

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

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

1. Apologies None

2. Minutes of Committee Meetings held on 22 September and 6 October 2015

An amendment was made to item 10 of the minutes of the meeting held on 22 September 2015. This was to the effect that Peter had agreed to look into the possibility of creating a proposal for the SWF AGM. Both sets of minutes were then signed as a true and accurate record of the meetings held on 22 September and 6 October 2015

3 (i) Matters arising from Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2015

Andrew reported that the lease was now complete with all the required signatures from both sides. We have seen an electronic copy of it and await a hard copy. We are waiting to hear from NS Council regarding the fact that we have paid rent until 31 March 2016 on the terms of the previous lease but the new lease start date is 29 September 2015. It was agreed that we should settle the bill from the solicitor for his work on the lease and formally thank Tina for her negotiations with the Council

MT
KW

Andrew had spoken to Strat Liddiard in his capacity of Chair of the CA Handicap Committee. Strat had said that plans were in hand to clarify the non-AHS guidelines and their dissemination. We should, however, regard them as guidelines and we should adjust handicaps as seen fit.

Kathy reported a phone call from the manager of a forthcoming Hamptworth tournament. There was concern that two NDCC members were due to attend the tournament and their handicaps had been regarded as high on their last visit. Peter will try to look at these handicaps before the tournament.

PD

Christmas Lunch plans are in hand. Coral will send out reminders. It was agreed that we should have allocated seating. Brian and Coral will facilitate this

CH BR

Coral had managed to fill in some more slots on the cleaning rota. Jo had relinquished the task of managing the rota – it had proved very difficult. The bridge group would remove the rubbish and some recycling during the winter. Andrew would liaise with Coral about a more permanent solution to the cleaning problem

AW CH

Brigit had discovered the whereabouts of the Mad Monday trophy. It had been engraved and was now in the possession of the winner, Brian McCausland. In future, it will be regarded as an NDCC trophy and be presented and engraved with all the other trophies.

3 (ii) Matters arising from Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 6 October 2015

Peter had arranged a date for the SWF Short Croquet Teams Event. It would be held on 9/10 April

Peter had been unable to make contact with Chris Roberts about a possible GC Series B tournament but had observed that 18 such tournaments had been held during 2015. Peter to ask Chris if 6/7 or 13/14 August weekends would be possible dates for NDCC to hold one. PD

The dates for the NDCC C Class Tournament would be changed to avoid a clash with Sidmouth tournament. It would now be held on 4/5 June KW

National Croquet Day would probably be moved by the CA to 5 June but we would keep our Open Day at 23 April as it was the optimum time for recruitment

David Hunt had agreed to take over responsibility for hoop setting and Andrew volunteered to help him, particularly as he was interested in the process used.

A couple of people had been asked to take responsibility for Hedges and Edges but they had declined. It was decided to create Work days on the Fridays preceding the weekend tournaments as in the past. The dates for these would be put on the Club Calendar and Brian would direct the effort on the day. The Edges would be dealt with on these work days. It was agreed that the Hedges should be done twice a year by contractors. Brigit had sought advice from the RSPB and Avon Wildlife and it was decided that a "hard cut" in February followed by a "trim" in July would be the optimum plan. Brian would organise this with the contractor used in the past BR

An e-mail had been sent to the SWF Committee in response to the e-mail from Roger Hayes (both attached, hard copy only). Robert Moss had replied (attached, hard copy only) to the effect that the SWF would be supporting LLandaff as we had suggested.

4. Treasurer's Report (attached at end of minutes)

Mike was thanked for setting up such a valuable recording system for our finances. The surplus for the current financial year is £304.36 – affected by vagaries of income and expenditure.

The balance is £13907.88

The recent 100 Club Draws had been done when only small groups of people were present. This was because Sandra had been unable to attend big events due to Tony's operation and recuperation. Coral reported that Sandra hoped that the usual routine would be re-established with a Draw at the Christmas Lunch. Mike offered to do the Draw instead if this proved not to be possible CH
(liaison with SB)

5. Property Report (attached at end of minutes)

It was not thought possible to prevent future incursions of wasps in the roof space

6. Membership report (report attached at end of minutes)

We now have 104 members. The 100th member had been given a complimentary key-hire by way of celebration.

7 Lawn maintenance report (report attached at end of minutes)

It was agreed that a piece of Astroturf to be used for re-seeding should be purchased. It was confirmed that the materials for lawns to be purchased from Duncan Hector for next year would cost just under £2500.

8(i) SWF AGM Proposals (attached at end of Minutes)

Proposals A and B were discussed and it was decided that we should vote for them

Proposal C from Sidmouth was discussed and the decision was made that we should oppose it. It was felt that if a team did not have a chance to play a match because of unavailability of opponents, they should not be denied any possibility of league points. NDCC would strongly support John Grimshaw if he used his discretion, as agreed previously, to refuse an entry to the league in the year following multiple walkover gifts.

Proposal C from Bristol was discussed. It was felt that we agreed with this proposal for the B league but not for the other leagues. We would suggest an amendment to this effect. We felt that if time limits were reduced, shorter games should be played, probably 18points. The wording of the SWF regulations concerning “sessions” was ambiguous and should be revised.

PD AW

8(ii) League teams for 2016

AC: We may well enter 2 B league teams, 2 Intermediate league teams, 2 Federation teams and 3 Advanced league teams. Kathy to conduct online canvassing to establish whether we will have enough players at each level to support this. Andrew thought it would be a good idea for individuals to play in multiple teams but enter fewer internal competitions if necessary.

PD
KW

GC: We will enter the same number of teams as this year (4 handicap and 1 level). The exact composition will depend on whether or not the SWF Proposal B is carried

PD

We will enter 4 teams for each of the Short Croquet Teams Competitions

PD

9. NDCC AGM

In the absence of the President at the meeting, Andrew would commence proceedings and welcome members. He would announce the name of the new President. A discussion followed to prevent overlap in the topics covered by the reports from the Chair, the Treasurer and the Tournament Secretary. Andrew asked that each report was limited to 5 minutes plus time for questions.

10. Skittles Evening date

This was fixed for Sat 6 Feb 2016. Kathy to book the alleys at Clarence House

KW

11. AOB

Mike suggested that the archivist should advise us where various pieces of documentation should be kept archivist

Kathy said that she had deferred the request that Mad Monday be discussed to the first meeting after the AGM as it was expected that the Competition Secretary would be part of the new Committee KW

Brian will create another hatch for access to the loft BR

Andrew reported a message via a website contact form, inviting us to create a croquet presence at an event at Nibley. This was not felt to be useful for NDCC due to the distance between Nibley and Nailsea. Beckford CC might be more interested so Andrew will pass the invitation to them AW

Signed as a true and accurate record

Name.....

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