

**Nailsea and District Croquet Club
Annual General Meeting on Zoom
6th November 2021**

Chair: Graham McCausland

Present: 19 members attended (names attached as hard copy)

The Meeting opened at 2pm

1. Welcome by President

As President, Geoff Hughes welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked the Committee and all those members who had worked so hard for the Club throughout the season. He especially thanked Kathy Wallace, Martin Kerly, John Hancock and Linda for their tireless work coaching the beginners and continuing through the season to support the new players.

His term as President has come to an end and he welcomed Peter Dyke as the new President of the club.

2. Apologies: Andrew Wimshurst, Coral Harrison, Kathy Wallace, Françoise and Andy Renwick, Pete Longdon, Pat Long, Erica Clapp, Jane Wilson, Tony Willoughby, Doreen and Harry Wallace, Robin and Pam Hendry, Andrew Buchanan, Pat Thompson, David Hogg, Brigit and Don Clayton, Susan Prince, John Malaiperuman, Meriel Forshaw, David and Ann Clarke, Linda Shaw Jenny Atkinson, Violet and Richard Delmas, Polly Reynolds, Gary Faulkner.

3. Minutes of AGM held on 7th November 2020: Approved and signed as a true and accurate record by Erica Malaiperuman on behalf of Graham McCausland.

4. Matters Arising:

5. Chairman's Annual Report 2021

Well we have certainly had another unusual year, due to the ongoing effects of the Covid pandemic, but thankfully with the roll out of vaccinations earlier in the year, things began to return to something like normal as the season progressed. The committee began to ease restrictions in May, but caution remains the byword, as the pandemic is still very much with us.

The initial impact for the Club was the cancellation of our Spring Short Croquet Tournament, but plans are afoot for this to return in April 2022. It also resulted in the SWF league program having a delayed start, which meant most fixtures were scheduled from late June, causing a bit of fixture congestion, due to the shortened season.

Despite the Covid restrictions, or maybe because of them, we had an unprecedented number of beginners who went through the initial coaching course, some 28 I believe, but no doubt Kathy will put me right, if this is wrong!! Obviously the message that

croquet is a sport which can be played safely due to social distancing, has borne fruit, and from these sessions some 18 went on to become full club members. Kathy may I applaud you for the huge amount of time and effort you have put in this year, both to advertise croquet through various channels, and then organise the large number of coaching sessions needed to accommodate everyone. The club is also indebted to Linda Shaw, Martin Kerly, and John Hancock, who with Kathy have done the lion's share of initial coaching, and others who have stepped in for the odd session to help out along the way.

The Club reached a major milestone this year, as it celebrated its Ruby Anniversary. Throughout those 40 years since the Club was formed by Peter Dyke, he has been a major force in developing it, and getting us to where we are today. Judging by the fact that we are regularly asked to host Tournaments on behalf of the CA, and this year also hosted the Annual GC Home International Tournament on behalf of Wales, the Club is held in high regard both in the SWF and Nationally. As Peter steps down from his role as a Committee member, and as Fixture Secretary for our SWF League Teams, I hope in his new role as Club President, he will find this less demanding of his time, as he certainly has earned it!!

Our success as a Club is in no small measure due to the continuing improvement to our lawns, and I would like to express our appreciation for the huge amount of time, and effort put in by John Wallace, and his able assistant Kathy in maintaining our lawns. Also I would like to thank all those members who give so much time to the myriad of jobs such as white lining, hoop setting, mowing, club house cleaning, machinery and equipment maintenance, outfield maintenance, leaf clearing and all who provide welcome refreshments of tea, coffee and cakes at our Tournaments. All these tasks help make the club what it is, and add to our enjoyment of croquet.

I end by thanking my fellow committee members who have helped navigate us through a very difficult couple of years, and congratulations to Andrew Wimshurst on his award of a CA Diploma in recognition of his service to the club over several years.

Graham McCausland

6. Treasurer's Report: **(a) presentation of accounts**

Well you will all have received a copy of my report so, unless there's an overwhelming insistence, I don't intend to repeat verbatim something which you have in front of you, may even have read . So I'll just give a brief commentary following the same format as the report. It is mercifully short Under income and expenditure we are taking forward £25,481.76. I have recently received a balancing payment from the C A for £616.75, a rebate on the water bill of £278.89 and I am expecting payment for hosting the Selectors Weekend Tournament. On the face of it we are taking

forward a healthy balance. For a moment I'll ignore the unexpected £18,000 windfall which has rather distorted the accounts. We have a small surplus this year last year we had a deficit but comparing one year with another is not that straight forward. Last year we repaid the CA £2500 being the balance of a loan. We paid no rent because N Somerset was late in invoicing us and we purchased 4 sets of balls at a cost of £1500. This year we paid the rent from last year. We have spent £1400 on a major service of the Toro mowing machine(this is unlikely to be an annual event more likely every two years) we've also bought a new strimmer for £400. We have however had an intake of new members and you will see that subscriptions and coaching is about£11,000 compared with last year's £9000. The lesson I want to draw from this is the fact that if we discount the two grants totalling £18,000.00. normal income and expenditure just about balance each other

Subscriptions: I thought it worth noting that the annual subscription at Bristol is £215 - although this is discounted for early payment. Bath charge £200 for April – October. Winter membership November – March is extra. I think £60. Both these clubs use turf professionals to look after their lawns. I haven't done much research on this topic but I can't imagine that there are many clubs which can match Nailsea for the amount of physical work that is carried out from within the club. I recall some time in the distant past turning out with what seemed half the club to top dress the lawns with goodness knows how many tons of sand. Similarly not so long ago we used to turn out for work days when all the perimeter hedges were cut. This week I spent little more than an hour raking leaves from the lawns – I went home and put my feet up. I am sure that I speak for others when I say that the spirit is still willing but..... You will see that in my report I looked back at other AGMs where in successive years it was stressed that we would soon have to make the decision to buy in services. This time has now arrived. How to fund it is what your committee is going to have to decide. While on the subject of subscriptions I would ask that these are paid as soon as possible after you receive your requests. Compiling a meaningful budget is very difficult when payment is still trickling in as late as April.

The Lawns. I've got little to add to my report. The photo I attached shows how far we've come since April 2018. I have been present when visiting players have said how well the lawns are playing- this appreciation hasn't always been extended to the hoops. Looking forward. Ive nothing to add to the report.

The treasurer's report was unanimously agreed. It was suggested that due to costs connected to using cheques, members would be encouraged to use BACs if possible. Graham to mention this in his next update. The accounts have been added at the end of the minutes, since the zoom meeting has meant that no hard copies were available.

(b) Setting of subscriptions

The annual subscription was set at £150 in the year beginning January 2019 and has remained at this level for the past three years. The treasurer proposed an increase to £165.00 pa for full time adult members and a pro rata increase for other categories. There were no votes against, two abstentions.

(c) Appointment of honorary auditor

This is required by the constitution. Mike Tracy agreed to act as "examiner" of the audits for the following year until an honorary auditor can be found.

7. League Secretary's report Peter read out his report (hard copy to be included at a later date). He especially wanted to congratulate James Galpin on being selected to play for England in the Golf Croquet Home Internationals which were played at Nailsea this year. To see more details about the score follow the link. croquetscores.com/2021/gc/home-internationals

8. Constitutional change:

The committee proposed that the Student member category of NDCC membership should be amended from:

9e Student Member. For those in full time education up to the age of 25.

To: **9e. U25 Member. For those members who are under 25 on 1 January of the membership year**

Consequently 9h would now read:

An Ordinary Member is a Full, Associate, Country or U25 Member but must be aged at least 16

The majority of the voters were in favour of this amendment. This amendment to be added to the Constitution found in the Club Handbook.

9. Election of Committee

Graham McCausland was proposed by Martin Kerly and seconded by Brian Roynon to stand as Chairman for a 4th year. More than 50% of the votes were in his favour. (According to the constitution this should actually be carried out by a paper vote but since we had a zoom meeting this did not take place; we counted a show of hands.)

The following nominations were proposed and approved at the meeting

Name	Role	Proposer	seconders
David Hunt	Treasurer	Linda Shaw	David Hogg
Erica Malaiperuman	Secretary	Kathy Wallace	Brigit Clayton
Brian Roynon	Property	Rob Royffe	Brigit Clayton
Andrew Wimshurst	Membership secretary	Libby Howard-Blood	Terry Young
Sandra Morgan	Member	Doreen Wallace	Jane Wilson

10. Safeguarding

Linda Shaw's (LSO) report was put to the meeting. No issues were outstanding.

11. AOB

It was noted that Steve Durston had not been thanked as part of the coaching team. The committee thanked him for running coaching sessions for GC and also for holding a beginners competition.

The question of disabilities was raised and whether or not the clubhouse was suitable for wheelchair users. The safeguarding in the club is specifically for child safety and data protection and follows child safeguarding policy and procedures implemented by the Croquet Association. As far as we are aware Swindon is the only club who has players who use a wheelchair. This club has been given funding for bringing croquet to under represented groups.

12. Date of Next AGM 5th November 2022

The meeting closed at 3.30.

Signed as a true and accurate account

Name.....

Signature.....

