy to beginners if they joined the club. PD

Peter is very busy with domestic matters at present and has asked the other members of the Handicap Committee to help with assessments. Attempts had been made to find a time to assess the new AC players. Andrew Buchanan has assessed Ruth as 10 and Pat Thompson as 11, both GC. PD

Mike had given details to the 100 Club members of the relative costings for hand dryers as opposed to paper towels. He had received replies from about 10 members and they had all been positive. He was waiting for Sandra to give him an official response from the 100 Club.

The Hayter mower seems all right now although Geoff had had to reposition the cutters.

Polly and Brian had sent a letter in response to the enquiry about a social evening involving croquet and a barbecue. There had been no further contact.

The situation re white liners had not improved as Tony is waiting for an operation and will not be able to take part in the rota this season. Andrew will talk to Jim about the recruitment of more people. Kathy wondered if any of the ladies might be able to help. AW

The Child Protection Policy is probably all right in principle but checks need to be made that it is being adhered to. In particular, the parents/guardians of all Juniors should have signed the relevant letters and the coaches should have signed the coaches' declaration. CRB checks have been replaced by DBS checks but these are no longer required for the Croquet Club situation.

The Child Protection Policy should be reviewed and dated 2015.

Andrew will ask Linda, as Child Protection Officer to review the Policy and make sure that the signatures have all been obtained. The paperwork will be required for the Grant Application going to Sport England for the lawn and grounds improvements.

Andrew had asked Nick Taylor to ask NS Council for a letter indicating that there was no reason that the lease would not be renewed. Such a letter is vital for the Grant Application. It was thought that purchase of the land had not been completely ruled out by the Council and that further advances should be made. Andrew will continue to pursue this, possibly directly to NS Council or NS Councillors. Kathy remarked that as the land was a designated Local Green Space, the Town Council may have an interest although NS Council own the land.

The new website is ready to go live but Alison wants to train the people who will have editing rights. The question was raised as to who would be responsible for match and tournament reports on the website. Kathy will ask Chris Jackson if he would be prepared to do this when he was sending reports to the Press.

KW

4. Treasurer's Report (report attached, hard copy only)

Balance Statement also attached, hard copy only

Mike asked if we would like a Balance Statement to go with the hard copy of the minutes every month. As archivist, Brigit thought this was an excellent idea and in line with previous good practice that had fallen into disuse.

Mike reported that the finances were in a satisfactory state but would like more entries for the August tournament. Kathy thought that there would be entries from more Nailsea members nearer the time. Brian Roynon intends to enter.

5. Property Report (report attached, hard copy only)

Brian felt that Nick needed a team to help with the Edges and Hedges as it was too much work for one person.

The damaged umbrella is beyond repair and needs to be replaced. Kathy will look in Makro where the originals were purchased. Brian advised that diameter needs to be measured to ensure that a replacement fits in the base tube

KW

Since the previous meeting, Brian had obtained a consensus from the Committee that £2.50 per person was an appropriate charge for the Girl Guides visit. Mike suggested that we use this sum for visits from any Youth Groups and the Committee accepted this as policy. Kathy will put a note to this effect in the Handbook

KW

6. Membership Report (report attached, hard copy only)

Andrew thanked Coral for her efforts in pursuing subscriptions. The majority were now in. There had been a small number of resignations, some due to ill health. The overall number of members was slightly down and this was partly due to a disappointing intake in 2014. It was hoped that the very successful 2015 Open Day will allow the number to recover next year

7. Lawn maintenance report (report attached, hard copy only) incorporating Grant Application. Lease renewal/land purchase had been dealt with in Matters Arising

John Wallace was concerned as the petrol leaks from the Countax machine had highlighted the danger of petrol fumes in the confined space of the machine room. A spark from a light switch or the radiant bars on the clubroom heaters could have caused an explosion/fire. Brian said he would investigate ventilation - possibly via the small high window at the back of the building

BR

There was a discussion about the inclusion of improvements to the car park area in the Grant Application. These would be necessary if we moved to all year round play. The possible surfaces were tarmac, pavers, concrete or the hexagonal grid used in the track across the field. The pavers would look nicer than the other options but the cost would be prohibitive. The area where turning takes place is more vulnerable than the other part. The surface would have to be able to cope with heavy delivery lorries. The essential part is the foundations, whichever surface is chosen. Coral said that she could get a quote for tarmac very quickly. It would be given by a firm that had recently done good quality work for a local dentist. It was agreed that Coral should get this quote and ask for an indication of how much the foundations would cost as this would be similar for all the surfaces being considered. Drainage was an issue but permeable surfaces were now available – as were different colours of tarmac. That would be more attractive. It was felt that tarmac would be relatively quiet, certainly compared with gravel.

CH

The issue of whether to level all four lawns at one time or to take two at a time was discussed. The LAG had debated this and felt that all it would be better to do all four lawns, starting September 2016. This would mean that there would be an 8 month period from the beginning of September 2016 until May 2017 when no play at all could take place. Mike suggested that some reduction in membership fees for that year may make the reduction in lawn availability at the start of the season more palatable to our members but that the effect on the club's finances would have to be assessed to see if this was practicable.

The four lawn option was considered a better option than having partial disruption over a much longer period by improving two lawns at a time. It would also be a slightly cheaper option.

Peter was somewhat concerned about the league programme but 2016 could have an early start to the season and 2017 could have a late finish (only helpful for Advanced League as other league matches had to be played by the third week in August)

The Committee voted unanimously to proceed with the plan to level all 4 lawns in September 2016. If the Grant Application is successful, we will know in September 2015 and will be able to use the AGM in November to inform the membership. It is hoped that the reduction in fees for a season and the prospect of all year round play in

the future will be acceptable. All AC and GC players should enjoy the benefits of flat lawns and the replacement of the fescues and meadow grass with the more suitable and hardier dwarf rye grass. The cost of levelling would be around £20 000 – paid for Sport England if the grant Application were successful

8. Open Day feedback (analysis attached, hard copy only)

Andrew thanked Erica and Brigit for organising a highly successful Open Day with high numbers of visitors and lessons take up. He was also grateful for the excellent support from the club members who helped on the day.

The presence of one person, Brigit, whose efforts were dedicated to completion of paperwork on the day had worked really well and should be followed in future years. The sessions being offered on the application form for lessons were not completely accurate and these should be finalised before Open Day in future.

As Brigit now has all the data and completed application forms, the Committee asked her to liaise with Erica to organise the beginners into groups for lessons.

Kathy will tell Jim about the arrangements and ask him which day he wants to hold his coaching sessions

KW

Kathy said that she and John were prepared to offer coaching on Monday evenings as “sweeper” sessions. These would be useful for beginners who had missed their usual lessons or needed extra help for various other reasons. They could also be used as opportunities for beginners to practise as they could arrive at the Club, knowing that someone would facilitate a lawn being set up for them.

9. Croquet Challenge

Kathy would like to offer four free tickets for the Challenge to people who had entered the Draw and signed up for lessons. This was agreed.

It was also agreed that members should park in the field on the day of the Challenge so that marshals would not be required during the day

10. GC Coaching with Chris Jackson

Chris would like to offer GC coaching sessions for improvers in evening sessions in July/August. He suggested lawn 5 be laid out as a full (very small) lawn for this purpose. The Committee felt that the coaching should take place on a full size lawn although any jump shot practice should be on lawn 5

11. Archives (report attached, hard copy only)

It was agreed that we should all look at the report and consider what items of information should be stored and what format they should be stored in – electronic or hard copy. We should also think about where hard copies and electronic information should be kept

ALL

12. AOB

Brian reported that the small step ladder in the machine room was very light and not robust or stable. It was agreed to replace it with something more sturdy.

BR

Coral has two spare gate keys; she will put them in the Committee Box available for hire @£5 each

CH

Brian McCausland had requested that we consider holding a GC weekend

Tournament in 2016. The decision was deferred until we discuss tournament dates later in the summer.

Peter would like to borrow a set of equipment for use at his daughter's wedding on 15 August. This was agreed. Tournament balls would be used for the league matches that day so that Peter could take the general use balls.

Kathy reported that a lady had requested large quantities of water for use on the green project in the field. Kathy had refused the request and wanted to establish a club policy on this matter. It was decided that we should provide water if polite requests were made but that non-members should not go into the machine room to access the tap. Instead they should wait outside for a member to get the water. This would only happen if it were convenient and a member should not be expected to interrupt a match for this purpose. All members should be made aware of this policy KW

Mike had removed an old key labelled "match balls" from the bunch of master keys and replaced it with the key for the padlock securing the new tournament balls

Violet had been asked to arrange another visit from the children of Golden Valley School. She had booked lawns for the morning of Wednesday 8 July. It was agreed that this was fine. Violet and/or Erica were going to invite the children from St Francis' School to come on a visit at some time in the summer term.

There had been a request for clarity on the Friday Short Croquet sessions. Kathy would explain to the members that there was no-one available to run these sessions formally but that members could arrange the games themselves. Peter wants these games to be recorded on the new Short Croquet handicap cards. KW

13. Date of next meeting

This will take place at 10am on Monday 8 June

The meeting closed at 12.45

Signed as a true and accurate record

Name.....