

Nailsea and District Croquet Club
Minutes of meeting held on 23rd February 2023

Present:

S.Durston, D.Hunt, A.Wimshurst, G.McCauland, B.Roynon, P.Arbos, E.Malaiperuman, S.Morgan

Minutes of Meeting – 5/01/2023 Agreed and signed as a correct record.

Matters Arising:

- Fir tree removal. Still on-going, now in the hands of the School and N.S.Council.
- CASC. **Graham** to submit new constitution to the bank. All the necessary paper work should be finished in 2 – 3 weeks.

Treasurer's report:

David's report noted and discussed. See attached

Membership:

All expected members have paid their subscriptions. **Violet** to liase with Lilia regarding play on Mondays.

Work Rotas: Andrew awaiting the club calendar (**Marcus**) before he can write out the coordinating the rotas for mowing, hoop setting and white lining. One more member is needed for the white lining rota. (**Erica** to try and find a volunteer)

Property: Brian's report noted and discussed. See attached

- The committee thanked Brian and his team for working so hard to complete the base of the summer house. We hope to have a 'cut the ribbon' celebration when the summer house is finished.
- It was felt that the low turn out for winter lunches was due to the knock on affect of Covid.
- Car parking area. Brian is making enquiries about a product (robust plastic tiles) which he saw in Chipenham. Maybe they might be used at a later date.
- **Brian** to contact Clevedon twinning regarding their proposed social date on Aug 6th At present they are not sure of their numbers.

Cleaning the Clubhouse:

We need some people who will commit to sharing this role. At present Joan is doing everything. **Erica** to contact Joan

Recruitment: Kathy's report noted and discussed. See attached

The Committee thanked Kathy for her contiued recruitment drive.

Refreshments at the 'Bring a Friend Day' to be paid for by members and their friends.

As yet no members have joined as Social members only wanting to play Bridge. Bridge players should be social members.

Coaching liason: Kathy's report noted and discussed

Tournaments and Competitions: Kathy's report noted and discussed.

Handicap cards: Erica to recall any cards which have not been checked and signed. All handicaps of AC and SC have been finalised. (There were some changes at the end of the season) The AC and SC charts are ready to go on the noticeboard - **Kathy**

League Fixtures: All the captains have been notified of their team dates. All captains need to book their lawns on the booking sheet. They are reminded that only 2 lawns may be booked before the match and only from 9.00 – 6.00.

Marcus to draw up a Club Calendar

First Day of the Season preparations:

All 4 lawns will be booked from 12.00 to 5.00. Refreshment arrangements to be discussed at the next committee meeting.

- Charity One Ball – Sunday 2nd. Lawns to be provisionally booked.

Catering and Refreshments:

Catering for Tournaments:

As agreed last year we will not be offering lunches at our two Advanced Class Tournaments. Marcus will be discussing his lunch arrangements for the Advanced Open Tournament (August 12th - 13th) at a later date

It was felt that a prestigious tournament such as the Spencer Ell Tournament was different from the other tournaments and providing lunches would be appropriate. However since the players still have to be selected we are unable to know whether the players themselves would like lunch. This will need to be addressed after team selection.

Refreshment prices:

For Tournaments the all day price for teas, coffees biscuits and cake will be £4.00. Sandra recruit and organise volunteers.

Single teas or coffees will be £1.00 only and a slice of cake £2.50

There will always be different sized cakes, this cannot be avoided, therefore it is at the discretion of the club to vary the price of a piece of cake.

Reimbursement for those making cakes will be arranged personally by **Sandra** with the cake bakers.

The fridge and freezer will be turned on 2 weeks before the season starts.

Safeguarding: Andrew is still trying to make up a list of contacts for use in emergency. These numbers would have to be easy to find and visible. The committee agreed they could be pinned up on the notice board.

A.O.B.

- The defibrillator will be turned on a week before the season starts. **Brian**

- Graham has arranged a friendly match against Brafdord on Avon, Paul Francis has left Bath and is now keen on building up the club in Bradford on Avon (where he now lives)

D.O.N.M. Tuesday March 21. 9.30 Clubhouse

The meeting finished at 11.40

Signed as a true and accurate account

Name.....

Signature.....

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Treasurer to Committee 23 February 2023

1. I am redrafting the Money Matters Section of the handbook . Still a work in progress.
2. I am registering Graham |McC as a Secondary User on the club's HSBC Acc. This will ensure continuity should I be out of action.
3. My adoption of the "Club Treasurer. com " accounts is pending subject to my agreement to the conditions imposed by the provider
4. I am investigating the adoption of a card machine which would enable us to accept payment of annual subscriptions by credit card and perhaps payment for refreshments etc in the club house by contactless card.
5. In December 2022 John Wallace was given the go ahead to order what was necessary for the " plan B " irrigation system. I will circulate John's estimate at the meeting together with an estimate for the concrete plinth from E&M Groundworks Ltd

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Committee Meeting 23rd February 2023

Property Report

Replacing the Summer house

The work to dig out the base and lay the sub layers and top slabs is now completed after 5 half days of a large team effort and the final half day by a team of 3 to finish the slab laying. The excavation work was hard as beneath the surface layer of the bank the ground was 50% stone requiring pick axes to loosen before shovels could be used. There are 2 bags of gravel remaining as it was decided that the 75mm depth originally intended for the sub base gravel would not be needed as the area contained so much stone that had been compacted over 30 years. Therefore only 2 tonnes were used. Due to the time taken to dig out the bank the delivery of the new Summerhouse had to be put back to the 2nd March.

Electrical Supply to workshop for operation of a water pump.

On hold

Horse racing afternoon

The winter events that Pat worked hard to arrange and organize were poorly supported and 65% were cancelled.

The majority of members who attended the events that ran were people who play bridge.

Social Bookings

We have had two requests for possible social bookings.

One from Woodspring Ramblers.

Another from Portishead Twinning Social Committee.

They are looking to arrange things for GermanTwinners who are only here for a few days. They are looking for Sunday 6th August as that is the only free slot they have.

If they are still interested what do the committee think?

[illegible]

Competitions

Entry forms are coming in and being processed, and as soon as the Calendar is published by Marcus, I will add dates for the “on the day” competitions.

I note that the item in my Jan report re Handicaps of new players was deferred in the absence of Erica.

Tournaments

The online entry system went live on 7 Feb. As at 18 Feb, we have just one place left in the May Tournament, and three left in the June Tournament. 8 players have entered both. The GC B Class has one place left. The August Advanced is slow as is usually the case. but should pick up later. Although the SWF Teams event isn't part of my responsibility, I am aware that we will have 100 participants over the three days so will need plenty of cake and tea and kitchen hands.

Recruitment

We have no completed forms yet but we now have a firm promise from the group of 7 who were offered special terms of £50/person. Thanks to Erica who looked after that group on a social visit in July 2021. They obviously enjoyed it and we sometimes play the long game! Facebook posts are going out to all the local pages and I have placed a paid ad and editorial in the March Nailsea Paper. The publicity around Erica's time in NZ should help awareness of the club. Thanks to Roger Baddeley and John Hancock for their great work there, on Facebook and the NS Times respectively. After liaison with Marcus, the "Bring a friend" event is being arranged for the weekend of 13/14 May. On one of the days, there will be a Parkstone Trophy Division 1 match being played on two of

the lawns and this will add interest to the visitors. The emphasis is definitely on recruitment of people for lessons. I am particularly keen to encourage the newer members to bring friends as the long standing members have probably already tried. However, anyone with an interest in taking lessons will be very welcome. The idea is that members will look after their own friends. This can extend to refreshments, provided there is milk and cake etc available. Should we charge for refreshments? Invite voluntary donations?

I asked (in my Jan report) what the Committees's view was on taking new Social members who only intend to play Bridge. I still don't know what the answer is but I know that it's something I would strongly discourage. I also asked if Bridge players were allowed to "pay as you go" as one person seemed to be doing. That would be totally unfair to Social Members who pay their annual subs.

Coaching liaison

As soon as I asked for a volunteer, Roger Baddeley offered to co-ordinate the Thursday evening practice sessions for fairly new players and is doing a splendid job already. There will be occasional coaching support on these evenings.

I will be running sessions for the newcomers of 2021 and 2022 who are ready to move on from basic play. John Hancock and I will also be running sessions for those who need further help with the fundamentals. Linda is ready to accept a Beginners Group when we get some forms in. Graham is going to give some GC coaching to a couple from 2022 who asked for it. Steve is also willing to give GC coaching and I am sure we will have some customers for him as the season progresses.