

Nailsea and District Croquet Club
Minutes of committee meeting held on 12th October 2023

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

Matters Arising: No results from applications for grants

Treasurer's Report: David's report read and noted.

Property:

A work morning will be needed at the end of November to tidy the outfield and banks for the winter. The large Hebe will be reduced in size by Pat.

A new Clock has been purchased for the outside of the pavilion and fitted £29,99 instead of £39.99

Brian will be meeting Ben Swift of Swift Tree Surgery at the Club on Monday afternoon to discuss price for the hedge trimming

Tony Willoughby has offered to paint the hoops again this year. David suggested that at some time they should be sandblasted since the paint is now so thick.

Social events: The Christmas Lunch will take place on 2nd December at the Masonic Lodge. £30 for a 3 course meal. Brenda and Brian to organise.

AGM: Erica to send out the Agenda and a copy of last year's minutes for the AGM.

Membership: Andrew needs a physical form (or return of email copy) for everyone who pays their membership. Just paying is not enough. The DOB is required to understand the demographics of the club. Part of the form should also ask for the type of volunteering that the member might be able to undertake. The new membership cost will be voted on at the AGM. (Full membership £200)

The numbers sent to the CA soon to be officially rebranded as Croquet England were as follows:

Playing Full Members	68
Playing Full Members as their second club.....	2
Under 25 – U25.....	4

Total of 74 members on which we will pay £1,181 to the CA.

On top of that we have we have 10 Social and 7 Life members, so a total of 91 members.

Lawns: Since the regrettable but understandable resignationn of John Wallace, the committee agreed to write a letter of thanks to John and explain that our decisions are based on the following:

- There is no one within the club with the expertise to take on his role
- There is insufficient resource within the membership to continue the programme of spraying designed by John
- There are insuffiecient funds to bring in a contractor or on site advisor

The committee decided that it would be manageable for us to adopt one of the lawn care programmes

provided by Duncan Hector.

The Toro is still not cutting well. The mowers are cleaning thoroughly, however there is still considerable soil on the surface even after swishing. Castings, a remedy for worm casts, will be sprayed on the lawns to help reduce the worm casts. The worms will not be affected. David to purchase, Paul to spray

Tournaments and competitions: Kathy's report read and noted

It was decided to:-

- Run the Short Croquet Competition throughout the season as opposed to "on the day". This should produce more entries. The committee suggested that the SC finals should be the best of 3. Details to be checked with Kathy
- Run the Speed Croquet Doubles as Alternate Strokes. This was trialled last weekend and everyone who witnessed it thought it would work well.
- The Advantage Golf handicap system which was used this year will be reassessed after the SWF AGM when this will be discussed. The system was designed for untimed games which is not compatible with our own finals weekend. More discussion needed with Kathy
- Andrew will be the manager of the GC B class tournament on 13th August.

The dates of Nailsea fixtures have been submitted to the CA. Graham to book the dates on booking sheet. 18th/19th May. 15/16th June. 10/11 August 13th August. Post meeting – dates for the SC in April are – 12th, 13th, 14th.

There has been a request from the CA (via Louis Smith) whether we would be prepared to hold a qualifying round for the Ascot Cup (GC Singles) at Nailsea, at the beginning of the year (late April). Four lawns with a manager to organise. However they would require the use of Quadway hoops which would not fit easily into our hoop positions and would compromise our existing hoop positions. Graham to reply that we would only consider hosting this if we could use our existing hoops and hoop holes.

SWF: The SWF AGM to be held on Sunday 19th November by zoom. The papers for this will go out by 22nd Oct and clubs will be asked to nominate their delegates then.

Recruitment and Coaching: A disappointing year for recruitment. How we go about recruitment and coaching will be revisited in the New Year. Kathy has already documented which areas of recruitment were successful and which were not. We need to listen to our beginners for their thoughts of what went well and what did not.

Safeguarding: Linda has stepped down from her role as Local Safeguarding Officer. This is due to problems encountered with some aspects of administration and also moves, in line with a CA directive, to broaden the role to Local Welfare Officer for the Club; since she visits the club on fairly few occasions she felt she would not know all the members of the club and therefore would not be suitable for the role. She has kindly prepared a safeguarding report for the AGM.

Erica to take on LSO role for the present.

AOB

The Meeting closed at 11.45

Signed as a true and accurate account

Name and SignatureDate.....