

Nailsea and District Croquet Club
Minutes of committee meeting held on 29th August 2023

Present: S. Durston, A. Wimshurst, G. McCausland, S. Morgan, E. Malaiperuman, D. Hunt, P. Arbos,

Apologies Brian

Matters arising:

- Cash card, details to be forwarded to David by Steve
- Application for additional relief of Business Rates to be made by David (assisted by Graham and Andrew) to N Som council
- Steve received a quote for £25,00 to completely renew driveway and carpark. Track should be done first – other quotes needed.
- Request for meeting for our young players – nothing was heard back from them.
- Grants –

National Grid – application sent in

Airport – still to be done

Thatchers – pending - Steve

Tout's pending - Graham

Proposal that Thatchers and Touts could be offered free of charge a social evening of croquet for their employees (part of the deal if we get a grant?)

Erica to apply for grant from Nailsea Town Council.

Treasurer's Report:

The Toro has been repaired at an estimated cost of £800. We purchased the Toro in April 2019 for £6000. Since then we have expended £7600 in repairs to which has to be added the latest bill of £800. - repairs because of maladjustment of clearance between reel and bed knife 0.0007 inch

Discussion followed about feasibility – should we be thinking of a less professional alternative?

Membership:

August list – there have been four new members this year, even though we had many more punters at the coaching sessions.

Recruitment and Coaching:

John Hancock to organise publicity for the club by preparing leaflets to go into welcome pack for new housing. Exact date of leaflet drop still under consideration.

A number of players have requested having coaching from Graham for GC. This is on-going. Two players still having AC instruction, they have joined the club and hope to take part in Short Croquet evenings.

A separate meeting to discuss the way forward with coaching (since we are still losing a number of coached players) will be arranged after the finals.

Property:

Equipment

One trolley has had its wheels changed.

Geoff has agreed to liaise with other members to trim the edges and mow the carpark with the Contax on Monday 4th September before the Spencer Ell Tournament.

Social bookings

The social bookings have been a mixed success due to the weather and numbers attending being reduced. However the last one proved very rewarding raising £240

Violet and Richard are organizing another for their Car Club which they will run on Tuesday 19th September.

Erica to contact social secretary of Wessex Water to advertise our social evenings – team building for their employees, etc. (put up the price for next year?)

Lawn Management:

Andrew to ask all mowers to stop ‘clicking.’ One person to be allocated as chief “clicker” and have responsibility for the mower. Ongoing discussion about this role

Andrew to contact Ashley (Toro motors expert) to ascertain exactly the problem that occurred last week.

Responsibilities for lawn management are:

Spraying coordinator – Paul

Irrigation coordinator – Graham

Machinery coordinator – pending

Fertiliser spreading – Marcus

Sarel rolling – John Hancock

tea compost application – David Hunt

Buyer of products – David Hunt. We need a list of the suppliers used by John

Obtaining advice on state of the lawns - Andrew

We intend to publicise responsibilities on the web site and handbook so that should anyone need help they know who to ask

We have a positive list of volunteers willing to help with irrigation and spraying

Steve to request a current costing list of Plan B irrigation from John Wallace

Spencer Ell arrangements

£15 to be charged for lunch tea/coffee biscuits per day.

Sandra has organised rota for meals and refreshments

Kathy has prepared rota for jobs am and pm .

Kathy will prepare a list of players so that their payments may be ticked off

David to prepare details of NDCC bank which can be handed out to those paying one lump sum for 5 days of lunch tea coffee etc.

Graham (overall mowing IC) to liaise with Kathy re the mowing and the mowers.

John Wallace will instruct mowers the best way to mow round the hoops (Friday and Sunday)

David has his ‘cutting the grass around hoops gadget’

Swishers need to be available in the mornings – names added to Kathy’s rota. There is the possibility that players may wish to help with this task(we only have two swishing rods)

Discussion on the suitability of mowing early in the morning – heavy dew and worm casts. However evening mows are probably not feasible because the players may play until dusk....

Tournaments. Kathy’s report read and noted

Thanks to Andrew for stepping in and running the GC Class C tournament

Competitions

Kathy has prepared all the semi finals to be played.

Trophies to be presented on lawn 5 after the finals – post meeting, change of plan due to clash with SC final on Sunday 24th

Erica to recall trophies after Spencer Ell.

Club Sessions

The Short croquet sessions on Thursday evenings are very popular. 24 players last week

Discussion of Wed pm club afternoons. Should the format be changed? Shorter games? More small lawns? Do away with the draw? Are they accessible to all AC players?

Sandra and Erica to remind players that during Spencer Ell the lawns will not be available.

League Results All results are on notice board. B league and Short Croquet teams have done especially well. Thanks to our coaching team and Roger's initiatives. Next season there will only be two teams playing in the Parkstone Trophy divisions. 1st division and 3rd division. Marcus will be sending out an email to ask players which teams they are interested in playing in.

Safeguarding. Nothing to report

A.O.B.

Steve has sent off results of survey for wearing whites to the SWF. This will be voted on at their AGM

Documents and emails need to be prepared for our AGM – **Erica**

After a visit to Bristol John Wallace found that there was a great reluctance from any members to get involved with looking after their lawns.....and the contractors never serviced their Toro

The Ashes tournament was enjoyed by everyone albeit a rather shaky beginning. A reminder that whoever receives the request to play the Ashes, they should contact the players who usually play in this event, who will then take on the responsibility of running it

The meeting finished at 12.20

Next meeting on Friday 22nd 9.30