

Nailsea and District Croquet Club
Minutes of Committee Meeting held on 9th July 2019

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

In attendance: Joan Timmins

1. Apologies: Brian Roynon

2. Minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd June 2019 - agreed and signed as a correct record.

3. Matters Arising - none

4. Treasurer's Report - discussed and noted.

4.1 Hedge cutting – cost £690, the costs for this activity were higher than expected this year. It was also noted that not all of the cuttings had been taken away. Discussion on necessity of having two hedge cuttings per year. Graham to discuss with Brian.

Action: Graham

4.2 BBQ - Raised £109; this was an excellent evening with fine weather.

Graham to write to Mike and Liz expressing the committee's appreciation and thanks for hosting the event.

Action: Graham

4.3 Insurance – This policy is due for renewal in August and Mike has been seeking to obtain a more affordable deal. Following discussion, it was agreed that Graham would endeavour to establish the realistic value of having to re-build the clubhouse. Suggestion – the buildings to be valued at £125,000 or lower if possible. It was decided not to pay £60 for legal expenses.

Action: Graham/Mike

4.4 New Balls - The cost of purchasing new croquet balls will appear in next year's financial forecast.

Action: Mike

5. Property report - discussed and noted.

5.1 Motorbike Parking - Andrew to discuss with Geoff re relocating the blocks to alongside the pig sty.

Action: Andrew

5.2 Kitchen tap - left running. The cold water tap is difficult to turn off and needs a new washer. **Action: Brian**

5.3 Social bookings – The committee are pleased to report that the gentleman who collapsed on the lawn during his visit has made a full recovery.

6. Membership: Four new members are in the process of completing and submitting membership forms; fees have been received.

Membership records will be updated. **Action: Andrew**

7. Avon and Somerset Youth Activity. – Graham had made contact with the relevant individual. Unfortunately, there is insufficient interest at present. The contact person had asked those individuals who may be interested in playing croquet to contact the club or Graham directly.

8. Schools Summer vouchers - Twelve schools were contacted but only four schools have taken up the offer.

9. Website - continues as a work in progress. Some pages are not being used efficiently as no one is responsible for the continual updating. The receipt of junk mail appears to have stopped. **Action: Mike**

10. Coaching: Ryan and David are continuing with their coaching sessions and are having a good response from members. Members were informed of the change of evening for Ryan's coaching session. Individuals are being encouraged and supported by experienced players.

11. Committee Diary – on going. **Action: Mike/Linda**

12. Recruitment: Report discussed and noted.

Six potential new members are expected at the next lesson, four of these have already joined the club. A couple who live locally have been given vouchers for coaching lessons by their son. Hopefully, they will take up the opportunity to play croquet this year. The committee wishes to thank Kathy and Erica for all their hard work on this club activity. The following questions were asked:-

How do we get our 'club offers' in front of the public?

How do we let people know who and where we are?

Following discussion it was agreed that Linda and Coral would do some research into the various local publications with a view to improving on our advertising.

Action: Linda/Coral

13. Club Competitions - Competitions for this year are well underway. It was agreed to invite Kathy to a winter meeting to discuss competitions for next year.

14. C Level GC Tournament - It was agreed that the decision on this matter could not be finalised until after Ryan had run his competition in August. Graham will discuss with Ryan.

Action: Graham

15. On Line Booking – work in progress.

Action: Linda

16. Winter membership - Following detailed discussion it was agreed that if we are to offer our facilities to other clubs for winter membership as a regular event, then the constitution will need to be amended. Mike will draft an amendment. Winter members would not have voting rights or be able to represent the club in external competitions. The limitations would be included on the membership form.

Kathy's e-mail re. country membership was discussed. Mike will reply to Kathy.

Action: Mike

17: League Fixtures Report: discussed and noted

Peter presented his report. The weather has had a disrupting influence this year. Four matches have not been played due to excessive rainfall.

Association Croquet – Division 1 advanced team are currently top of the league table.

Golf Croquet – Nailsea are top of the table in the level play league.

The match which had to be abandoned against Worcester will now be played on the 13th July 2019 .

18. Any Other Business

Bristol croquet club thanked NDCC for the loan of croquet balls.

Linda informed the committee she would not be standing as a committee member for the year 2019/2020.

19. DONM: Tuesday 27th August at 10.00hrs

The meeting closed at 12.45hrs.

Signed as a true and accurate record

Name.....

Signature.....Date.....

Reports

Treasurer's report for NDCC committee meeting 9th July 2019

This report has been prepared on 4th July 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 £12,791.46

The surplus for the year is £3,089.70. Without the £5,000 loan we would be £1,910.30 in deficit.

The big ticket item this month was the hedge cutting (£690). We usually cut (or pay someone to cut) the hedges twice a year. We will need to consider if, when and how we will do a second cut.

The barbecue enjoyed ideal weather and the company of 24 members and their partners. 4 people paid but were unable to come at the last minute. The event showed a net profit of £106.

I have just received a quote for next year's insurance - £1,204.97. This includes £60 for legal expenses cover which we do not currently have. Still not having a comprehensive inventory (with everything listed with current prices) it is not possible to look elsewhere (unless we put values where we know them and guess the rest), but I would not be hopeful of doing much better elsewhere. The one exception to this is the value of the pavilion itself. The broker can provide a valuation using data available from the desktop for £150. Alternatively we could have an in-depth survey involving a site visit for £426. If we were to take this route I would have thought that the less expensive option would meet our needs. I have asked the broker what the premium would be if the buildings valuation was £125,000 instead of the £253,848 which appears in the schedule. He replied that this would reduce the premium by £150. You are probably aware that insurance companies automatically escalate property values (this year ours has been increased by 15%) and that the insurance is for rebuild, not sale. The renewal date is 1st August.

Weather has forced the cancellation/rescheduling of several social events which has affected our income stream. I understand that some at least have been rescheduled, so the income for these is delayed rather than lost.

May I remind the committee that we intended to replace our 'working' set of primary balls last year. The purchase will set us back £1520. I think that we should, if at all possible, buy new balls ready for the start of next season. I will include this in my budget for next year so that we can make an informed decision.

M Tracy

04/07/2019

**NDCC Committee Meeting
9th July 2019
Property Report**

Work Morning

The work morning was held on Friday 7th prior to the C Class tournament. Nine members turned up and the club and grounds looked very presentable for the Tournament after a hard mornings work from those who attended.

Hedges.

Swift Tree Surgery came on Monday 1st by which time the hedges were very unruly. The cost for the exersise was £690.

Bikes parking on slabs in front of Pavillion

Geoff has laid a slab in the grass outside the kitchen for motor bikes. Which has been used by biker members. But cars have been parked close to or on this area which has prevented its use.

The Main Gate

Robin has offered to paint the main gate with wood treatment.

The Pavillion.

The Honours Board has been updated and is now back on the wall.

In the morning of Monday 1st ,the day after the Golf Level Play match, the cold tap in the kitchen was found to be running.

The track into the club has sunk in the area damaged by the contractors and needs attention.

It is proposed that Geoff, Brian, Robin and Terry will do the work.

It would be prefered that the ground was moist and soft to make the work easier and as Brian is away until 7th August it is proposed that we do the work after that date.

Social bookings.

Marcus has now confirmed the date as the 26th July.

Sadly the first 4 social events were all cancelled due to the weather. 2 of these 4 have now rebooked.

2 others have been run successfuyly although one was eventfull when a visitor collapsed on the lawn and an ambulance had to be called. Happily the 84 year old visitor mad a full recovery.

Kathy and John are going to run an event on Friday 16th August for the Portishead Retirees at 6.00pm using 2 lawns. They will charge the normal £7.50 this time.

Recruitment and Tournament Report

Recruitment

This is on-going with potential recruits continuing to present themselves. I expect to have 6 at Tuesday's lesson. Four of these are Andrew's friends and are expected to join the club this week. In addition to these 6, two people joined the club after early courses of lessons. Another two (the Shanghai contact) will hopefully cash in their gift voucher eventually! The couple who recently moved into Birdlip Close don't seem to be there much yet so I haven't managed to pursue them. There is another lady who wants very much to come and has paid for lessons but is experiencing difficulties that I hope Erica and I will be able to help her overcome but it might take time.

Tournaments

The B Class Advanced was a success and much enjoyed by all who took part. The Hospitality team of Libby, Terry, Doreen and Sandra worked hard all weekend with early morning strong man aid from John Hancock. They provided all the food and also chatted to the visitors. The continuity of the help made it possible for me to play as well as manage the tournament. With 10 players, it had to be a Swiss format. It would have been horrendous trying to play and also manage a Swiss without the help of John and "Timmy 2". The latter is an Excel spreadsheet with macros. It is far more sophisticated than we need for a typical Nailsea tournament and only its most basic features were used. Timmy 2 was truly wonderful. It was acquired free of charge from its author (Andy Dibben who plays at Surbiton). All John had to do was enter the results and "press a button" and the order of play for the next round appeared on the screen. It can even suggest lawns for each match. We didn't use that feature as Timmy 2 wouldn't understand about sharing the double banked lawns fairly over the weekend or about putting crowd pleasers like home players or critical matches in the later rounds on lawns 1 and 4. That was my main management task, secondary only to procuring an even number of players by Saturday morning. The lawns team did us proud with everyone appearing at the right time on Friday afternoon and working very hard to provide excellent conditions. Graham cut the grass, Tony Dowman did the white lines, David Hunt and Tony Griggs moved the hoops, John filled in the old holes and watered the hoop areas to make the hoop a bit more hospitable than they have sometimes been. Tony Dowman is to be particularly commended as he painted immaculate white lines on two consecutive weeks to overcome a glitch.

We are also indebted to Ray Ransom who acted as referee for the entire weekend. There were no referees amongst the players so this was a huge benefit. We provided him with complimentary lunches and teas although he did want to pay for them.

Geoff won the tournament.....again! He is always a popular winner because of his positive style of play. Runner-up was Lorna Dewar who came from Edinburgh and also had a wonderful positive and fluent style. She will be fed up of Nailsea players beating her to trophies as she was the losing Finalist to James Galpin in the B Class Series GC Final at Camerton last October! Geoff had beaten Lorna +1T so she was unlucky on this occasion.

Kathy

8/7/2019

Fixture Secretary's Report (06/07/19)

Results of matches played since our last meeting:

Association Croquet

Advanced League Div 1

Nailsea A	4	Taunton Deane	0*
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* After four completed games, heavy rain flooded all four lawns and the match was abandoned. Taunton conceded the match.

Advanced League Div 2

Home match against Sidmouth postponed for a second time. It will now take place on 18 July.

Bath	2	Nailsea B	3
Nailsea B	0	Bath	5

Advanced League Div 3 and Federation League Central have had no fixtures since May

Federation League South

East Dorset	3	Nailsea South	4
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Intermediate League North

Nailsea North	4	Bristol	3
Cheltenham	2	Nailsea North	3

Intermediate League Central

Weston-super-Mare	2	Nailsea Central	5
Nailsea Central	4	Bath	3

The following table shows the number of wins, losses and current positions of each of our AC teams:

League	Team	Played	Won	Loss	For	Against	Current Position
Advanced League Division 1	Nailsea A	3	3	0	13	5	1 st /5

Advanced League Division 2	Nailsea B	2	1	1	3	7	3 rd /4
Advanced League Division 3	Nailsea C	2	0	2	4	10	3 rd /3
Federation League	Nailsea Central	2	1	1	7	7	4 th /5
Federation League	Nailsea South	3	2	1	11	10	2 nd /6
Intermediate League	Nailsea North	4	4	0	15	9	1 st /5
Intermediate League	Nailsea Central	4	2	2	11	12	2 nd /6

Our Division 1 Advanced team are currently top of the league table. Our final match is away at Bristol on 1st September and is likely to be a top of the table clash. Bristol have won this league for several years and narrowly defeated us last year.

Our Intermediate North team has won their section of the league and will be involved in a play-off against the winners of the Central section.

Golf Croquet

Level Play League

Nailsea	15	Weston-super-Mare	5
Nailsea w/o	9	Dyffryn	0
Nailsea	17	Camerton & Peasedown	3

Handicap League North West

Match between Nailsea NW and Worcester Norton abandoned after one round due to heavy rain and the lawns becoming flooded. Current score: Nailsea NW ½ Worcester Norton 1½. We hope to complete this match on 13 July.

Handicap League North East

Kington Langley	0	Nailsea NE	9
Nailsea NE	13	Camerton & Peasedown NE	7

Handicap League Central

Match between Nailsea Central and Camerton & Peasedown Central abandoned without a stroke being played due to heavy rain and flooded lawns. Next match at Dowlish Wake on 13 July.

High Handicap League

Dowlish Wake	14	Nailsea	6
Bath	11	Nailsea	9

The following table shows the number of wins, losses and current positions of each of our GC teams:

League	Team	Played	Won	Drew	Losses	Pts	For	Against	Current Position
Level Play League	Nailsea	4	3	1	0	7	51	18	1 st /6
Handicap League	Nailsea North West	1	0	0	1	0	7	13	6 th /7
Handicap League	Nailsea North East	4	2	0	2	4	39	30	3 rd /7
Handicap League	Nailsea Central	3	0	1	2	1	25½	34½	7 th /7
High Handicap League	Nailsea	3	1	0	2	2	27½	32½	5 th /6

