

## Nailsea and District Croquet Club

Minutes of Committee Meeting held on March 24 th 2022

Present: G.McCausland, A.Wimshurst, D.Hunt, B.Roynon, S.Durston, S.Morgan, E. Malaiperuman

Minutes of Last Meeting: Agreed and signed by Graham

Matters Arising: The trial day for players to try out Louise Smith's PFC mallets will be held on Saturday, 12 th June. A lawn has been booked for this. Graham to liaise.

### Treasurer's Report:

1. The Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant of £2,500 has been granted.
2. David has looked into the criteria needed for clubs to qualify for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Activity Fund. We do not fit the criteria.
3. It was decided that Travel Expenses following Fuel price increase will be raised from 25p per mile to 30p per mile.

Membership: We now have 84 members with 2 U25 pending. Ryan to chase up the young players who were part of Youth Croquet coaching last year. The number of social members has dropped. Andrew is concerned that we still need to somehow recruit younger fitter players to take on the heavier manual voluntary tasks. We are all getting older and will need replacements...

Outsourcing hoop setting alone would mean putting up the subs to £300 to cover costs.

### Property Report:

The Temporary repair to the car park

Two more bags of chippings were purchased and Robin and Brian lifted the pavers and carried out a repair. The plastic pavers are becoming brittle we may need to buy more.

The trolleys are now ready for use in full working order. Spare parts to the trolleys are kept in the roof space.

The Honours board has been rehung in the clubhouse.

### The Hundred Club

We have sold 51 units for this year which is worth £612. This will give an income to the club of £275.40

### Preparations for the start of the Season:

A work morning has been arranged for Monday 28 th March

Graham will ask the mower team (again) not to dump the grass cuttings too near the lawns, especially the SW corner, raking back the grass clippings should not be necessary. It was queried whether members could take some of the compost home for their own gardens..

Brian and Brenda to coordinate refreshments for our Opening Day. Marcus will be organising the One Ball Competition.

### SWF Short Croquet Tournament:

Refreshments. Sandra to contact Kathy regarding purchasing cakes made by Iryna's sister, a young Ukranian refugee who is a baker.

Erica to send email to players re: cakes (costs reimbursed), coordinate refreshment helpers for the event.

Bisques, ball markers and clips – we now have sufficient

Club Afternoons: They will revert to Roll up sessions after Covid. Erica to send email.

### League Fixtures:

Programme in place. Kathy has produced a calendar of events.

Tournaments and Competitions: Kathy's report noted and discussed (see end of minutes)

Safeguarding: Nothing to report

A.O.B.

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Should we organise croquet games which are more lighthearted? Kathy has already mentioned her idea of croquet skittles, David likes the idea of all bisques being used up in the first seven turns (Bristol game) Andrew is keen on bringing people together on summer evenings. Sandra likes the OBE format. Further thoughts needed.

Graham will be setting up an instructional evening session on how to play Advantage Golf

D.O.N.M. Monday 25 th March. 10.00 In the Clubhouse.

The meeting closed at 11.15

Signed as a true accurate account

Name.....

Signature.....

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## Competitions and Tournaments Report March 2022

### Competitions

Entries are now all in, I hope. I will get the blocks and knockout draws up on the board before 2 April. The ongoing trend of a decreasing number of AC entries and an increasing number of GC entries

continues to alarm me. The coaching team are doing all they can to arrest the decline of AC at Nailsea but

it's a worldwide issue.

AC and SC handicaps are all in order and the Tracking Charts for 2022 are up on the board.

All the new members who need GC assessments have got arrangements in place with Brian but I have

heard nothing about any changes to existing members. I will put the GC chart up as it is and await additions/amendments by the GC Handicap Committee

### Tournaments

We have the following tournament entries as at 21 March:

June Advanced: 16 entries

August Advanced: 7 entries

July Advanced: 10 entries

August GC: 16 entries with 6 ReservesSWF Short Croquet teams event

I am anxious to make sure that we have sufficient supplies of: bisques, clips and ball markers.

I don't know if we have more bisques than the usual ones on the window ledge. If not, we need to borrow some from John Grimshaw. Peter thought there might be some in the Machine Room.

Last time I looked at Clips, we were short of one pink and one white, to be able to furnish 8 lawns.

Ball markers have gone up astronomically in price and we need to stop wasting them. They used to be just a penny or two each but they are much more expensive now and not easy to find. The CA Shop sell them at £18 for 40, ie 45p each! Before Christmas, I bought a few cheap ones that were on special offer from e-bay and a few others appeared in the Clubhouse. (Andrew?). I've just ordered another 200 for about £13 but they are coming from China and probably won't be here till late April. They are a strange collection of colours but include a lot of fairly light colours that are easy to see on the grass. I think we need to ask members to look in their bags and pockets before the teams event.

### **Recruitment Report March 2022**

We had 15 enquiries about lessons for new recruits and have had 11 completed forms and payments. Only one of the “no-shows” surprises me. It would seem that the increased cost of £60 has not put people off. £30 now seems ridiculously cheap for the service and use of equipment that we provide!

It's early days still and I expect to get some more interest in the next few weeks. There will be another article in the “Nailsea Paper”(April edition). Also John Hancock has volunteered to write a report of the Charity one-ball for the North Somerset Times. Let's hope there are some eye-catching blue costumes. I might add some yellow to mine.

I've tried really hard to get new Youth Croquet kids but have achieved nothing so far. This is in spite of Social Media posts (including PTA groups), and posters and emails to Youth Clubs, Youth Groups at churches, Guides, Scouts and both local secondary schools. Thoroughly disappointing. I have established a contact with a PE teacher at Nailsea School and wondered about inviting the PE department for a free social evening to let them see what it's all about so that they might be able to stir up some interest. Committee opinions on this welcomed.

#### **Retention**

The Alternate Stroke Doubles afternoon, planned for 23 April, is more about Retention than it is about Recruitment. Social Members and GC-only members would be most welcome to come and watch. If we are lucky with the weather, it could be a very sociable afternoon with tea, cake and BYO drinks. I know days like this have been highly successful at Nottingham CC. I am very grateful to Marcus for keeping so many weekend days free so that we can have more of this type of event, rather than have wall-to wall matches every weekend. If this idea doesn't work well we can try some other ideas. If I could source some suitable skittles, I would organise a Croquet Skittles Afternoon (on lawn 5) – suitable for players of both codes. I'm still looking for some skittles but the only ones on offer have been either prohibitively expensive or far too light to stand on grass. Perhaps someone could make some from wooden off-cuts or old fence posts? We would use our own mallets and the old croquet balls.