

Nailsea and District Croquet Club
Minutes of Meeting held at Andrew's house on 18th October 2022

Present: A. Wimshurst, G. McCausland, B. Roynon, S. Durston, D. Hunt, S. Morgan, E. Malaiperuman
Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed and signed by Graham

Matters arising:

Defibrillator: Graham and Joan to liaise on recruiting for volunteers who would take part in training before the new season starts. The laminated sheets for instructions have already been prepared by Brian.

Advantage Golf: Graham will not put forward a proposal, as yet, to the SWF regarding the adoption of advantage golf in SWF competitions. However our internal competitions of handicap golf will be played as Advantage Golf.

Treasurer's Report:

Subscriptions are good this year but we still rely on income from all the other sources to make up the amount we spend annually. David has obtained an accounting software package on approval and will let the committee know if it meets our requirements, particularly the recording of monthly standing orders. John Wallace has written a budget for lawn maintenance and David will incorporate this into a full budget for presentation at the next committee meeting.

Membership: The committee agreed unanimously on Andrew's latest format for membership/renewal

A.G.M.: The committee discussed the proposal that vulnerable people should be able to vote in absentia and it was decided that this was not in accordance with the constitution. The meeting will take place in the clubhouse which will be well ventilated.

The Agenda will be sent out two weeks before the AGM.

Property Report: The Gents and Ladies loos are now in good working order. A work morning is planned for Monday 31st October at 10.00 am to :

Tidy up the out field and banks

Collect the stop boards

Move the centre bench

Remove the nets and metal sleeves

Clean the clubhouse

Clear the summerhouse ready for dismantling. **Erica** to email details to members.

There are still further discussions to be had with Brigit regarding the final choice of summerhouse, to be renamed, The Clayton Summerhouse.

Social events:

Violet and Richard ran a social evening for their MG Car Club and raised £90

Details of the choices on the menu for the 3 course **Christmas lunch** on December 3rd will be sent out to members. Brian and Brenda to organise prizes for the raffle.

The Winter Social programme has been sent out to members.

Lawn Maintenance: John to reseed the lawns in November and carry out any necessary mowing. Graham to liaise with John on further winter mowing.

Graham to organise support when necessary for opening up the clubhouse for winter deliveries of lawn products.

Tournaments and Competitions:

Kathy's report read and discussed – see report at end of the minutes for more details

Further dates for the diary since last meeting are:

14-16 April	SWF Short Croquet Teams Event
16 May	OBE Tournament (manager Libby)

The committee agreed to Kathy's suggestion of holding on Saturday pm 22nd April for a 'Bring a Friend' day which would replace the the old format of our Open Day. Refreshments would be available.

Safeguarding: Nothing new to report.

A.O.B.

John Wallace is still continuing to find a cost affective solution to our problem of irrigation.

P.P.P. (plant product protection) (weedkiller products)The committee are still actively chasing the CA for guidance.

D.O.N.M. To be announced after the AGM

The meeting closed at 12.00

Signed as a true and accurate account

Name.....

Signature.....

Kathy's report to the committee on Competitions, and Recruitment

Competitions

I note that the Committee have made the decision that, in 2023, we should operate the Club Handicap GC Competitions under the Advantage Golf format, thus replacing the Extra Turns format. I regret that this decision has been made regardless of what the SWF decide to do for their GC Handicap Leagues next year. I feel that we should have followed the SWF in this, partly to avoid the confusion of a dual system, but there are other good reasons to stick with our own Federation.

Advantage GC has many merits but I would have preferred us to be patient and wait for the SWF.

Tournaments

2023 dates:

14-16 April	SWF Short Croquet Teams Event
16 May	OBE Tournament (manager Libby)
20/21 May	Advanced Class Tournament (manager, Kathy)
17/18 June	Advanced Class Tournament (manager, Robert Upton)
12/13 August	Advanced Tournament (manager, Marcus)
15 August	B Class GC Tournament (manager, Steve Durston)
2/3 September	Club semi-finals
7-11 September	Spencer-Ell
23/24 September	Club Finals

These are mainly in the CBS now, albeit the Spencer Ell Cup has acquired a new name.

Spencer-Ell

I think it would be good to offer lunches for the Spencer Ell. Eights Week events are different from weekend tournaments in two significant ways. The first is that they only involve 8 players so it's not hugely different from catering for family/friends at home (16 seems like commercial catering). The second difference is that the event lasts for 5 days and that's a long period for the players to be buying daily sandwiches. We don't need to make a decision yet and my own participation will depend on the Covid situation nearer the time. Either way, I think we could find 5 people prepared to make lunches for 8 – provided they hadn't already been asked to cook for weekend tournaments during the summer. The lawn fees for this event will be £880 so it is worth putting on a good show and improving the chances of future bids being accepted. To this end, I have persuaded John to take on the co-ordination of the lawn work for the Spencer-Ell. It is more complicated than a two or three day event and his experience will be invaluable. He will, of course, work in tandem with David.

Recruitment

I have just had one enquiry for 2023 to date.

Now that we have a nucleus of very new members, I would like to hold a "Bring a Friend" day next April, with them in mind, but not exclusively so. Statistically, it is friends of existing members who are most likely to join Croquet Clubs and to become long term members. The day would be easy to manage as the friends would be looked after by their friends. I will try to make it a sociable occasion with different activities on offer (time to bring out the Tea-lady?, plastic container skittles?) and I know that all our members will be their usual cheerful and hospitable selves. This will be similar to an Open Day but without the need for as much organisation or expensive advertising. In the event of bad weather, it can easily be postponed. I suggest the afternoon of Saturday 22 April as a first attempt to run this. It would be nice if this could be added to the list of events for tea/cake to be offered.