

**Nailsea and District Croquet Club**  
**Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019**

**Present:** Graham McCausland, Meriel Forshaw, Mike Tracy, Andrew Wimshurst, Linda Shaw, Brian Roynon, Coral Harrison, Peter Dyke.

In attendance: Joan Timmins

**1. Apologies - none.**

**2. Minutes of meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2019** - a hand written amendment was made to item **10.2 Tournaments**: now reads 'At present the Golf Croquet B class tournament is over subscribed.'

The minutes were then agreed and signed.

**3. Matters Arising**

**(a) Bid Requests (Item 11)** - Graham has now spoken to John Wallace regarding the extra work involved in hosting the tournaments. The committee agreed that a bid should be submitted for both events.

Graham has spoken to Kathy, and the bids have been prepared and submitted.

**(b) Handicaps (Item 14)** - A list has been placed in the clubhouse identifying individual handicaps (for those who have submitted their handicap cards).

**4. Treasurer's Report** – discussed and noted.

4.1 Electricity – following discussion with EDF, Mike has renegotiated the monthly payment.

4.2 Short Croquet was very successful and made a profit for the club.

4.3 Autumn reseeding - Mike will discuss with John Wallace the possible costs of this activity, which will take place over the winter months.

**Action: Mike**

**5. Property Report**

5.1 Members responded to the 'pre-season work' morning request. A new bench is already in use and there is a possibility that another might be made. Repairs have been undertaken on the old benches. The committee wishes to record its thanks to Geoff and Terry for making this possible.

5.2 Three social events have been agreed for the summer, which will bring income into the club and possibly two new members.

The corporate booking on the 4<sup>th</sup> June clashes with matches and coaching sessions, so Brian will liaise with Kathy to ensure everything works well on the day.

5.3 New Toro – A problem has been highlighted with the use of the New Toro. Brian will discuss the issue with Geoff and John and report back at the next committee meeting.

5.4 Fire Extinguisher – this has just been replaced but unfortunately when the old Toro machine was taken the extinguisher went with it. Brian will ensure its return.

**Action: Brian**

**6. Membership Report**

Club membership stands at 75 paid up members of which 10 are social members.

Unfortunately, 6 members have not renewed their membership for the coming year. The club welcomes two new members – Fiona Illing ex member of Dyffryn and Martin Walker ex member of Bristol.

Life Members – Andrew will contact all of the life members to ensure that they agree to their personal details being seen on the membership list.

It was confirmed that those members not on email receive information by post.

**Action: Andrew**

#### **7. Lawns Report:** discussed and noted.

A comprehensive report had been received from John who has regularly updated members during April re the condition of the lawns. It was identified that consideration needs to be given regarding the use of the lawns during the winter season. It was agreed to discuss 'winter use' at the August committee meeting.

#### **8. Website:** continues as work in progress.

As requested, Mike has looked at and identified information that could be removed from the site. The information on the levelling work has been removed and archived electronically. Old news items have also been removed. Discussion took place regarding what should be on the site and all agreed that in order for it to be helpful and user friendly, it had to be simple and kept up to date. A suggestion was made to just have the basics on it eliminating the need for constant updating. Mike will continue to review pages on the site that could potentially be removed.

Peter agreed to ask League captains to send reports to James to input onto the site.

Mike has provided the local newspaper with a report on the Short Croquet weekend.

#### **9. Safeguarding**

Linda has been in communication with Jean Hargreaves, and has sent the relevant link to her regarding information that should be on the CA Safeguarding website.

James to discuss with Jean Hargreaves if his DBS can be accepted; Peter Dyke's DBS is in date. Jean Hargreaves does not appear to have information on Erica's DBS status.

#### **10. Coaching**

During the month, emails and correspondence have been sent to members updating them of the coaching sessions that are now available and information is also available in the club house. Linda is taking AC coaching on alternate Tuesday mornings, David Hunt on Thursday mornings, Ryan alternate Friday evenings at 17.30 hrs and Kathy is running the course for beginners. This is over and above the individual coaching that has been taking place. Linda will send out a 'coaching update' near the end of the week and Peter will be starting junior coaching very soon.

The committee identified that there was a need to develop criteria for individuals who have completed the beginner's course and then indicate they wish to join the croquet club as a playing member. The club has responsibility under 'safeguarding' regarding vulnerable adults and children. Linda will liaise with Kathy.

**Action: Linda**

#### **11. Youth croquet in conjunction with Avon and Somerset Police**

After reading a newspaper article on the above, Graham contacted the police to find out more information. The police are looking to develop community projects and agreed

that one of these might be croquet. This would involve an evening session with a community police officer in attendance, possibly for one hour or less, encouraging young people's interest in croquet. The police would take the responsibility for marketing and organising the youths that would be attending. The committee agreed to be involved in this project. It was agreed that Graham would liaise with the police initially, for a 'one off' event to take place.

**Action: Graham**

## **12. Speed Sign**

Comments have been received regarding the speed at which cars travel when approaching or leaving the club. Some cars are travelling too fast and are not aware that there are walkers, dog walkers and children in the parkland. Meriel to send email to members reminding them to drive slowly, and also for Captains to ask visiting teams to drive in and out of the grounds slowly. Graham will approach the local council to put up a sign.

**Action: Graham/Meriel**

## **13. Committee Diary: work in progress**

13.1 A date for the diary was identified. Meriel to make a note in the diary for the council to be approached in good time before tournaments/competitions are due to be played, requesting permission for cars to be parked on the grass area outside of the main gate. Graham will contact the council re parking on this area for the 'Hoops for the Hospice' event.

13.2 Everyone was asked to think about 'role profiles' in trying to get the diary set up efficiently.

**Action: Graham/Meriel  
and All!**

## **14. Recruitment Report: – discussed and noted.**

## **15. Penny Brohn UK (Kathy's email)**

The request was discussed and the committee agreed that the event could not be accommodated at the present time. Meriel would reply to Kathy.

**Action: Meriel**

## **16. Club Competitions**

Information on all club competitions can be found on the notice board in the clubhouse. Winter competitions – Brian McCausland won both AC and GC; runners up were Mary Barnes and John Knowler. Discussion on the format for the winter programme will take place later in the season.

## **17. League Fixtures Report: discussed and noted**

Congratulations to all those who played in the two matches this season so far - the GC level play and the AC Advanced League Division 1.

The short croquet weekend was a huge success; a great deal of work is put into organising this event to ensure it runs smoothly over the three days.

The committee would like to thank everyone that was involved and particular thanks to Libby for organising the catering so efficiently and Brian for ensuring the lawns were

set up each morning and to John for all his preparation work. This event was a valuable fund raising event for the club. Meriel to email all members.

**Action: Meriel**

**18. Junior Croquet**

Peter will be contacting juniors this week with a view to possibly starting on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April. Juniors will be charged the junior membership rate

**Action: Peter**

**19. CA Diploma**

Mike has prepared the relevant information required for submission. The committee has agreed this may now proceed

**20. Any Other Business**

20.1 Linda had responded to John’s e-mail (March) re missing club mallets. John had also identified the poor condition of some of the club mallets and proposed the possibility of purchasing second hand mallets. The committee agreed, before purchasing any mallets, to contact existing members to see if they have any unused mallets that could be donated for club use.

20.2 Club House Cleaning

It was identified that more volunteers are needed to help with the cleaning of the clubhouse to ensure that it is not always the same people doing it. We need to ensure that health and safety regulations are adhered to. Meriel will include this in her letter to the members.

20.3 Security and Safety

Recently windows in the toilets have been left open and lights left on. The hot water has not been switched off after use. The main gate has not been securely locked. Meriel to email all members, reminding them of the importance of security.

**Action: Meriel**

**21. DONM: Monday 3rd June 2019 at 10.00hrs**

Meeting closed at 12.40hrs

**Date of next meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2019 at 10.00hrs**

**Signed as a true and accurate record**

**Name.....**

**Signature.....Date.....**

## REPORTS

Treasurer's report for NDCC committee meeting 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2019

This report has been prepared on 18<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

Spreadsheet for the financial year attached. You can print the summary page if you wish by going to the High Level Actuals worksheet tab.

Balance at the bank less unpresented cheques is £12,987.51

The surplus for the year is £3,286.02. Without the £5,000 loan we would be £1713.98 in deficit. £4,701.02

The abrupt change from our last meeting is due to the purchase of the replacement Toro which cost £6,000 including VAT, which was the lower end of the budget range.

I have signed up to a new 2 year fixed price tariff with EDF which is less expensive than the previous one which expired on 31<sup>st</sup> March. I then fended off an attempt to increase the monthly direct debit from £49 to £80.

Competition entry fees for all through-the-season competitions have been received. In 2017, our last normal year, entry fees amounted to £427, but that includes the on-the-day competitions which have not yet happened.

Sales of tea, coffee and cakes at the Short Croquet Teams weekend netted a little less than £300. We will also receive the CA lawn hire rate (not sure if this is £50 or £60 per lawn day) for 11 lawn days, but we will not receive this until the end of the season.

Membership subscriptions are now in apart from the young juniors. Of the £10,090, £360 was for winter memberships.

The 100 club entries have responded well to Coral's encouragement with £636 received.

Income from here on will be mainly from refreshments, tournament catering and bridge. The major item of expenditure will be the insurance premium, about £1000.

M Tracy

18/04/2019

### **NDCC Committee Meeting 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019 Property Report**

#### **Work Morning 29<sup>th</sup> March**

8 members answered the call to participate in the pre season start work morning. The weather was glorious and after all the effort the Club looked ready for the start.

Tony Willoughby is going to repair the seat on the North boundary.

The central seat is also in need of some repair.

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### **Social bookings.**

We currently have a 2 bookings confirmed and 2 awaiting finalisation. One of which is an afternoon corporate event organised by Esme's dad who has indicated a desire to join the club along with his wife.

## Membership report - 23 April 2019

As of today, we have 75 paid up members of which 10 are social.

Those who did not renew are shown below.

Richard Broad - Broad\_rj@hotmail.com>;  
Julie Craig - pauljuliecraig@talktalk.net;  
Jim Field - jim@glastonburycottages.com;  
Alexandra Gutsell - alexgutsell@hotmail.com;  
Doreen & Julie Hamilton - julie@ixler8.com

Richard Broad works and has small children, which means that he has little time and could not play for a team as this would involve whole days anyway. As he is unlikely to be able to get much use of a full membership he has decided not to rejoin.

Jim Field is travelling extensively and so out of the country. He told me that he will in any case get his croquet from playing CA Tournaments.

Doreen and Julie Hamilton are not joining as Julie has moved to London and Doreen will be spending time up there as well, so did not think either of them would get much out of a membership.

Edward Huxley and daughter Pascha are not joining, much to Edwards dismay, as Pascha has shown no inclination to go on with it at the moment. Edward is ever hopeful that she will return at some point.

I have not heard what Luke Mair and Esme Sutherland are intending to do but assume that Peter is in touch with both.

On a more positive note Fiona Illing, ex member of Dyffryn and Martin Walker ex Bristol have now become full members of NDCC.

AJW/ 22-04-19

### **Recruitment**

- All is in hand for Hospice/Open Day. There is a list up in the Clubhouse for people to volunteer to help. I suggest that we have the usual parking arrangements for such events. ie members park inside the club grounds (there were 24 cars inside for the SWF teams!). Visitors to park in Trendlewood Way unless disabled. There will be a marshall in Avening Close. This arrangement removes any responsibility for us for visitors driving across the field and means we don't have to try to cope with them blocking each other in. Members are used to dealing with this and often know each others' cars

The editor of "Nailsea Living" saw our Facebook activity about Hoops for the Hospice and asked for more information to run a feature. Naturally, I obliged! I have sent similar material to the North Somerset Times but there are never any guarantees. Erica has put an article in the Nailsea Publishing Today booklet.

Waitrose in Portishead have donated two tins of tea which look just like a short fat croquet pegs. These will be given as prizes for the first two visitors to "hit the tea-lady. I might be able to scrounge two more from Nailsea Waitrose. Meriel has kindly facilitated a voucher for two adult admissions to Noah's Ark.

- I am coaching one promising beginner. Another two have been unavailable at times arranged but Andrew will pursue them. Erica will pursue another couple. Hopefully, we will get more into lessons after the Hospice/Open Day.
- I have been sent a lot of material for promoting events on National Croquet Day (NCD). The CA Marketing Committee has been taken over by Eugene Chang who, along with Alison Maugham and other young people, has modernised the whole approach. If they decide on a date for NCD sufficiently early next year, I think we should consider going along with it so that we can benefit from their excellent posters etc.

### **Tournaments**

There was some ambiguity in the March minutes. It is the GC B Class Tournament that is over-subscribed. The AC B Class and C Class Tournaments have 9 and 8 entries respectively. The Open Advanced has 4 entries but Marcus may well have other verbal promises, including himself.

Libby has already filled all the catering slots for all the tournaments - I am very grateful for this.

## Club Competitions

All draws are up on the board- nothing else to report

## CA matters

- I have placed bids as per Committee instructions for the Selectors' Weekend in September 2021 and for the AC World Championship in 2022. I requested acknowledgement of the e-mail but have not so far received this. I will phone the CA Office before the 30 April deadline. I am not inspired to confidence by the fact that all those working in the CA Office have distinct emails but they can all read all of them. This, added to the fact that there are sometimes personnel changes, could lead to things being missed.
- We received 4 Nailsea entries for the GC All England so we have entered independently (Bristol also had 4 and this seemed the best way forward for all involved). We now have three Nailsea entries for the AC All England and Bristol have one entry so we may well put in a joint entry to the CA. I am currently in discussion with David Goacher and Ray Ransom about this.
- The fee for both the All England competitions is cited as £7 per person in the Fixtures Calendar but the CA entry form asks for £6 per person. I hope this will be clarified by the CA in due course.

## Fixture Secretary's Report - 21 April 2019

### South West Federation Short Croquet Team Event

#### Division 1

1. Kington Langley Braves	12 wins	overall winners
2. Cornwall	10 wins	
3. Nailsea Trendlewood	9 wins	
4. Nailsea	5 wins	
5. Kington Langley Apaches	4 wins	relegated

#### Division 2

1. Camerton & Peasedown	11 wins	division 2 winners
2. Bath A	9 wins	
3. Sidmouth Fortfield	8 wins	
4. Bath B	7 wins	
5. Swindon	5 wins	relegated

#### Division 3

1. Nailsea Avening	10 wins*	division 3 winners
2. Exeter A	10 wins*	
3. Taunton Deane A	9 wins	
4. Budleigh Salterton Roquets	7 wins	
5. Dyffryn	4 wins	relegated

\* Nailsea Avening won a shoot-out at the peg against Exeter, 2-1.

#### Division 4

1. Bristol Boys	9 wins #	division 4 winners
2. Bristol	9 wins #	
3. Nailsea Glassblowers	9 wins #	
4. Parkstone	8 wins	
5. Sidmouth Connaught	5 wins	

# Bristol Boys won a shoot-out at the peg, Bristol and Nailsea Glassblowers were second equal, 2-1-1

#### Division 5

1. Taunton Deane B	10 wins~	division 5 winners
2. Weston-super-Mare	10 wins~	
3. Exeter B	9 wins	
4. The Bears	8 wins	
5. Budleigh Salterton Rushes	7 wins	
6. Camerton & Peasedown B	7 wins	
7. Llandaff	5 wins	

#### SWF Leagues:

AC Advanced League Division 1                      Nailsea 3              East Dorset 2

GC Level Play League                                      Bristol 10              Nailsea 10

Both of these were good results as we were without two of our top players in each match.

Peter Dyke

21/04/2019

## Lawn Maintenance Report - March 19

### 1. Lawns.

Coming up to the end of March the forecast for early April was cold and dry. This presented a dilemma in terms of the application of the Spring granular fertiliser as the grass obtains little benefit at low temperatures. After discussion with Duncan Hector I decided to apply the granular fertiliser, together with the first Revolution spray of the season on Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup>. Four hours of irrigation was employed to water in both products. As luck would have it, the following Thursday/Friday heavy showers occurred and nearly an inch of rain fell in two days. This was highly convenient as the fertiliser granules were fully dissolved and the Revolution well watered into the ground. On the Friday afternoon there was surface water everywhere and the usual puddles in a few dips. However, by Saturday morning this water had drained away - unlike last year when it used to hang around for days at a time.

By the time of the SWF Short Croquet Teams event the lawns had responded well to the fertiliser, thus justifying the decision to apply it. The last cut with the old mower was made on Thursday April 11<sup>th</sup>. The new Toro was delivered on April 15<sup>th</sup> and training of all but one mower was provided by Geoff and Terry on April 16<sup>th</sup>. The first cut with the new Toro took place on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Despite the cutting height remaining at 8mm, the cut took considerable grass off - an indication that the grass growth is accelerating. Regular twice weekly mowing will now commence. Lawn speed was measured at 10.5 plummers in late afternoon. This is a pleasant speed for club play and suggests that the cutting height can stay at 8mm for a few further weeks. Warmer dry weather is being forecast for the rest of April and possibly into May and June. There is therefore no need to reduce cutting height at present.

Generally speaking the first few months of the year have been quite dry, with the exception of the first two weeks in March. Figure 1 shows the latest data. Note that from now on the lawns are likely to lose more water through evapo-transpiration than they gain through rainfall.

### 2. Winter play.

Although the grass is beginning to grow, some of the hoop approach areas remain threadbare and will need heavy overseeding this Autumn. Looking back over the winter months my main conclusions are:

- a. Keeping all the lawns open all winter makes essential repair and maintenance impossible. Some winter closures will therefore be needed in future years.
- b. The lawns were often used when it was either raining or the ground was really too soft to play. It is difficult to give precise instructions about when to play or not play. Partial lawn closures to rest the lawns are a simpler way of managing the situation.
- c. Consideration needs to be given to the possibility using small lawns rather than full size lawns during the winter as this relieves the main hoop approach areas of much wear and tear. Some other clubs do this regularly.
- d. The lawns sward is not yet mature. As the years progress the turf will gradually knit together and make the lawns more resilient. This process will be supported by

overseeding to improve sward density. The application of growth regulator during the summer months will also encourage root development and lateral tillering rather than vertical growth.

### 3. Autumn Programme 2019.

The next LAG meeting has been arranged for April 29<sup>th</sup>. The main items to be discussed are:

- a. Reduction in Annual Meadow Grass
- b. Over-seeding techniques and costs
- c. Top dressing to smooth out small dips - needs and costs.
- d. Lawn closure programme

Annual Meadow Grass (AMG) is an ongoing nuisance as it seeds all year around, is disease prone, not drought tolerant and also unsightly. All amenity lawns suffer from AMG and Nailsea is no different. East Dorset and Buddleigh both have plenty of AMG present in their lawns.

It is difficult to get rid of because of the seeding habits. There are three main chemical solutions:

1. *Euthofumesate*. This is a licensed product that can prevent the growth of AMG seedlings. It is not however licensed for amenity lawn use and cannot eliminate established plants.
2. *Growth Regulators*. In the USA a combination of two growth regulators Primo Maxx 2 and Trimmit effectively eliminate AMG. Primo Max 2 is licensed for use on amenity lawns in the UK but Trimmit is only licensed at low doses for certain crops in the UK. It cannot be used for amenity lawns. We use Primo Maxx 2 as a growth regulator to improve the sward but it may also slow down AMG seed production and reduce its rate of spread.
3. *Glyphosate*. This product kills everything including rye grass so it has to be selectively applied to AMG clumps with a guard to prevent spread to the surrounding rye grass. I am in the process of modifying my own backpack sprayer so that a stronger glyphosate solution can be rapidly applied to AMG without harming the lawns. Duncan Hector uses glyphosate but immediately over-seeds the AMG and covers the seed with green waste. If this is done in the Autumn, then new rye grass fills in where the AMG had been previously and no holes appear in the lawn. The green waste method of sowing has proved to be very effective over the winter just gone. Many completely bare patches on the North boundary now have a quite acceptable grass covering so there is high confidence in this technique.

In the longer term, as the Mycorrhizal fungi build up in the soil and regular over-seeding is implemented the rye grass should dominate the AMG. However, rye grass does not spread quickly so it needs a helping hand at present. Note however, that total elimination of AMG is probably impossible as seed exists everywhere in the environment.

John Wallace

19/4/19

Figure 1 Rainfall and Evapotranspiration

