

Nailsea and District Croquet Club
Minutes of committee meeting held on 18th July 2023

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

Minutes of the last meeting: Agreed and signed by Steve

Matters arising:

Cash card machine. A model with 1.69% on each purchase has been identified. David to ascertain that it is suitable for our purposes, in the long run we may use it for paying larger sums such as subscriptions.

The offer of old flooring boards still on the cards.

Most members are now reverse parking.

Treasurers report :

- Now that the club is a CASC we have to apply to North Somerset for Mandatory/Discretionary relief from rates. **David and Andrew** to complete the application form
- The Insurance premium is due 1st August. Last year we paid £1168.00.

WARNING

Each year we have a surplus of which half is from social events. We must bear in mind that should we lose just 10 members and have fewer social events, we will not be solvent.

Application for grants to be applied for by the following

1. Thatchers cider – **Steve**
2. Bristol Airport – **Sandra**
3. National Grid – **Erica**
4. Yeo Valley – **Andrew**
5. Tout's - **Graham**

Membership. - Our demographics

14 members over 80
40 members over 70
16 members under 70
9 members between 60 – 70
7 members under 60

The club is not what it was 12 years ago -

- lower numbers on Wednesday afternoon
- fewer social events, the club is not buzzing any more – possibly since Covid.
- Many members seem to have far less time, apart from their own games and do not respond to committee requests for volunteers.
- far more GC played

Over the last 10 years the demographics have changed dramatically, despite the huge effort put into recruitment by Kathy. We therefore need to question how our volunteers (of which we have fewer and they are all getting older) can keep the lawn maintenance up to the exacting standards of which we are accustomed. Thanks to John's hours of work spent on the lawns and his meticulous

research into how to provide the best sward possible, we have some of the best lawns in the South West.

The committee need to obtain the opinions of the younger players (Kriss, Marcus, Ryan, Richard and James)**Andrew to contact them for an evening meeting with other committee members**

We need to determine how we are able to provide the standards of maintenance the younger players will require; they will be the future of the club.

Sadly the committee admit that they have disappointed John in their inability to find volunteers to carry on with his maintenance programme.

Property:

- The guttering needs and will need clearing
- The carpark and driveway does need attention. **Steve and Erica** to visit Nailsea Patio Centre to track down names of local builders and ask for quotes to improve the state of the driveway and carpark.
- Brian has trimmed the hedging around the carpark
- The wasp's nest, although sprayed is still active. **Erica** to monitor wasp activity.

Recruitment and coaching:

Kathy will be standing down from recruitment and as coaching co ordinator. The committee thank her for her tireless work over the last 20 years. Her notes on what has worked and on what has not have been noted. **Roger Baddeley** has agreed to take over from her on the social media front. **Erica's** landline and **Roger's** email address will be the point of contact on the website and social media.

- The coaches, Linda, John and Kathy have worked tirelessly promoting Association Croquet. The committee will discuss changes in the format of lessons; such as cost, mangaging different skill levels within the groups, and the integration of new members for next year, calling on the coaches' expertise and experience.
- Integration of new members who are keen on playing AC is especially important. There is still a huge learning curve after the lessons have finished which needs to be addressed.
- We do not have a new coaching coordinator at present.

Flyers for New Housing **John Hancock** obtained permission from the new Housing in Trendlewood Way for us to provide flyers about the club which can be included in the welcome pack for new home owners. **.Erica** to persue.

Lawns :

John Wallace has, as of now, resigned from being the Lawn Manager. The committee are sorry that he feels we have taken him from granted. We are committed to keeping the lawns up to as high a standard as possible but our reserves of volunteers are such that they not be able to carry out all the necessary work. The members to be informed of John's resignation..

- mowing rota . The weather has been a challenge to the mowing team this month. Individually the mowing team take on the responibility of their turn and using the what's app app have a collective response to any mower not able to do their slot. This has always

worked in past years, but we have never had as much persistent rain in the past as we have had this year.

- The irrigation plans are on going.
- We need to be thinking about a consultant on lawn health for the future. **Andrew** to research Greensleeves and Duncan Hector
- We will still need to put on fertiliser in the spring and autumn but that does not require watering. Marcus has agreed to do that for us.
- We will need to spray with a herbicide in the spring - but we could buy in that service
- We will also need to control the moss with at least one iron spray during the year, this could also be bought in, but might impact on the subscriptions for the year.
- Spot weeding and minor repairs to lawn to continue.

Tournaments and Competitions : Kathy's notes read and noted

Club Competitions are progressing well

The June Tournament went well, with a high standard of entries. It was excellently managed by Robert Upton with a generous provision of prizes. The winner was Ged Smolska a promising YOUNG talented player from Lithuania. The Greta Stringer Cup was presented by her son, Richard. Many thanks to Robert.

Marcus will be managing the Open Singles Tournament on 12/13th August

Steve and Andrew will be managing the C level Golf Tournament on 15th August.

The prestigious Spencer Ell Tournament from 7th September until 11th September will present a challenge to our volunteers.

Andrew to take charge of mowing with volunteers .

David has a shearing tool to cut around the hoops so that they need not be lifted for mowing.

Sandra to take charge of catering – number of meals will be known after the selectors' meeting - as yet, we have offers of doing a lunch from **Kathy, Sandra, Erica, Marcus** If necessary we can always fall back on pre-prepared meals.....

Erica to take charge of white lining

Hoops to be prepared by the **Hoop setting Team**

Roger and John Hancock in charge of publicity.

League teams: All captains to be informed that members of their team should contribute to the costs of milk, biscuits and cake ingredients, which often falls on the shoulders of the person who bought them. Match fees remain at £3.00 per person, home or away, since this covers the cost of travel reimbursements for away matches. **Erica** to send email.

Safeguarding: Linda has highlighted a few gaps on our accountability for some of our Juniors.

Andrew to chase up parental consent and will be responsible for updating the records.

A.O.B.

D.O.N.M. Friday 25th August 2023 -- 9.30 at the clubhouse.

The meeting finished at 12.15

Signed as a true and accurate account.....

