

Nailsea and District Croquet Club
Annual General Meeting
5th November 2022

Chair: Graham McCasland

Present: 24 members attended the meeting. - See list attached

The meeting opened at 2.00pm

1. Welcome by President

As President, Peter Dyke welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked the Committee and all the volunteers who have worked so hard during the year. He especially thanked Kathy Wallace for her tireless work in recruiting, being the secretary for the CA and running club competitions. Thanks also to all the coaches who gave up so much time during the year and Martin Kerly for organising the coaching rota.

2. Apologies: Val Webley, Dave Kibble, Linda Shaw, Robin and Pam Hendry, Geoff and Eileen, Dave and Ann Clarke, Mike Howell, Joan Timmins, Brigit, John and Kathy Wallace, Doreen and Harry Wallace, Robert Upton, Gary Falkner, Meriel Forshaw, Andrew Buchanan, Fiona Filing, Janet and Neil Turp, Brian McCausland, Polly Reynolds, John Malaiperuman, Tony Willoughby, Jane Wilson, Susan Prince, Terry Young, Mary Barnes.

3. Minutes of AGM held on 6th November 2021: Approved and signed as a true and accurate record by Graham McCausland.

4. Matters Arising: None

5. Chairman's Annual Report 2022:

It has been a better year as things have gradually returned to something approaching normality. Caution however remains the by word, as we all are mindful that Covid remains an ever present threat, which we must learn to live with.

The season got off to a good start as we welcomed the return of our SWF Spring Short Croquet Tournament in April, although with a noticeable reduction in the number of teams participating.

The committee has been heartened by the return of most of our 2021 intake of new members, bolstered by a further intake this year, and total playing membership is at its highest level for some years. It would be very nice to see us top 100 playing members during 2023!!

Once again may I thank Kathy Wallace for her endeavors through social media to promote the club to new players, and I believe she already had someone wanting to start playing in 2023, before this season had ended!! John Hancock has again done an excellent job in getting the club featured in the local North Somerset Times, and my thanks to everyone who contributed articles to him for this during the season as this all helps with recruitment of new players.

Many thanks also to Martin Kerly, who has orchestrated the coaching program and everyone who has helped coach both our beginners this year, and the ongoing improvers coaching to build on initial skills learnt by our 2021 intake.

John Wallace has continued to do a magnificent job in managing our lawn maintenance, and I would like to thank him, and Kathy for all the hours of work they have put in again this year to keep our lawns to such a high standard, not helped by the damage we have experienced in recent months by the local wildlife. John is still reviewing options for an irrigation system, but is being frustrated by the difficulty in getting quotes as contractors struggle with a backlog of work, due to Covid restrictions in the last couple of years.

It was good to see more teams entering into the SWF leagues during 2022, after the constraints of Covid last year. As travel restrictions gradually eased this year, I anticipate that even more entries will appear for 2023. Well done to everyone who represented the club in the various leagues this year, and I would encourage any of our newer members who have not yet played competitively to get involved next year.

Congratulations to Linda Shaw on her being awarded a CA Diploma this year, it has been well deserved for all her hard work over the years at Nailsea, Bristol and as Secretary to the SWF!

Well done also to James Galpin, who despite having not picked up a mallet for 3 months whilst away at sea, still managed to win the Plate Trophy at the recent 17th Egyptian International Open GC Championship.

May I again 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.

As my tenure as Chairman comes to an end, I would also like to express my gratitude to my fellow committee members who have helped navigate the club through a difficult few years.

Graham McCausland
Chairman

6. Treasurers report to AGM November 2022

(a) presentation of accounts

I've prepared an Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 30 September 2022 with comparison figures for the previous year. These have been examined by Mike Tracy who designed the spreadsheet on which the accounts are entered and he has annotated the accounts as examined. Attached is a budget for the next financial year which I'll come to later. We are taking forward £29,346.02 into the next financial year.

I want to comment on some of the totals.

- Under income:

Subscriptions are £12,700.00 and Coaching £1200.00 These are the best figures since 2015 and possibly further back. The next best year for subscriptions was £10,600 in 2019.

Under Raffles and Donations is the receipt of a Covid restart grant of £2700.00. This is the latest and unfortunately the last in a series of grants, which we have received since 2017, which total almost £26,000.00. This rather puts into perspective the balance which we are taking forward.

I also wanted to draw your attention to a receipt of £225 under tournament lunches. In past years we could rely on netting anywhere between £450-£650 from this source. We are no longer offering lunches at our tournaments. I only point this out because when I come to look at next years Budget you'll see how much we rely on income from several sources over and above the annual subscription.

- Under expenditure:

Machinery maintenance. A bill for £4000 from AJ mowers for new cutters and bed knives. I hope the new cutter blocks will last for the life of the machine.

JNW has been paid £650 for the parts of the overseeder which he built. Now in its second year of use(used Wednesday to overseed 3&4) It is a marvel of engineering comprising 12 toothed wheels in front of which are 12 tubes dispensing a measured quantity of seed from an overhead hopper onto the lawn which is then pressed into the turf by the following teeth. In past years we have had to hire an equivalent machine which, from memory, cost us about £900 per day.

- Under Miscellaneous is £1195.00 for the defibrillator which is to kept in the club house.

None of this expenditure will be repeated next year.

Now although I've actually prepared these accounts I always find them a little opaque so I've prepared a rather pared down budget for next year. You'll find this attached to the Income and Expenditure account. There are no grants, I've taken out the Xmas lunch which is just money in and money out, I've left out club competition fees and trophies because one pays for the other and match fees and travel expenses for the same reason. So I hope that with fewer categories it becomes more understandable.

- Categories gone through with some explanation

So on the face of it we may be able to show an annual surplus next year, the only contingency I've made is £1000 under miscellaneous. I've not allowed for any replacement items or general repairs and there's no fund set aside for a successor mower or tractor. We may have to replace the Sarrel roller and perhaps acquire a rotary fertiliser spreader and of course there's the irrigation system which remains an aspiration.

What the budget shows is that the current subscription does not cover the cost of goods and services which we spend, annually, on running the club.

I've looked back over past years and in 2015 and 2016 we had annual surpluses of £4000 and £5000. In 2017,2018 and 2019 we were involved in the lawn levelling and the purchase of a new mower and in 2020, 2021 and 2022 (ignoring grants) we had annual surplus in each year of £1000. So we are just about treading water. We need to take forward a contingency in the region of 8-10 k

I've also look back over recent AGM. A succession of addresses by Chairmen and Treasurers have drawn our attention to the ageing membership the need for volunteers and the eventual necessity of buying in services.

The good news is that over the last two years we have had an influx of new members. By the standard of the club they could even be described as youthful and a number have been induced to volunteer in different activities. So winter and summer work on the lawns, mowing, white lining, hoop setting, leaf clearing etc are catered for at least in the short term. BUT any thought of buying in services is out of the question. Reference made to BCC annual contract for lawns maintenance.

We now spend £1000 annually on keeping the hedges in order something which the members used to do AND you will all have noted how much we are spending on the lawn mower.

This brings us to the topic of subscriptions.

(b) setting of subscriptions

75% of our income is from full time members fees.

I want , briefly to refer to other clubs. These are gleaned from the internet so refer to last year:

Bristol	225
Bath	220 + winter
East Dorset	195
Sidmouth	183 (the current year)
WSM	170
Taunton	160
Chelt	343
Budleigh	340

The rise in inflation and cost of living has impacted both the club's budget and individual members. The Committee spent a lot of time discussing this topic and, like all committees, have come up with a compromise. The proposal to be put to the membership is to raise the annual subscription, to offer a discount for early payment and to allow for payment of the annual subscription in instalments by standing order.

The discount is likely to be in the order of 10% and the fee for paying by S/O is also about 10%

There will be concerns that offering payment in instalments might lead to members ceasing payment part way through the year so it should be made clear that payment by instalments is for an annual subscription but paid over a number of months. The committee might decide on 6, 8 or 10 months, this is not set in stone.

The rational is that some members will be persuaded to join who might otherwise not because of paying a lump sum at the beginning of the year. As the person who will be administering the scheme I rather hope that the uptake will not be a huge number, but I admit that I shall probably be one of them.

The proposed increase in the subscription is next on the agenda but you will all note that if paid by 31st December, and therefore discounted, it is £5 and does not keep pace with inflation over the last year.

We now come to the proposition to raise the annual subscription for full membership to £190

That concludes my report. David Hunt November 2022

Proposed by Graham. Seconded by Brian Roynon

- In answer to Marcus's question Graham confirmed that forms have been submitted for Registration as a Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC)
 - The committee will look into the question of whether the treasurer has personal liability.
- (c) Appointment of honorary auditor** Mike has audited the accounts, but will now step down from this role. We need a candidate for auditor for the coming year (who must not be a committee member) (post meeting, Roger Baddeley has agreed to take on the role of auditor.

7. League Secretary's Report

Marcus thanked Peter for all his work as League Secretary for the past years, probably ever since the club was formed.

The Intermediate league won their section but lost in the Semi finals

The Golf league also won their section but lost in the semi finals

In the Parkstone league division 1 was won by Nailsea, the first time for many years and

Division 3 A team was promoted to division 2

Marcus will be sending out an email to all players inviting them to take part in the SWF league matches. It appears as if there might be an interest from the members of entering a team for the B league for which Nailsea has not been able to raise a team for several years.

Congratulations were given to James Galpin from Peter Dyke who brought home the Plate trophy in the 17th Egyptian Open Golf International Championship. It was played in Egypt in October. Having not picked up a mallet for several months he did exceptionally well and was only knocked

out of the knockout by the eventual winner, Ahmed Nasr, a previous Golf Croquet World Champion.

Pat reminded the club that congratulations are in order for Erica who has been selected to play for England at the Womens AC world championships in New Zealand from 7th to 15th January. All results will be found on the the World Croquet Federation site.

8. Constitutional Change:

7. A person's membership shall be deemed to have lapsed if his/her subscription remains unpaid on the 1st day of March. This shall not apply to those paying instalments by standing order

23. The annual subscription for Ordinary members shall be agreed at the Annual General Meeting each year. The Committee shall have to power to:

- (a) agree reduced subscriptions for persons in full-time education, for family groups (namely, parents with children under 18) or other such well defined groups as are deemed deserving.
- (b) agree a reduced subscription for payment before the 1st day of January
- (c) offer members the option to pay subscriptions in instalments by standing order
- (d) set a fee for payment by standing order

Letters from John Wallace and Kathy Wallace were read out highlighting their concerns over the use of standing orders.

The proposed changes to the Constitution were carried by the required majority. The Committee was thereby authorised, should they decide, to discount the annual subscription for early payment and to offer members the option of paying the annual subscription in instalments by standing order for which an administration fee could be charged

9. Election of the committee.

Steve Durston as Chairman
David Hunt as Treasurer
Erica Malaiperuman as Secretary
Andrew Wimshurst as Membership Secretary
Brian Roynon as Property
Sandra Morgan as Member (cakes)
Graham McCausland as Member
Paul Arbos as Member

All were accepted with a unanimous vote

10. Safeguarding. Linda's report was read out by Graham.

11. A.O.B.

- Peter will be starting his bridge lessons for members.
- On behalf of Violet, Libby reported that Lilia (a Ukranian referugee living in Nailsea) had enjoyed playing golf croquet on Mondays and wanted to express her thanks for the kindness received. She has offered to help in any way she can.

- Brian briefed the members on how the preparatory work for the new summer house was progressing. There is still a lot of work to do, some of it heavy, Marcus volunteered help from himself and on behalf the other young adults in the club(Kriss, Ryan)

12. Date of next AGM.....November 4th 2023

The meeting closed at 3.35 pm

Signed as a true and accurate record

Name.....

Signature.....

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